

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

Scott Cursons

**Reference no:** 6149

**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**

**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**

All bags should go

**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**

It would be unfair to discriminate between big retailers and small retailers, one rule for all

**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**

see above, one rule for all

**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**

That's the process, due process must occur

**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 cost amending the current situation will be beyond budget - 40 years of plastic damage to undo.

**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**

Fabric bags, back packs, etc

**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**

Simple, step up, be a world leader, make a law, then do an information campaign.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Already have. Our kids have led the charge, we are plastic free as much as possible. Our plastic footprint has been substantially reduced.

**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**

Stop their distribution at source

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Look, I don't think this should just be about single use plastic bags. Go into a supermarket and look down the aisles. There is plastic wrapping everything! This has to change and those items not in plastic should be both promoted and made cheaper i.e., a tariff on any product with plastic wrapping should be imposed. Why are cucumbers plastic wrapped? Give incentives to companies and distributors to find another way to wrap their goods, (wax paper wrappings for example). It has been too easy for manufacturers, distributors and importers to just produce and have no concern about their product left over's post consumption. One idea I had is to have a range of say 200 plastic bottles and containers in various sizes and proportions available for all manufacturers to use, these would be all that are available to be used by all manufacturers - that all there will be - period. Branding could be applied on outside however the plastic item could be reused or recycled 100% just as happened glass in the past. Additionally return to glass is such great idea and I would happily return to glass milk bottles. Just think my kids could do milk runs as I did at their age! I am of the understanding when the Minister and PM launched this that the view would be on all Plastic use. This survey does not follow that brief made to the public. I feel that there needs to be Ministry of Plastic to deal with the issue. The government should not be afraid of 'getting it wrong' and dwelling on time. Take a courageous step and deal with the issue! The Government should be the leader here not the Commercial and Industrial sectors.