

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

**Reference no:** 6195

**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**

Unless it biodegrades in an anerobic environment - as most landfills are - replacement plastics are as bad (or sometimes worse) than conventional plastics and so don't make sense to phase in.

**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. All single-use plastics should be phased out. All of it. Shopping bags, food packaging, all of it.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

This question doesn't actually make any sense at all. Like, it's not a sentence that makes sense in English in the context that it's offered. But I'll take this textbox to say, again, that all single-use plastics should be phased out. Phasing out shopping bags is simple, and never as big a deal as people make it out to be (see: anywhere else on the planet that's phased them out), plus the general public is behind the ban - so go one step further. Don't make us fight in a few years for the removal of unnecessary packaging. We all know we're going that direction. Just do it now while support is high and you can tack a few more bucks on this campaign rather than having to start all fresh next time.

**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**

Nope, nor would I ever because plastic the planet is choking to death on plastic and it's morally reprehensible to contribute - especially for the compostable plastics people who capitalize on green-washing a product that ruins recyclable plastics when it gets into the stream and who requires commercial composting facilities many of us don't have access to.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

No

**Notes**

No exceptions - neither retailers nor reasons for single-use.

**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**

They should not be exempted. None of us should be.

**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**

There's no solid reason for a phase out that lasts that long. It just simply doesn't make sense. Let the stores run out of stock and be done with it.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Right this second.

**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 don't even know how to answer this question seriously. I reckon there will actually be an increase in use of plastic as people are getting into the routine of bringing their bags and end up having to buy some extra ones, but that's going to happen no matter what. The more important piece is those aren't going to end up in our rivers and oceans or dumped on the side of the road.

**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**

First, reuseable shopping bags are cheap. Second, lots of stores are starting to bring cardboard boxes up to the checkouts where people can pack in their waste packaging. Third, you don't need a bag to put your groceries in - they can go directly in your backseat. Fourth, you don't need a purpose built bag for shopping - between pannier bags for my bike and an old messenger bag, I rarely use a purpose-made shopping bag to get our groceries home (and never a single-use one).

**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**

1 - get ahead of the ball. Team up with nz thrift stores/op shops and craft/fabric stores, pick up what fabrics they have that haven't sold and they've cleared off the shelves and repurpose those into shopping bags so fewer plastic ones need to be made to fill the gap. 2 - when you don't provide another option people will start using them for everything. They'll learn. It's happened around the world in various places and people always have the same concerns but, while Kiwis are unique in a lot of excellent ways, this isn't one of them. The public will learn.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

For me and my family to adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags I'd need a time machine to take me back in time about 8 years. We just don't use single-use plastics, I avoid buying products that force single use plastics on me (come on! Why should my coriander be wrapped in a soft plastic bag?!), and we have filled up exactly one red rubbish bag in the last three and a half months.

**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**

You could ban all single-use plastics and then save the money on information campaigns about banned single-use plastics to use for things like, you know, something that could be beneficial to society rather than helping people cope with things we all know are awful.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Have some damn courage. A single-use shopping bag ban isn't enough, and it's already far enough into these bans happening in the world that it's simply safe. The majority of Kiwis seem to be in favor of this and more drastic action. Lead the way, don't just respond to Countdown and New World's good choices/clever marketing and try and seem equally progressive/clever. Ban it all.

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