

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

Joy Florence, **Joy Florence**

## Reference no: 6310

**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

less than 70 microns in thickness

### Notes

### 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

Exempting the smaller retailers doesn't make sense. We all need to get on board with this.

### 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

It should be set at 6 months, not at 'at least six months'

### Clause

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

### Position

Other (please specify)

### Notes

As above

**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****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**

But I suggest that there be a public education campaign to let people know about the environmental impacts of the various options available and how they should be used. Two areas that people seem to be concerned about are not having plastic bags to use as bin liners, and as dog poo bags. Solutions to these issues should be included in public information campaigns.

**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**

While it would be very useful to get major retailers on board, for effective change it will need a supportive information campaign by government. This should also include encouragement for the use of keep bags that are made out of natural materials or upcycled fabrics in preference to those made out of recycled plastic. There are a number of community based initiative around the country that have been producing such bags and they should be promoted by government.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I'm OK with this, having made the change some time ago.

**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**

I'm not sure how it's collected at the moment. I guess you could get information from plastic bag suppliers, and from retailer purchasers. Apparently other countries e.g. Britain have found ways to measure the drop in usage after a levy was introduced. Also on an individual business basis The Warehouse has also been able to measure this in NZ.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I see this as just a really good start to reducing our use of plastic. So 1. other single use plastics need to be addressed - the retailing of packets of single use plastic bags; takeaway food containers, single use drink bottles, takeaway drink containers, disposable plastic cutlery and plates... 2. unnecessary plastic packaging of multiple retail products 3. the use of laminated packaging which means that none of the components can be separated for recycling 4. a return to returnable and recyclable glass bottles 5. collaboration with Minister Shane Jones to support the establishment of plastic recycling plants in provincial New Zealand.