



Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

SUBMISSION FORM

The Government is seeking feedback on a proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags.

For more information about the Government's proposals read our [Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags consultation document](#).

Submissions close at 5.00 pm on Friday 14 September 2018.

Making a submission

You can make a submission in three ways:

1. Use our online submission form available at www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags. This is our preferred way to receive submissions.
2. Complete this submission form and send to us by email or post.
3. Write your own submission and send to us by email or post.

Publishing and releasing submissions

All or part of any written submission (including names of submitters) may be published on the Ministry for the Environment's website www.mfe.govt.nz. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Contents of submissions may be released to the public under the Official Information Act 1982 following requests to the Ministry for the Environment (including via email). Please advise if you have any objection to the release of any information contained in a submission and, in particular, which part(s) you consider should be withheld, together with the reason(s) for withholding the information. We will take into account all such objections when responding to requests for copies of, and information on, submissions to this consultation under the Official Information Act.

The Privacy Act 1993 applies certain principles about the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. It governs access by individuals to information about themselves held by agencies. Any personal information you supply to the Ministry in the course of making a submission will be used by the Ministry only in relation to the matters covered by this consultation. Please clearly indicate in your submission if you do not wish your name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

Submission form

The questions below are a guide only and all comments are welcome. You do not have to answer all the questions. To ensure others clearly understand your point of view, you should explain the reasons for your views and provide supporting evidence where appropriate.

Contact information

Name*	Isaac Marshall
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Phone	
Email*	

Submitter type*	Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Business / Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local government	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Central government	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Iwi	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Click here to enter text.

* Questions marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

Questions

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?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Why / Why not?

I believe that for New Zealand to become a more environmentally conscious and sustainable country then the ban of single-use plastic bags is a significant stepping stone that needs to occur. Although just banning single-use plastic bags is not going to solve the problem of plastic pollution it is the start of what could be a change in the way we think and act when it comes to plastic used in packaging, transport, construction, consumer goods and many more areas. By

making this first step in becoming a more environmentally friendly country I would hope in the future that more actions would be taken in reducing the waste that New Zealand produces.

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?

- less than 50 microns in thickness
- less than 70 microns in thickness
- Other (please specify)

I believe that both the 70 and 50 micron thickness single-use bags should be phased out, this is because although the thinner bag would mean there would be less waste there would still be a huge amount of waste produced, also the thinner bags would be more likely to break which would mean that re-using them would not be practical and it would result in many being thrown away.

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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

No, I think all single-use shopping bags should be phased out, I think this because if there was a single-use bag that was not phased out it would be heavily relied on which would mean that the whole purpose of the phase out wouldn't be worth it as people would use a different type of single-use bag which would continue to create a huge amount of waste. A better solution would be encouraging the use of reusable bags as opposed to trying to make a new improved single-use plastic bag.

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

- a. 50 microns or less in thickness
- b. more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please specify which bags and explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

No

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Why / Why not?

I believe that there should be a ban on single use plastic bags and smaller retailers should not be exempted from this ban, although smaller retailers are obviously going to contribute less single-use bags to the environment I think that the ban should apply to everyone as every part counts and it is would be easier to phase out the plastic bags if no retailers had plastic bags as apposed to some having and some not.

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?

Smaller retailers should not be exempted from the ban.

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?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Why / Why not?

I agree with his time period as it allows people to adapt in the way they shop so they can prepare for the change that is going to occur, this allows people to buy reusable bags and get used to taking them shopping, this will mean that when single use plastic bags are no longer available people will not be depending on them and will have likely adapted a new technique for shopping. Also in this 6 month period campaigns and adverts can promote and show how easy it is to use reusable bags and clearly display the benefits of using them, this would likely encourage people to begin using reusable bags.

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

- two months
 nine months
 one year
 other (please specify)

The 6 month period is adequate.

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?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

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).

I think that the benefits of phasing out single use plastic bags is larger than the slight inconvenience it could incur. However, I believe that single use plastic bags is the start to more harmful plastics to be phased out in the future so in the longer run the costs of having to use reusable bags will have a hugely positive impact as New Zealand strives for a more environmentally friendly country. The cost for implementing the phase out should not be considered as a factor of the single-use plastic bag ban as the benefits of the campaign are hugely beneficial, by showing that single-use bags need to be banned as they are harming the environment it is likely going to encourage people to start thinking about the environment in all areas of life and not just single-use bags. It shows that we are effecting the environment in all aspects of life, from single-use plastic bags being used for shopping, car fumes for transport or general waste that a household produces. I believe this ban can help in making people more environmentally friendly in all aspects of life.

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Yes, I believe that reusable bags are the primary solution to not having single-use plastic bags, this is because by encouraging their use and promoting its benefits it can be made clear that this change incurs no inconvenience and helps promote a clean green image for New Zealand. I also believe that this change could also encourage change within other plastic products like plastic food wrap, such alternatives as bees wax wrap could become more popular as people begin to agree and promote environmental awareness.

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)

- voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers
 national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers
 other (please specify)

By making reusable bags desirable and unique and encouraging the benefits that they provide I believe that it would not be difficult in making them the main form of bag used for shopping. By getting successful New Zealand brands such as Stolen girlfriends club or Karen walker on board could also help in making reusable bags more desirable and fashionable, this would mean that people would be much more likely to use them and treat them as more of a tote as opposed to a shopping bag, by doing this people are going to be more likely to buy the bags and use them. Also by making adverts that portray how easy they are to use and how good for the environment the bags are then I don't believe it will be difficult for people to adjust and adapt to the new way to shop.

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

Minimal help would be needed to adjust my family to life without single-use plastic shopping bags as my family has for many years been very environmentally conscious and has done the bulk of our shopping with reusable bags, this has been no inconvenience for my family as whenever we are going shopping we take multiple reusable bags that we can use for shopping at places like the supermarket. Also I ensure that I leave a couple of reusable bags in the boot of my car, they take up minimal to no room and can be used in any shopping situation.

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

I believe that supermarkets as the main source of single-use shopping bags should make an effort in selling products that are better for the environment, this could include supermarkets not stocking as many plastic wrap products and replacing with bees wax wrap or a more environmentally friendly substitute, this would allow people a greater range of products that are better for the environment and could help in phasing out other plastic products in the future.

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

I believe that the phase out of plastic bags is an extremely good idea and is a stepping stone in New Zealand becoming a more environmentally friendly country. For New Zealand to uphold its clean green image I believe that we are expected to be at the forefront of environmental awareness and I believe this is helping in pursuing this and I hope these sort of actions would continue in the future in making New Zealand a more environmentally friendly and conscious country.

Releasing submissions

Your submission may be released under the Official Information Act 1982 and may be published on the Ministry's website. Unless you clearly specify otherwise in your submission, we will consider that you have consented to website posting of both your submission and your name.

Please check this box if you would like your name, address, and any personal details withheld.

Note that the name, email, and submitter type fields are mandatory for you to make your submission.

When your submission is complete

If you are emailing your submission, send it to plasticshoppingbags.submissions@mfe.govt.nz as a:

- PDF
- Microsoft Word document.

If you are posting your submission, send it to Proposed Mandatory Phase Out of Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

Submissions close at 5.00 pm on Friday 14 September 2018.