

Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

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Questions

1. Yes, because as stated above in the document it talks about how 1 of the top 5 most common items polluting the sea is plastic bags. By removing them over a period of time and giving customers fair notice it removes the problem preventing more bags from entering the rubbish system and creates a reliable solution.
2. I prefer the option of 50 microns as it removes majority of the issue created from single use bags but it still allows for LDPE multi use bags to be in circulation. This is good for the fact that they are easy to bring with you and can be used when purchasing items such as clothing or shopping within a mall, rather than only having the heavy weight 70+ bags which are harder to have with you on an everyday basis.
3. Yes, the big black rubbish bags used as bin liners. They should be exempt as there are not any options that I know of which can replace them as a bin liner.
4. No, I am simply a consumer who uses the bags whilst shopping.
5. No, smaller retailers should still provide an alternative option and stock reusable bags for sale. If shops are exempt from the phase out it will not reduce the plastic bag waste as effectively as if no shops are able to stock the product.
6. I think 2 or 3 employees within the company. An example is for a company such as Stirling sports. This is a large company with small shops, they should not be exempt as their Dunedin shop has 2 full time employees however overall the company will have many full-time employees. If the company has 2-3 full time employees overall then I believe they should be exempt.
7. Yes I do, giving 6 months allows sufficient time to stop importing and stocking single use plastic bags within the store. I do also agree that smaller stores and stores that have remaining single use bags should have a grace period of a further 6 months to continue using their existing stock as long as there are no new bags being ordered.
8. I strongly agree that the ban is worth the phase out cost. With estimated statistics such as that by 2050 the total weight of plastics in the ocean will outweigh the total weight of fish, means that the sooner we can reduce the amount of pollutants entering the oceans, the closer we move towards increasing the positive effects we have on the planet. Benefits also include less expenses for businesses having to stock single use bags, and being able to sell re-usable bags as a one-time purchase. The money spent phasing out bags will be minimal and the money profited from the

purchases of 70 micron and up bags will be high enough that it will cover any potential money spent.

9. Yes, for a dollar you can buy a lightweight reusable bag that is nearly identical to that of a single use plastic bag. The material is reusable and the bag is a minimal cost. For items when supermarket shopping, most large supermarkets sell re-useable bags for a small cost (countdown \$1) which are ideal when grocery shopping and are easy to store in a car boot.
10. I think option B, having a campaign is a smart idea. The more awareness that is created about re-usable bags and their positives will make shoppers consciously think about what bags they are using and the more reinforcement about how bad single use bags are will remind customers to use multi use bags. If constant reminders to use multiple use bags are presented throughout society then people will begin to make it a habit and remove single use bags from their lifestyle.
11. Nothing is needed, my family already uses re-usable bags. The only difficulty will be with bin liners and creating a way in which the single use bags can be eliminated there.
A way that can help families who are transitioning from single use to multiple use bags is by purchasing the bags and reinforcing the point of keeping them sitting in places where you will see them. For my family, it was in the car boot or by the front door where we kept our shoes. By always having them in sight it creates a natural reminder that these are what we use and this is the best way to shop.
12. By having shops keep records of the number of bags they are purchasing, how often they make a sale and a bag is used and by also recording the regularity of needing a new order of plastic bags. By keeping records of all shops, we are able to track where the largest usage of bags is and where the greatest improvements are being made. With this data, a comparison can then be made to determine what is different and why some places are doing better than others.
13. I Believe the mandatory phase out of single use plastic bags will be an effective way to remove plastic bags from circulation and help to control the excess of plastics that enters the oceans. By giving the 6-month period to stop the use on the particular plastic bags under a certain micron thickness, it gives owners and businesses a fair amount of time to make the necessary arrangements to stop single use bags from being in their system.

I believe single use plastic-bags should be banned and removed from circulation as they cause harm to our environment. There are alternatives to single use bags which cause little to no harm on the environment such as re-usable bags. Using these in place of the single use bags would be an easy switch, with support from the businesses and the government.

Single use plastic bags are a waste of money, resources and are damaging to our environment. The facts presented within this document show that approximately 154 plastic bags are used per person per year. With these bags only being considered single use, many are not reaching the proper facilities that can deal with the product and recycle them effectively. Because such a large number of these single use bags are being disposed of incorrectly, it is ending up in the environment and posing a threat to marine life. Looking towards the future, this excess of plastic being in our oceans will begin to affect a part of our food source. By approximately 2050 when the excess of plastics becomes too great, it will be too late to do anything about it. If we take action now and remove a part of the problem, we will be able to then focus on how else we can improve New Zealand to become a sustainable country.

The clearest solution to banning single use bags is to replace them with multi use bags which are stronger and are less damaging to the environment. The benefit of doing this is that by removing the single use bag and replacing it with a multi-use bag, companies will be able to make a profit by selling these bags to the consumers. Consumers will now no longer damage the environment by disposing of their shopping bags poorly and instead have a sustainable option at a low cost. The one-time cost of buying a re-useable bag will seem insignificant to many consumers once they realise what benefits it will have for the environment. One way that the government can help to initiate the change and get consumers to make the switch is to run campaigns and advertisements which show the damage done from single use plastic bags. By then showing the benefits and how easy it is to switch to re-usable bags, consumers will begin to remove the plastics from shopping trips.

By following suit with Australia's jurisdiction from 2009 through to 2011 we should create an overall ban on single use bags with 50 microns or less and assuming figures are accurate, can expect a similar usage rate of plastic bags to decrease of 75% or more. Australia is very similar to New Zealand in a lot of ways and looking at the public opinions from the three territories, the overall consensus was that there was a large support in favour of the plastic bag ban. If New Zealand was to take a similar approach, which has been proven to work, then the results should quickly become apparent.

If New Zealand was to decide to keep single use plastic bags in circulation it would show that we no longer value the environment as strongly as believed. Having plastic bags in circulation still would mean we continue to contribute to the global pollution of the oceans

and waterways and the effects that follow would be due to our neglect. There are no major benefits of having single use bags over multiple use bags as they do not offer any advantage aside from being easier to store or carry compared to re-usable bags.

I believe that by creating the ban on single use plastic bags New Zealand is taking a step towards a greener future. By removing a toxin from our countries day to day life whilst supplying a suitable alternative in re-usable bags we are looking at making a change that will benefit both the country and globally. By supplying an effective alternative through re-usable bags, it gives the population no excuse as to why it cannot make the change, and with help and guidance from the government the change to a renewable and eco-friendly future can be an easy step to make