

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

**Reference no:** 6141

**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 agree with this mandatory phase out because single-use plastic shopping bags are bad for the environment as they take many years to decompose. They are also bad because a lot of single-use plastic shopping bags end up into the surrounding ecosystems and result in the wildlife consuming it and becoming sick.

**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**

I believe less than 70 microns because it means that everything below that is included and reduces the chances of single-use plastic bags having an impact on the environment

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

**Clause**

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

**Notes**

They are single-use plastic bags such as medical bags and dog bags. I personally don't know why dog bags are exempt because there are other ways that dog poop can be picked up. But in the case of medical bags I believe they should be exempt because they are needed to care for patients and the hospital/medical industry should be responsible for disposing of these medical bags in the correct way.

**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**

I believe they should not be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags because in order for everyone to accept that single-use plastic bags are no longer apart of our future then everyone has to be doing it. It has to become the new normal and by having smaller retailers giving out single-use plastic bags then everyone will be getting confused on what's not okay and what is. It also defeats the purpose of introducing this mandatory phase out of single-use 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**

I am unsure.

**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**

No

**Notes**

I believe that the mandatory phase-out period for single use plastic shopping bags should be a lot earlier.

**Clause**

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

**Position**

two months

**Notes**

I think this because in order for everyone to get use to having less single-use plastic bags in our future it needs to done as soon as possible.

**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 believe the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic bags does in deed exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out. I do understand that there are going to be many monetary costs to implement this phase out but by doing this mandatory phase out we are helping organisms within our ecosystems survive longer.

**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**

I believe there are many other options than using single-use plastic shopping bags such as using flax bags or old clothes made into a bag.

**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**

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

**Notes**

I believe it has to be done at a national level so that everyone is aware of what the benefits of reusing multiple-use bags are. The only way that people will become aware of the positive benefits of reusing multiple-use bags is through them becoming more educated to make informed decisions. Whereas, having voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers means that some individual retailers wont do any voluntary incentive schemes meaning that a certain are of New Zealand will become less likely to reuse multiple-use shopping bags.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I think making the mandatory phase out period of single-use plastic babgs a lot earlier. This would allow me and my family to quickly change/improve our behaviours as a family due to us being forced to change in a new positive and ecosystem friendly way.

**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 am not sure

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I just want to say that I think the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags is a step in the right direction for not only us humans but also all living organisms on the planet. I think that single-use plastic bags have caused enough damage in our ecosystems and its time to get rid of them for good.

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