

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

Mike McGlynn, **Michael John McGlynn**

## Reference no: 575

**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

Yes, action is required to eliminate plastics from our environment. I have worked on Raoul Island twice and was unable to take a foreshore photograph without plastic debris being visible. This was 28 years back! [Raoul Island is 1000km from NZ or Tonga!] I have seen dead turtles in the Pacific Islands and here in NZ as a result of ingesting plastic bags. Everyday that I visit my local beach I pick up plastic bags, etc. The problem is getting worse!

### 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

People need to adapt to a new way of thinking.

### Clause

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

### Position

Not sure

### 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

Not sure

### Notes

Depends on the products being sold.

### 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

Don't know!

### 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

Yes

### Notes

**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**

The benefits are social and environmental. There is an old saying; "you are either part of the problem or part of the solution"

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

Not sure

**Notes**

Would like to see more unbleached paper bags or cardboard containers in use. Perhaps supermarkets could subsidize cane/bamboo shopping baskets?

**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**

Biodegradable bags made from natural materials.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I fully support the Government's initiative.