

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

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## Reference no: 6148

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

Anything that cannot degrade into a substance naturally found in the ecosystem and not just a smaller version of the plastic, should not be used.

### 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

Other (please specify)

### Notes

No plastic bags are needed. By gradually phasing these out we will help people develop new habits and a new norm. The change from using plastic to bringing your own is psychological - new habits need to be formed and new norms produced.

### 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

Why do half a job? Get rid of them all.

### 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

If these bags are not completely phased out, then legislation on where the plastic originated from is key. New Zealand only produced bags which can be recycled with a circular deposit scheme is urgently needed. Fining of consumers and/or big companies needs to be introduced as a bottom line and firm incentive.

### Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

### Position

No

### Notes

Because we are trying to form new habits. Why keep the old habit of using single use in any form? It's crazy to want radical change and do it half way.

### 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**

Just get it done. Make sure that the reusables being offered by retailers actually meet recycling standards and that recycling can actually be done in NZ.

**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**

Over time less rubbish and waste means smaller collection costs. Implementing buy back style schemes where value is attached to multi use bags that are damaged will mean more responsibility is taken by the whole of society. This benefit will also alleviate costs to those protecting our environment. Less plastic waste in the environment means less money spent dealing with the ill effects of said waste. Most importantly, we will actually start living up to the reputation of being a clean, green country. Our image as a forward thinking and environmentally conscious country needs to be backed up with new and relevant action.

**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**

Because other bags exist in NZ. We just need to learn and develop new habits.

**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**

As well as the incentive schemes by retailers. Education of the full cycle of a product's life including packaging is necessary.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Having returnable bags (like boomerang bags scheme) or making it mandatory for retailer to make any packaging (like delivery boxes) available for shoppers to use if bags are forgotten. Advertising campaign reminding people to take bags all over the place.

**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**

Not sure

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

This is something that is long overdue and I hope will be the start of a mindset change in New Zealand around rubbish and waste. My hope is this doesn't stop at just single use plastic bags but that change around packaging requirements of all products will be reviewed and legislated for.