

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

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## Reference no: 5862

**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

I am very concerned about the impacts of waste plastic on the environment and particularly the marine environment but believe the banning of single use plastic shopping bags is ineffectual. It is a litter problem and the best way to control is through effective litter disposal. In many cases the alternatives used to single use plastic bags are detrimental to the environment.

### 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

Other (please specify)

### Notes

All unnecessary plastic should be banned such as packaging of many fruit or vegetable items in plastic, putting dental floss already in a sealed plastic container on to a cardboard back and then encasing into a hard plastic coated package. There are many more such examples.

### 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

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

We will use many more expensive items such as paper bags, and many items that are more damaging to the environment such as bin liners made of heavier grade plastic.

### 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

We have multi-use bags available now. I don't understand why people don't choose to use them.

### 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)

**Notes**

Any education programme to inform the public may be helpful.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Super thin bin liners for rubbish.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We need to consider: • Avoiding the use of all unnecessary plastic, such as the excessive packaging found on many items in our shops. • The energy useage of alternatives • The impacts of disposal of alternatives. • Reuse of plastic into other products such as park benches, and the energy/environmental impacts of these. • Effective burning of plastics to provide high energy fuel. I read that there are furnaces that will deal with plastics effectively. • Substitution of more environmentally damaging products.