

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

3R Group Ltd

**Reference no:** 5857

**Submitter Type:** Business / Industry

**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**

**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**

**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**

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**

The timing is adequate, especially considering the voluntary moves made by reading retailers as well as many other retailers to phase out single-use plastic bags.

**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**

The financial savings to the retailer should be considered as part of this equation. Being no longer expected to provide free bags will reduce operational costs as customer behaviour sways toward bringing their own bags or through the purchasing of long life

reusable bags. The reduction in wind blown litter along roading corridors will also provide operational savings for both local authorities and NZTA as plastic bags feature highly as a litter item.

**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**

There are good-quality re-useable bags available, sometime for free, which can last for many years if properly looked after.

**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**

The main retailers are certainly doing a good job in pushing the message of reusable bags. There should not be the need to develop a national advertising campaign as it comes down to individual behaviour and responsibility.

**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**

Mass balance data can be aggregated from point of import and point of manufacture within NZ