

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

**Reference no:** 5660

**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 70 microns in thickness

**Notes**

The minimum micron level for an alternative plastic bag should be 70 microns as this mean that retailers will be more likely to choose bags which are genuinely reusable. Any bag less than 70 is likely to be treated as a single use bag by customers, and so will limit the change in consumer behaviour and increase the number of thicker bags going to landfill.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes**

No single use bags of any material should be available for free in New Zealand. I support any schemes that make it possible to remove the cost barrier for low income families to adopt new habits of taking their own re-usable bags shopping

**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**

No retailers should be exempt from the single use plastic bag ban as the alternatives are readily available and affordable for businesses of any size.

**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**

See question 5

**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**

No

**Notes**

The mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags should be as soon as feasible, allowing enough time for a public education campaign and for retailers to train their front-line staff. I believe a 6 month phase out period to be maximum.

**Clause**

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

**Notes**

See question 7

**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**

Re-usable bags are a viable alternative

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Nothing However Single use plastic bags are not just used for shopping eg They are used for bin liners - there needs to be cost effective, fully degradeable bags available that can be used for such things as bin liners, god poo bags instead of single use plastic bags.

**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**

Retailers should be required to provide collated data on single use plastics as part of a mandatory product stewardship scheme for single use plastics and packaging. Targets for reductions over time should be set and tracked.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Retailers should be provided information on: • • The most environmentally friendly alternatives to single use plastic bags. • • The need to avoid bags made from composite materials e.g. jute bags lined with plastic; paper bags with rope handles. • • The need to have certification for any reusable compostable bags • • The importance of providing disposal information (eg recycling, composting, landfill) on the bag for end-of-use.

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