

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

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## Reference no: 5768

**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

The negative environmental effects of single use plastic bags needs to be stopped. Having picked litter from Lyall Bay plus surrounding streets and bays for over 10 years I see what gets washed up from the sea on a regular basis. Single use plastic gets washed up with the seaweed in southerly storms and is in our water slowly degrading and being eaten by sea creatures. I transitioned away from plastic bags over a year ago for shopping bags. I am now trying to work out how to transition away from plastic bags that surround all our food.

### 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

Other (please specify)

### Notes

Phase out any thickness of single use plastic shopping bag.

### 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

I think its best to make no exemptions on phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. It appears to me that this will create grey areas making it hard to check compliance on. You are potentially setting up a regime similar to synthetic cannabis where it is impossible to police.

### 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

Definitely not. All single-use plastic shopping bags should be phased out. Just go to any vegetable market in New Zealand and see the hundreds of thousands of single use plastic bags that are used. Allowing this to happen makes a complete mockery of the phasing out of single use plastic bags.

### 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

This should definitely not happen and will create a totally stupid situation of big retailers not using plastic bags but smaller ones selling produce in single use plastic bags. Why are you even thinking of this type of regime which will be impossible to police.

**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**

The period of phase out should be only two months or less after gazetting of the phase out.

**Clause**

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

**Position**

two months

**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**

I have lived for over one year without accepting single use plastic bags. The cost to me has been approximately \$19 when I went and brought some net bags to put fruit and vegetables in. There has been no other cost that I am aware of apart from thinking to bring my bags with me before I buy anything. I now take a couple of small nylon bags with me where ever I go. Problem sorted at no cost!

**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 have not been using single use plastic bags for over a year. You just need to think before you go shopping and take your own bags. Its very simple. It also makes it easier to carry things that are heavy and on public transport as your own bags are sturdy and able to carry heavy items that single use plastic bags didn't in the past.

**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**

You need a full on campaign of behavioral change to make it work properly. People who are busy and don't consider the environment as their lives are really tough will need help and assistance to make the change and be happy about it.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Already adjusted a year ago without single-use plastic shopping bags. It does at the moment take time and commitment to get the takeaway and butcher to 'not use single use plastic bags' as I have a bag to put things in. I also have my own bags for fruit and vegetables now. It works and I feel happy that I am doing my thing for the environment and future generations who have to live on our planet.

**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 am not sure New Zealand makes or imports single use plastic bags. However either way you need to know how many are either being made or imported into the country. You need to stop the importation of single use plastic bags and the manufacturing of them in New Zealand.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I have gone single use plastic bag free. It does not take that much effort. It would have been far easier to do if everyone was not using single use plastic bags and you got offered them or given them all the time. Once you have phased out single use plastic bags can you please then look at plastic straws; plastic sticks in cotton bugs and sweets; and those plastic labels on fruit and vegetables. Then you just have to tackle people who flick their cigarettes down the stormwater drains.