

# Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

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## Reference no: 503

**Submitter Type:** Individual

### Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

### Position

Yes

### Notes

### Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

### Position

less than 50 microns in thickness

### Notes

The less plastic there is the better. However, if there are to be bags, the thicker they are the more uses they can tolerate, although the quantity of uses cannot be guaranteed.

### Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

### Position

Not sure

### Notes

### Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

### Position

No

### Notes

### Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

### Position

No

### Notes

Exceptions make it difficult to normalise the use of re-useable bags. One rule for all. Lets get this done.

### Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

### Position

Yes

### Notes

This seems realistic to use up current stocks with time to transition.

### Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

### Position

Yes

### Notes

We are problem solvers and if it costs businesses more money I'm sure they can come up with a way around it. The cost of cleaning up the environment is far greater than the small cost of paying more to retailers.

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

No

**Notes**

We are getting there but have a long way to go. Biodegradable packaging is a misleading solution and we cannot rely on people to remember their own bags. We risk there being a problem with too many re-useable bags - what are these made from and what are the embodied costs of this?

**Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

customised, lightweight, dishwasher proof, approved re-useable cups and containers for take aways, buying meat and deli goods etc, that can be dropped off, swapped and used at all retailers. Comprehensive system put in place that is affordable and doesn't exempt people if they forget theirs.

**Clause**

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

**Position**

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

**Notes**

Financial incentives, drop offs for excess clean re-useable bags so there are always some available close by.

**Clause**

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

**Notes**

Having a space efficient solution for keeping veges and salad greens fresh. Sealable bags are our greatest use of plastic as they are so multi-purpose. Good systems and multi - purpose or dedicated bags for things like dirty shoes, wet clothes from swimming, water proofing...

**Clause**

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

**Notes**

put statistics at the front of the paper, on websites, on the news, on electrical information boards - current use, target, used bags, tips for the public...

**Clause**

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

**Notes**

Easy solutions and make it celebratory. Lots of opportunities for NZ businesses to fill the market with alternatives that are sustainable.