

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

Envirohub Bay of Plenty

**Reference no:** 5765

**Submitter Type:** NGO

**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**

This is a very important step in raising general consciousness of the pollution issues in the environment and the effects of this continuing degradation. There is a wide public willingness to support this move.

**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**

**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**

It is less confusing if the requirements are the same for all.

**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**

n/a

**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**

People need time to build the new approach into what they can expect every day and to prepare accordingly.

**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**

We have to stop what we are doing to our environment and in particular to our oceans. There will be some initial inconvenience but over time it will become simply what we do. The costs per family will be minimal. The hard part is to think differently until the practice becomes routine.

**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**

**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**

Voluntary incentive schemes are also helpful. For instance at Countdown you only have to purchase a bag once. If you bring it back damaged they will replace it at no cost. That's good value for an outlay of \$1.00

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We can already manage but would like to see supermarkets more enabling about using own containers as well for instance for meat and fish etc.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I would have thought that retailers already knew how many bags they used per year. Could this be recorded and collected and aggregated to let us know how we are doing as Regions and as NZ inc.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

You have a lot of power because a large slice of the public is already supportive. The trick is for us to remember all the time and to be prepared with alternative bags, containers etc that are capable of constant re-use. We do not want to swap one problem for another but rather to make a lasting and measurable contribution to an improved environment.