

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

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## Reference no: 655

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

I agree with the mandatory phase out because I want our planet to have less pollution and leave it in a better place for my children. I already use cloth shopping bags and have for many years.

### 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

It should include any thickness 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

No. It must include degradable, biodegradable, and heavier weight singlet bags, and boutique bags.

### 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

It should be applied across all retailers to be fair to all.

### 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 as soon as possible.

### Clause

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

### Position

Other (please specify)

### Notes

Two to six months.

**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**

I agree that the benefits exceed the costs. The health of our planet is more important than monetary costs. I don't want to end up with plastic in my body that gets passed down the food chain, or see our oceans, rivers and waterways polluted.

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

No

**Notes**

There are alternative bags available at the moment but many are too large in size and heavy, and are made out of synthetic not natural materials.

**Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

More bags in different sizes including thinner cotton or hemp bags which easily fit into a purse. They were for sale a long time ago here but I have not seen them since in supermarkets. Community groups could also make bags from 2nd hand fabrics.

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

They shouldn't be too cheap. People are less likely to throw things away that cost a bit more. They need to come in different sizes so some fit into a purse to make it easy to have one on hand even on unplanned trips. They could come with different patterns/slogans to make them look fashionable. Voluntary incentive schemes and national information campaigns etc should also be done.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We already use cloth bags and have for years. The best incentive to use them is when there are no plastic bags available in the shops.

**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**

Don't know enough about this to comment.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

It is over-due.