

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

Mondie's Music

**Reference no:** 5570

**Submitter Type:**

**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**

Not sure

**Notes**

I propose an effort (through TV, internet, and event campaigns) to identify and inform re: the negative effects of plastics. Alternatives (including new and old "biodegradable solutions) should be assessed and info shared on those same channels.

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

There should, preceding any mandate, be the "public address" (including genuine research and factfinding) in order that a) the negatives of plastics effects are communicated having been identified and b) alternatives are listed and also thus promoted.

**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**

The question would be better turned into a proposed goal: can we identify which plastic items, and how, are affecting our lands?

**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**

Again, the quantifiability of harm (such as, smaller retailers produce less harm as less bags are produced) must be justified against truly known types of negative plastic impact: some negatives pertain to even small quantities of produced plastics (such as wildlife endangerment).

**Clause**

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

**Notes**

The limitation of plastic bag use should be encouraged and educated, not expressed as an absolute law.

**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**

Not sure

**Notes**

In its principle "of headlining a forecast mandate", no, I disagree. A program of investigation (identification of effects) and education

(thru a media attempt as widespread and intelligent as "if you aint got the rubba, there be no hubba hubba".) for a 6-month timeframe is a better idea.

**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**

No

**Notes**

The purification of the environment (the proposed benefit of the question) need not come with the cost of freedom, which it does if this phase-out is mandated. This ham-handed approach may anticipate political difficulty with large retailers.

**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**

Cloth bags. This is a simple single obvious thing indicating the need for a propagation of the practice at a widespread social level (and I hypocritically still say yes to plastic bags at the supermarket and only use cloth when mum reminded me).

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Both, and more!

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Govt. issued alternatives.

**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**

By looking at areas the effects (the relevant data) accrues: Stormdrains, landfills, popular beaches.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Don't mandate. But somehow act as we all should and use these bags with sensitivity and foresight. Most reuse as bin liners "It goes the same place as the rubbish, so that's okay". (???)