

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

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## Reference no: 602

### Submitter Type:

#### 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

If the plastic cannot degrade on it own in oceans, on land, anywhere it may end up within a short (1 week or so) timeframe, it doesn't count as environmentally friendly as it will still litter our beautiful country and be eaten by fauna.

#### 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

Phase out all plastic bags. thicker ones will still create litter. New Zealanders are capable of using cloth or flax bags. It will only take a few failed trips to the shops without bags for habits to change.

#### Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

#### Position

Not sure

#### Notes

Though as stated previously it is my opinion that all single use plastic should be phased out. Including food packaging etc.

#### 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

Though my workplace provides "biodegradable" bags to customers. I use quotation marks because I'm pretty sure they don't degrade quick enough to deserve that title.

#### Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

#### Position

No

#### Notes

Every New Zealander is capable of changing habits. The size of the business does not excuse lazy behaviour by customers.

#### Clause

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

#### Notes

Why is a small business exemption even up for discussion. Just don't provide bags.... People will learn to bring their own reusable ones. NO PLASTIC BAGS FOR ANYONE

#### 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**

It is sufficient time to allow advertising of the changes and allows businesses to run through their current stock of bags before the transition.

**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**

A one off \$5 cost for a reusable bag per customer is not a long term burden. I see no reason why a phase out should be expensive. If anything it should save money. And our environment will be much better off. We will need better on shore recycling facilities before excess plastic can be disposed of properly.

**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**

Many people already have reusable shopping bags. I have a small pile of them in the laundry which I take to do my supermarket shopping. In the case of meat packaging I have seen some fantastic truly biodegradable packaging made out of algae and hemp.

**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**

If they have no other option they will use it multiple times. Simple.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We're already good to go. If however we lacked reusable bags it would be nice for supermarkets to offer a free cloth bag with purchases over \$40 for the first week of the ban.

**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**

I don't have enough information to make an informed comment. A reporting app usable by concerned citizens might be useful.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Please phase out all single use plastic that doesn't fully degrade within 2 weeks, on it's own wherever it may end up. There are algae and hemp options to look into. If "compostable plastics" need a specialised plant to compost they're not functioning as an environmentally friendly solution so please don't exempt them unless they can do no harm to our environment/oceans when they inevitably end up there.