



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

A step towards reducing pollution, fossil fuel and CO2 emissions. Reducing pollution improves our environment and reduces harm to wildlife.

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)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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?

Do not think there is a reason to exempt any package/waste creator. If it is so costly that they will go out of business, then it is not a viable business.

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?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

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

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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 will cost more in the short to medium term to phase out the usage. But it is the price of providing a sustainable future and better quality of environment and life for future generations so worth it.

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?

We use plastic bags for rubbish so we have no alternative to put rubbish into if the rubbish is not compostable or not taken by recycling. A mechanism for high density dwellers to dispose of compostable waste.

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)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Easily available alternatives. Products can be sold in reusable/recyclable containers.

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

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

It is a step in the right direction but excessive consumer packaging probably as bad if not worse than plastic bags environmentally. Shopping bags are not the only single use plastic bag. Rubbish bags are also in that category. Packaging needs to be dramatically reduced if it is not recyclable as that is the only thing we cannot dispose of apart from in the rubbish. Places that are free to dispose of waste in an environmentally safe way. Those places should be funded by those who produce products that cannot be disposed of in an environmentally safe way so that they are encouraged to produce products that are safely disposable. This should not be an optional extra for responsible consumers as it is currently. It may mean things become slightly more expensive. It would require some innovation on the part of the producer to be competitive.

## 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.**