

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

Leith Morrimire

## Reference no: 5748

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

They're totally unnecessary and we're filling up our planet with plastic.

### 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

There are heaps of alternatives to plastic bags - we use strong cotton shopping bags which are nicer and biodegradable.

### 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

### 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

Our current dependence on plastic is unsustainable and we must use the Earth's resources more sensibly. It would take a very very strong argument to convince me that anyone should be exempt... Certainly not just being a small business.

### 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

They should not be exempt!

### 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

The sooner the better!

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

Single use plastic must be avoided in order to protect the environment. No amount of money saved is worth destroying the eco systems we're part of.

**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**

We have been refusing single use plastic bags for years. There are heaps of alternatives. E.g. cloth and mesh bags for groceries and shopping.

**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**

Having to buy them again is an incentive. The convenience of having your favourites to use is another incentive. It would be best if they were upcycled and/or biodegradable, like the gorgeous One of a Kind bags made by volunteers at Whanganui Prison.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Availability of lovely cloth bags at a reasonable price (we paid \$2-5 for each of our bags, which have lasted us years so far)

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Let's get on with it!