

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

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## Reference no: 6124

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 am from Germany where these kinds of bags have virtually not existed since I was a child. Supermarkets sell reusable bags at a price point that encourages consumers to bring their own bags or boxes. There is no reason to keep these bags and they are a huge environmental problem.

### 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

In addition to phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags, reusable plastic shopping bags should be taxed so that they are priced appropriately and use discouraged. Alternatives exist and consumer behaviour will change.

### 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

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

0

### 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

Not sure

### Notes

This ban needs to be in place as soon as possible. Alternatives exist and there is no transitional period required.

**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**

I cannot think of any costs or negative impacts caused by the phase-out. Retailers will offer reusable shopping bags and pass the cost on to the consumers. I don't think any retailers would lose customers as all retailers will have to stop offering single-use plastic bags. Consumers will adapt and get in the habit of bringing their own bag or bite the bullet and pay for a reusable bag when they forget their own.

**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**

There is no reason why people can't carry a light reusable cotton bag with them and have boxes for their groceries in their cars.

**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**

Reusable plastic bags should be taxed so they are priced appropriately to discourage just buying those on every trip to the supermarket instead.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I am already trying to avoid plastic bags whenever possible.

**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**

Germany is currently introducing a register for all manufacturers and distributors of plastic packaging, all of which need to contribute to the cost of recycling. New Zealand should use a similar system to make manufacturers pay for the recycling of their products.