



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

## SUBMISSION FORM

The Government is seeking feedback on a proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags.

For more information about the Government's proposals read our [Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags consultation document](#).

**Submissions close at 5.00 pm on Friday 14 September 2018.**

## Making a submission

You can make a submission in three ways:

1. Use our online submission form available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags). This is our preferred way to receive submissions.
2. Complete this submission form and send to us by email or post.
3. Write your own submission and send to us by email or post.

## Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz). Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

## Submission form

The questions below are a guide only and all comments are welcome. You do not have to answer all the questions. To ensure others clearly understand your point of view, you should explain the reasons for your views and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

### Contact information

Name*	
Organisation (if applicable)	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Address	
Phone	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Email*	

Submitter type*	Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Business / Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Central government	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Iwi	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

\* Questions marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

### Questions

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?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Why / Why not?

Plastic bags are trashing our oceans and are completely unnecessary. Our world is filling up with plastic that either ends up in landfill or in the ocean where it kills marine life. It's unacceptable and it needs to stop.

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?

- less than 50 microns in thickness
- less than 70 microns in thickness
- Other (please specify)

Plastic shopping bags of all thicknesses need to be phased out. People should be using reusable bags made from natural fibre.

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Please phase out all plastic shopping bags.

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:
- 50 microns or less in thickness
  - more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please specify which bags and explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Why / Why not?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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?

No one should be exempt.

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?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

Why / Why not?

Make it happen faster.

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

- two months  
 nine months  
 one year  
 other (please specify)

After years of waiting, this needs to happen as soon as possible.

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?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

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).

It's not about money; it's about ending our reckless disregard for life on this planet. I don't really care how much it costs. Please just make the ban happen, and the sooner the better.

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand?

- Yes

- No
- Not sure

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

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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)

- voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers
- national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers
- other (please specify)

Make bags available in stores so expensive that people really resist buying them and think more carefully about taking reusable bags. Also, put large signage at the entrance to supermarkets to remind people to take their bags into the store.

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

A complete ban!

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

Set up a reporting system where the public can report those not adhering to the ban.

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

We've been sitting on our hands long enough with so many environmental issues. Time is up! Our planet is slowly being destroyed by ignorant human activity. Our convenience is not more important than the future of life on Earth. It's time for us to get a backbone and start making the changes that are needed to reduce our impact on the planet. Single use plastic bags represent just a small portion of the waste stream, but the damage they cause is significant. It's time to end this blight quickly so we can move onto the next thing. Thanks, Eugenie, for having the spine to stand up and make a change where the previous government just turned their backs and pretended nothing was happening. We look forward to more changes in the near future. Ngā mihi!

## Releasing submissions

Your submission may be released under the Official Information Act 1982 and may be published on the Ministry's website. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

**Please check this box** if you would like your name, address, and any personal details withheld.



Note that the name, email, and submitter type fields are mandatory for you to make your submission.

## When your submission is complete

If you are emailing your submission, send it to [plasticshoppingbags.submissions@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:plasticshoppingbags.submissions@mfe.govt.nz) as a:

- PDF
- Microsoft Word document.

If you are posting your submission, send it to Proposed Mandatory Phase Out of Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

**Submissions close at 5.00 pm on Friday 14 September 2018.**