

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

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## Reference no: 6287

**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

Plenty of reusable alternatives available

### 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

less than 70 microns in thickness

### Notes

Why ban light plastic bags but allow others, they will eventually cause the same problems.

### Clause

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

### Position

Not sure

### 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

Fairness, and clarity. One rule for everyone.

### 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

Nil

### 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

Yes if it is necessary in our system of legislation. BUT why are we taking so long? Poorer, less sophisticated nations have done this already.

**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**

We need to think long-term on this one. Environmental benefits will be huge locally and globally. Cost of disposal, landfill etc will drop; land and ocean will be healthier; less pollution means healthier humans reducing healthcare costs. Opportunity for new non-polluting products to be made.

**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**

Absolutely yes. Reusable/washable cloth bags; string kits; cardboard boxes; flax kete; baskets; backpacks and more are easily available and already being used.

**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**

This - plus voluntary incentives by retailers and community groups. Or they could just ask their grandparents what used to be done before plastic bags? Perhaps schools and charities could run design competitions, with winning designs made into bags to be sold for fund-raising. Encourage those who are already making multiple-use bags from off-cuts & surplus materials that would otherwise go into landfill. Up-cycling and repurposing existing fabrics (instead of always manufacturing new bags.)

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Already using as little as possible so it won't be a huge adjustment.

**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**

Where are the current stats obtained from? What difficulties and faults are known and need to be remedied? The UK and Ireland seem to be able to quote stats on decline in plastic bag use, so how do they monitor it?

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Banning plastic bags will be a great FIRST step in reducing plastic pollution. The reduction of unnecessary packaging of manufactured goods and foodstuffs would be a logical next step.