

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

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## Reference no: 5946

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

We need to reduce our plastic waste, and single use plastic bags are an easy first step.

### 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

Everyone needs to be involved in reducing waste. We also need to change our single use / throwaway culture and if we have exceptions, we won't be able to make the necessary changes.

### 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

While a lot of people are ready now, some people will need more time to prepare and to change habits.

### 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 environmental benefits of banning single use bags far outweigh any upfront costs of purchasing multi-use bags. The financial

costs of the pollution from the single-use bags is a burden placed on rate payers and tax payers so we need to stop the pollution now. We should be having a circular economy for all our products and packaging to reduce our enormous waste production and we need to be clever with our use of resources.

**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 a variety of multi-use bags available ranging from commercially made bags, to homemade recycled-fabric 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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We are already adjusting to life without single-use plastics bags. It required developing new habits such as having bags near the door, in the car, reminder on shopping list and changing our attitude i.e plastic bags = bad.

**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**

NGOs and community groups with support from central and local government

**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 change our single-use/ disposable culture and the single-use plastic bag is an easy first step. The amount of single-use plastic packaging that is used and that cannot be recycled (or easily recycled) is appalling. This packaging created using fossil fuel derivatives is concerning on multiple levels - fossil fuel demand, toxicity during production and in the waste. We will be better off on multiple levels when we reduce our amount of plastic packaging. The amount of plastic that is entering our waste stream or not entering and going into our environment is highly concerning. Especially concerning is the plastics/microplastics in the marine environment, and killing our marine life and microplastics entering our food chain. We can and should do better for our environment and in our society.