

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

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**Reference no:** 6013

**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**

**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**

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Needs community/government support to ensure that all households have access to reusable shopping bags, reusable veggie &

fruit bags. There is an opportunity here for communities to get involved and support each other.

**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**

Discounts for bringing your own bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We already refuse all plastic bags. The biggest issue for us was creating a NEW HABIT. Now we always have our bags with us, in the car, etc. If we forget, we do without - and have to carry our shopping back to the car by hand!

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Community campaigns needed to overcome opposition regarding such issues as plastic bags being needed to pick up dog poo, line rubbish bins etc. Encourage homes to compost - local council campaigns to provide every household with a compost bin? NZ has the chance to be a world leader on this issue, and to redeem our "clean, green image"! But we need strong leadership from Government, and it needs to be easy for households to make the shift from reusable plastic. We are all busy, and from my own experience it can be time-consuming to seek out alternatives to plastic.