

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

**Reference no:** 5750

**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**

No

**Notes**

They are NOT single use. EVERYONE I have spoken to reuses plastic bags of ALL sorts for other things (& they also shop with recyclable bags). The only time they might be disposed of into the rubbish after one use is when they rip because they are already so flimsy. What will be used instead when they are gone? Picking up dog poop & putting it in what? Paper bags? More of them being produced = more trees slaughtered. Not an environmentally friendly option. A bigger issue is disposable dirty nappies. Hopefully "those" that want the bags banned & have babies are using cloth nappies, otherwise it would be a very hypocritical stance. What about the plastic around bread, bulk toilet rolls, disposable nappies, paper towels, etc.... Where will the line be drawn? Why the knee jerk reaction of shopping bags? Who benefits really? The sellers of things like bin liners! What about businesses eg: electrical wholesalers who put smaller items in plastic bags (that are also used for advertising). Do they now have to inconvenience their customers? Why? Maybe supermarkets can cut back. Before all the "political correctness" fuss of bags, I bought feminine hygiene products & was told that they HAD to be put in a separate bag away from the other groceries because that was their rule. Now THAT is over the top & ridiculous. If the issue is about bags in waterways & the sea, find out how they get there. Is it boaties? If so - start there, not punish the sensible people who already do their bit to be careful. The dumbing down of the population is well under way. You can't smoke. You can't eat sugar. You can't use plastic shopping bags. You can't do 101km/h on a clear motorway. But you can advertise alcohol which often contributes to violence. Oops, I digress. What happens if one is "caught" with a plastic shopping bag that was hoarded, if this nonsense goes ahead? Will they be fined? Will they be put in stocks & made an example of? Not a bad idea for the criminal element of today, but not future plastic bag users. Bring back commonsense. It CAN work!

**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**

Yes

**Notes**

As per answer above (No.1) - phase out should not go ahead. Time & money could be put towards more important issues to be dealt with.

**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**

No

**Notes**

As per answer above (Nos.1 & 5) Phase out should not go ahead.

**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**

No

**Notes**

Council rubbish bags are also so flimsy, if rubbish is thrown loose into the bag & the bag rips when collected (yes, it does happen), the rubbish is loose to blow around the street. If eg. rubbish is put in 3 separate shopping bags & tied up, & then put into council bag - if it rips, the rubbish is still contained within the shopping bags. MUCH tidier to pick up. Why should we be forced to spend more money on bin liners to use as a substitute for shopping bags. Think people think!!!

**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**

I go back to the point of using commonsense as an alternative. A lot of people use recyclable bags, but plastic shopping bags are useful too. Let people use their commonsense. More people are becoming aware of potential harm to the environment with many things (except those that still say 1080 isn't harmful - yeah, right :-/ ) More people are making an effort to cut back & change by themselves. Don't force people into this. It reeks of a "nanny state". This proposal will be an inconvenience for many, including those that care about the environment. And for those who don't care, they won't give a damn either way, as they will still dump their rubbish in bush areas, over the sides of roads, & other such places. They should be the ones targeted for harming the environment - not the "average Joe" going about their daily business & not intentionally harming others. Bottles & cans thrown from cars are more of an issue. Maybe fines for littering would have more of an impact.

**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**

Commonsense commonsense commonsense

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Nothing! Or maybe at the very least, a VERY LARGE cash incentive so we would be able to buy those damn bin liners to use as alternatives, which strangely enough, I believe are made of plastic. Hum. And the difference to shopping bags is....?

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Pretty much covered in my above comments, although no doubt as soon as I hit send, some other bright point will suddenly emerge.

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**