

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

Sophie Frances Emmeline Bannister

**Reference no:** 6029

**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**

**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**

**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**

Consumers will shop at range of retailers, big and small. If they're already in the habit of using reusable bags, then it should not make a difference where they are buying from.

**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**

No

**Notes**

From observation, the number of people using single use bags is continually decreasing and I would say that the majority of shoppers are now using reusable bags. Supermarkets already encourage the use of reusable bags and the cost of implementing a legal ban outweighs the benefit of getting just a few more people to ditch the plastic bag. I think there could be alternative options that would more effectively reduce the amount of plastics and pollution in NZ.

**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**

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

**Notes**

Not sure what a mobile phone app would achieve. The retailers are best-placed to encourage the use of multiple use bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We would need a practical alternative option for lining rubbish bins. Aside from that, we have already adjusted.

**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**

This may be ambitious and impractical but if food companies can display the nutritional information, surely they can also display information about the packaging material of the product (e.g. material and weight).