

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

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## Reference no: 520

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

I agree with the phase out of single use plastic bags (as soon as possible please). From my research, I can't agree compostable bags that meet standards (international available currently) and made of oil based material and starch-based material, can be included in the same category as degradable and biodegradable. Yes I agree they are single-use and need to be phased out, and meanwhile directed at end of use, into a commercial compost facility, and we need to ensure they meet standards and compost with no toxic residue. But we need to provide infrastructure for other compostable take-away food and supermarket packaging anyway. These bags are a better alternative I believe than 'multi-use' thicker-plastic bags which I've heard are being touted as a solution by some large retailers in Australasia. Thicker plastic doesn't blow as easily yet it breaks down the same and doesn't go away.. still entering our food chain and suffocating/starving marine life.

### 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 70 microns in thickness

### Notes

My hope is that all single and so-called 'multi-use' (technicality) plastic bags are banned and if not now by this government, I hope thicker bags are unpopular. If the ban is up to 70 microns, I hope the cost to purchase the thicker bags, incentives shoppers into a behaviour change which will lead to new habits of bringing our own bags. I hope if the govt, won't legislate against all plastic shopping bags now ,that the lack of demand sees the end of thicker plastic bags manufacture for the market.

### 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

I'd like to know your definition of single-use plastic please. Imagine thicker punch-handle shopping bags etc. will not be covered by this thin singlet-style shopping bags phase out?

### Clause

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

### Notes

Yes, compostable singlet bags, 30 microns or less to businesses in our community Raglan, as part of my role in our Plastic Bag Free Raglan community initiative. Xtreme Zero Waste our local Resource Recovery Centre, has a consented commercial Hot Composting Unit.

### Clause

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

### Position

No

### Notes

Behaviour change happens quicker and easier when people need to, and should be across the board.

### 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?

**Notes**

As soon as possible please. Within 6 months would be great.

**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****Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

Reusable / shoppers own bags. Compostable (both single use and reusable eg. ECP). Recycled / reused paper or boxes.

**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**

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

**Notes**

Multi-pronged approach. Incentives and promotion / education. Reusable bags by definition need to be almost infinitely reusable and repairable. Thicker plastic and polypropylene bags for example are technically multi-use, but their re-usable life is limited and they are toxic after disposal. A scheme to promote bags, recycled, specially made to last esp. from natural fibres that can be in a circular boomerang style scheme has to be worth considering to avoid bad alternatives and replacements from proliferating from retailers care of the plastics industry.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Haven't used them for many years. I have half a dozen +.. reusable bags (some in my house, car and a string bag in my handbag). If I end up shopping without a bag somehow, I walk out with my arms full or ask for a box or I come back.

**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**

Ban SUPSB from import into NZ? Surveys of businesses in local communities about what they ordering the way of single use takeaway plastic and annual use based on their order history.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I'd like to suggest consulting with change-makers leading other global success stories. Many countries are ahead of NZ. We can gather research data and assimilate it into our culture and situation. Does it make sense to operate in a bubble in this connected world?

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**