

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

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## Reference no: 6041

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

All, as there is no national, unified processing of these bags (including the compostable, etc)

### 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

They need to look and feel reusable, otherwise they will get thrown out.

### 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

There should be no exemptions. Money would then need to be spent on policing and enforcement.

### 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

I do not agree with smaller retailers being exempt. but if they were, then two or less full time employees which should include owners, shareholders, partners, family members.

### 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**

The long term benefits on our environment must surely outweigh the short term monetary costs.

**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**

Alternatives have been around for at least ten years. Our family has a mix of cotton, jute & canvas shopping bags. These days it is very easy to buy a reusable bag. Many towns also supply free bags made by Boomerang Bags. Pak n Save have always provided empty cardboard boxes for their customers.

**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**

If there were no bags, people would quickly find alternatives. But retailers that provided incentive schemes would certainly 'look good' in the eyes of the general public by leading the way with greener options.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We no longer use single use plastic bags. But retailers should always have an alternative bag for sale for those who forget their own reusable bag.

**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 know

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Ban the manufacture, importation and exportation of single use plastic bags. Phase out single use produce bags (those without handles) and eventually ban them as well