

Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

SUBMISSION FORM

The Government is seeking feedback on a proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags.

For more information about the Government's proposals read our [Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags consultation document](#).

Submissions close at 5.00 pm on Friday 14 September 2018.

Making a submission

You can make a submission in three ways:

1. Use our online submission form available at www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags. This is our preferred way to receive submissions.
2. Complete this submission form and send to us by email or post.
3. Write your own submission and send to us by email or post.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Submission form

The questions below are a guide only and all comments are welcome. You do not have to answer all the questions. To ensure others clearly understand your point of view, you should explain the reasons for your views and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

Name*	
Organisation (if applicable)	WHangarei Growers Market Association Ltd
Address	
Phone	
Email*	

Submitter type*	Individual NGO Business / Industry Local government Central government Iwi Other (please specify) Click here to enter text.
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* Questions marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

Questions

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?

Yes

No

Not sure

Why / Why not?

Single use shopping bags have a public health function, including preventing cross contamination of foodstuffs. They can enhance keeping qualities of some foods, e g lettuce and delicate salad vegetables and herbs. A blanket ban on singlet style

shopping bags would necessitate individual packaging of many items currently sold loose, e.g. lettuce, watercress, rocket.

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?

less than 50 microns in thickness

less than 70 microns in thickness

Other (please specify)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

- a. 50 microns or less in thickness

- b. more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, please specify which bags and explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you

Vegetable and fruit vendors can pack several items in a single singlet bag. If these are phased out many items will be individually wrapped. If individual wrapping is phased out, some items will disappear from markets.

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic

shopping bags?

Yes

No

Not sure

Why / Why not?

Vendors of produce intended to be eaten without peeling or cooking. e. g salad vegetables and fruits.

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?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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?

Yes

No

Not sure

Why / Why not?

The implications of a ban have not been properly thought through. There could be unintended consequences.

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

two months

nine months

one year



No mandatory phase out for vendors of perishables, products which could contaminate other shopping (e g fish, or meat; or products for which a plastic bag enhances keeping quality).

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?

Yes

No

Not sure

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).

For some vendors, phasing out plastic shopping bags would result in increased use of plastic packaging which is single use.

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand?

Yes

No

Not sure

If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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)
- voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers
 - national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers
 - other (please specify)

Handy hints on reuse could be printed on the bags.

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

We do not use

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

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Click here to enter text.

Releasing submissions

Your submission may be released under the Official Information Act 1982 and may be published on the Ministry's website. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Please check this box if you would like your name, address, and any personal details withheld.

Note that the name, email, and submitter type fields are mandatory for you to make your submission.

When your submission is complete

If you are emailing your submission, send it to plasticshoppingbags.submissions@mfe.govt.nz as a:

- PDF
- Microsoft Word document.

If you are posting your submission, send it to Proposed Mandatory Phase Out of Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

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