

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

As above, **William Ramsay Mansfield**

## Reference no: 670

**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

### 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

Earlier if practicable

### 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

Unless we take this and related actions on plastics that are entering our oceans and other waterways we will irreparably damage the vital role they play in sustaining life on the planet with serious consequences for future generations.

**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**

We didn't have them when I was growing up and we managed perfectly well without them.

**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**

Does this question relate to plastic bags? If so my answer is we should stop producing them. If it refers to cloth or other substitutes then both the last two options are appropriate with the object of creating social pressure to act responsibly in reducing waste.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We can manage but supermarkets should be encouraged to adjust the way goods such as fruit and vegetables are taken to the checkout counter.

**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**

Regulation, effective monitoring and enforcement

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

When other cities, including places like New Delhi, have banned plastic bags there is no excuse for NZ failing to do so or failing to do it properly. Such a failure would amount to a serious disconnect with the image we present of NZ for tourism and product marketing purposes.