

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

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## Reference no: 5795

**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

I think it's ok to use degradable bags - these don't need to be banned. There's just no option for this in the above selection list.

### 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

I don't believe thickness is an issue. All plastic bags should have a financial burden attached to them, equivalent to their environmental impact. The thicker the bag, the higher the tax should be.

### Clause

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

### Position

No

### 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

### 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

0 - they shouldn't be exempt. They could still use degradable bags though.

### 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

**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****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**

Degradable bags are available in other countries such as France, so they should be available here too.

**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**

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

**Notes**

Retailers should be charged a hefty fee per bag issued. Say about 50c per bag. Money is what companies respond best to. This cost could easily and transparently be transferred to the customer.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Force retailers (through fees and fines) to stop wrapping so many products in plastic, including (but not limited to) plastic bags at the counter.

**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**

All bulk purchases of plastic bags by retailers should be registered, taxed and monitored.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Degradable bags should be exempt from this phase-out, or at least fall under a different category. Each type of bag should have a different amount of tax applied to it, depending on how long it takes to degrade.