

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

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## Reference no: 5989

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

Although plastic bags aren't the worst culprits in our national litter surveys, to reach our waste goals and to move towards a circular economy we need to tackle all forms of waste in our lives. Single use plastic shopping bags contribute to waste (landfill), litter, and cause harm to our wildlife.

### 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

### 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

- Reduced waste to landfill, - Reduced litter and plastic pollution, - Reduced cost in collecting litter and plastic pollution, - Reduced impact on wildlife, especially sea-life and sea-birds.

### 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

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

A national programme similar to a container deposit scheme. Where bags have a value and can be exchanged for currency. The value of the bag should motivate people not to lose them and would minimise their disposal to landfill at the end of their life.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

The proposed ban is a great waste minimisation initiative. However, New Zealand has a long way to go to catch up with the rest of the world to reduce our per capita waste. Single use plastics are pervasive across society and New Zealand should follow the recommendation of Australia's senate and implement a national ban in the near future of a wide range of products (plastic lined coffee cups, takeaway containers, etc.).