

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

Marina Dixon

**Reference no:** 5825

**Submitter Type:**

**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**

Not sure

**Notes**

I agree with phasing out non recyclable bags but would like to see good biodegradable bags offered with government standards introduced to make sure they break down with little impact on the 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**

Biodegradable bags

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

eg my butcher uses bags made from cornstarch

**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**

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**

Yes because the health of our environment is critical in the long run

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Not sure

**Notes**

We should set standards around reusable bags as well or they may have a bad environmental impact as well when use in large numbers to replace plastic bags. I think retailers need guidance from the government about suitable alternatives. I would also love to see the government support the development of traditional natural alternatives like kete harakeke (flax bags).

**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**

Free bag to all households with info on how to use them and why it's important. Also better government advice and support on how to recycle or dispose of bags and other rubbish. Retailer and council schemes to support. Make bags out of environmentally friendly products like harakeke (flax) or even possum skin. My 7year old son suggests possum skin bags can solve multiple problems like creating natural bags, helping native wildlife due to less possums and spare bags being used to keep people warm if they are homeless :)

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Availability of biodegradable environmentally friendly alternatives for common uses like rubbish bin liners. Bring back paper bags with environmentally friendly production techniques. Develop an environmental 'tick' so we can see if alternative bags for purchase are really environmentally friendly eg for household rubbish bag alternatives. Bring in standards to mandate and/or incentives to encourage retailers and manufacturers to produce less packaging waste.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We really like this idea, but think care needs to be taken to make sure you don't inadvertently create different negative impacts for the environment or people on low incomes who can't afford to bear the potential cost of this change.