

Subject: Plastic shopping bags submission

Recipient: proposed-mandatory-phase-out-of-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags@submissions.mfe.govt.nz

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To the Hon. David Parker

Dear Sir

I'm delighted our government is taking environmental issues seriously and our part as New Zealanders in addressing the ongoing challenges and costs regarding pollution and degradation of land, water and air. The plastic bag issue currently under submission is dear to my family's heart as it is to many. There are so many really complex issues but single-use plastic bags are not one of them. When our daughter travelled to Rwanda in 2012 she was not allowed to take plastic bags (of any sort) into the country. Her luggage was searched thoroughly at the border and plastic was removed. Rwanda has a huge congestion issue and this is not surprising – they don't wish to use what precious arable land they have for rubbish, however the message is clear. We need Government parties from both/all sides to unite in securing this beautiful country, its land and waterways, from further degradation. Please take a strong step of moral leadership on our behalf and end single-use plastic bags. We will stand behind you.

Kia kaha. Ngā mihi nui.

Helen Mann