

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

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## Reference no: 6280

**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

The environmental gains of phasing them out would be huge.

### 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 single use plastic bags

### 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

There are plenty of options for smaller retailers.

### 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

### 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 environmental benefits must be taken into the equation. If we don't then we are loading future generations with the

environmental damage.

**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**

There are groups springing up all over the country who are promoting/making re-usable shopping bags. We haven't always had single-use plastic bags - we coped without them when I was growing up! I was recently in India and many states in India have done away with single-use plastic bags. If India can do it so can New Zealand.

**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**

Education about the environmental benefits are key.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Knowledge.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Whilst I totally support the phasing out of single-use plastic bags, this doesn't go far enough. When you consider the mass of plastic packaging that saturates one's shopping experience - covering everything from fruit and other food to toilet paper- we need to do more. Most of the plastic our groceries come in is absolutely single use, useful for nothing once it's dispensed the goods. If managing or banning plastic bags is so pressing (which it is) and a once in a lifetime opportunity, why wouldn't you make it count and address the bulk of the problem, not just the easy symbolic target. That is to regulate all plastics, not just checkout bags. To make a real difference we need to address the wider plastic problem facing us all. The current proposed ban doesn't go far enough.