

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

**Reference no:** 5778

**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**

For a start they are not SINGLE USE plastic bags - I have used reusable shopping bags for the last 6 years for my main weekly shop and also use reusable vegetable bags however I do not agree with this ban. Through my shopping I do receive some 'single use' plastic bags - they are not used for a single use - they are used multiple times for a myriad of uses - wet togs, bin liners, transporting lunch to work as a safety measure in case soup leaks out of the container, turned inside out and use as wrapping for a soft parcel sent in the mail... I believe that it will result in more plastic being used as people will regularly forget them and then purchase 'reusables' which will just be thicker better quality rubbish in landfill. And they will also ban biodegradable bags that have a handle as well. This is knee-jerk virtue signalling politics. As previously said, I have used reusables for years but I do not support the ban as I think it will not have the impact the Govt claims it will. They would be far better in investing in technology that enables NZ to become a leader in recycling - actually doing something about the issue rather than swapping one type of plastic for another rather than focussing of actions that make them 'look good' on the surface but will have consequences that they have not fully considered.

**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?

**Notes**

None should be phased out. This is virtue signalling in the extreme and will have very little benefit to the economy or environment.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

Even though I use reusable bags, I always ask that the meat is put in plastic as this is a Health and Safety matter and I value that my family do not get sick from cross contamination from raw meat juices with other food products. I believe that this will be a serious problem if these bags are removed. And don't bother saying 'people can just wash out the bags' as a lot of people won't bother to do this and there will be health issues as a result. At least if biodegradable bags were available for this issue then they could be used to protect peoples health.

**Clause**

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

**Notes**

see above.

**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**

Small retailers should not be punished by Governmental virtual signalling for a move that will not reduce the volume of plastic in environment.

**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**

20

**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**

They should not be banned. There are other ways of dealing with this which give people options rather than playing a Nanny State Big Brother. ie making sure all plastics used to package fruit and vege is biodegradable and charging consumers 10c a bag at check out.

**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****Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes**

No. The alternatives have significantly larger impacts on the environment.

**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**

Cotton bags need to be reused between 131 and 7100 times (depending on what study you look at and how many factors they took into consideration. That is assuming it is be compared with a true 'single use bag'. As soon as the 'single use' bag is used again it multiplies - eg use the bag to take your lunch to work one day and then used as a bin liner, the multiply those numbers by 3 to 393 - 21300 times. How does a retailer monitor that a customers has reused their cotton bag 393 times? This is not realistically possible.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Availability of biodegradable bags for purchase at the check out.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

This Government is full of bluster and virtue signalling. It is widely known in Wellington that the Ministers do not listen to their advisors and experts in the Ministries if they are being told a message that they do not wish to hear. Most other countries similar to NZ have not banned bags in the same manner. They have introduced biodegradable bags for fruit and veggies to start with and have not banned biodegradable bags that have handles. (Personal experience in supermarkets through a number of countries in Europe have illustrated this to me). My prediction is that they will 'consult' and then ignore practical and reasonable suggestions made to them like they ignore their ministries. Forcing this on to people will not work. People will find ways to circumvent it and I believe it will increase the overall volume of plastic in the environment.

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