

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

**Reference no:** 6116

**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**

I would like to see the phase out extended to single use plastic including cutlery, Styrofoam take-away food containers, Styrofoam packing, and excessive packaging (packets within packets, within packets).

**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**

I think the ban needs to be across the board. Exempting compostable or degradable bags when there aren't facilities to process them defeats the purpose. It's easier for people to understand a blanket ban and will increase the uptake of reusable bags rather than creating a market for green-wash alternatives.

**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**

Allowing some retailers to continue to give out plastic bags but not others creates loop holes. I would prefer to see an across the board phase out of all plastic shopping bags.

**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**

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**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**

I think that is a fair amount of time to make the changes needed.

**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 ongoing cost of managing plastic pollution in our environment is likely to be expensive and ineffective. The cost of preventing plastic waste by contrast is relatively inexpensive and highly effective.

**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**

Yes, absolutely. The amount of textiles currently going to landfill or being shipped offshore is a potential source material for upcycling into reusable bags. Using harakeke to make reusable bags is another alternative with low environmental impact.

**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**

The initial cost of the bags themselves.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We're already plastic shopping bag free.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I feel strongly that the phase out needs to go further. I would also love for work to be done to understand medical waste and how it can be reduced.

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**