

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

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## Reference no: 739

**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

Plastic has come to be relied on as a convenience item. In a world where convenience is becoming more and more desired, we need to adjust our attitudes to the planet. If we continue doing what we are doing today, we will be increasing our plastic production and waste each year following. We have to reverse this, force people to think about what they are doing, be prepared enough to take their own bags and containers to the shops. They managed without any problems before plastic bags were invented. I think people have forgotten that when they throw things in the bin, it doesn't just disappear, it will be around for thousands of years. And even then it's tiny particles will remain. I went to a cafe recently where each fish dish had a warning that it was probably contaminated with microplastics. I don't want to feed plastic to my children and grandchildren. People seem to be too busy in their lives that they need the option of some unnecessary 'conveniences' taken away, such as plastic bags. Also some people are just ignorant and don't care. They don't think about the world their kids will live in because it doesn't affect them in the here and now. The only reason that any of this has taken off is thanks to social media. I support this ban whole heartedly and hope we follow in other countries steps and roll this out as soon as possible. This is actually not far enough and we need to roll this out to all plastic packaging.

### 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

ALL plastic bags. A plastic bag is a plastic bag. We need to cut down on our plastic production, which means stopping the manufacture of these items. People will still throw them out, no matter the thickness.

### 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

We used to survive with no plastic in the past. There is no reason for it. It is toxic and polluting our planet.

### 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 is everyone's responsibility to reduce plastic and do their bit with this problem. All retailers should be the same.

### 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**

Irrelevant as I absolutely would not support 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**

We should be rolling out this ban yesterday. It is already too late. We should be doing this as soon as possible. Other countries have already done this.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

The government should just ban it straight away. We are in a crisis.. the public should not be weighing in on this as it is very clear what needs to happen.

**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**

People will be forced into considering the environment. When they get themselves prepared to go to the shop with their own containers and bags, they may then think about what they buy in terms of products packages in plastic bags. The benefit to the environment by cutting out this plastic will be great. The cost to the economy will be massive if we let this plastic problem get any worse. People will feel good for doing the right thing and feel as though they have accomplished something. Banning plastic bags will then encourage innovation from companies who will have better ideas for packaging etc that is kind to the environment. There are various ocean clean ups happening in the world at the moment. If we can decrease the amount of plastic in the ocean while minimising plastic production, we may find that we can walk along the beach without seeing plastic everywhere and without seeing dead seabirds. One day we will have made seabirds extinct by causing them to mistake plastic as food and fill their stomachs with Plastic, which then means they have no room to digest any real food.

**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**

People can use material bags, cardboard boxes, shopping trundlers/granny carts, rope bags, backpacks, paper bags, cane baskets, community drive to provide cotton bags (as they have done in nelson with boomerang bags)

**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**

Education of the public, so they understand the environmental impact of this type of waste. Cost of bags - don't make them cheap so people won't forget them or throw them away.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Education - make people aware of the result of the throw-away culture. Then people will feel happy about why they are doing it, because they are aware of the reason. Caring for the environment and being waste-free should be made so influential that it becomes a fashion where the public are together as one, trying their hardest to protect the planet we call home.

**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**

If they are banned then there will be none entering the market. This will mean that no resources are required to collect this data.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

In one hour walking along the local beach where I grew up, I collected a rean box full of plastic, including microplastics. Shreds of single use plastic bags and packaging made up much of this. Glow sticks, 19 plastic wads from shotgun cartridges, plastic bottles, straws, rubber gloves, fishing lures, sanitary products, in soles, synthetic farm baling yarn and much more. Much of the microplastics were unrecognizable, rice grain size which will continue to break down into microparticles. There were multiple dead seabirds and a dead seal. This is an increasing problem and more and more accumulates each year. I want my family to live in a clean green country where they can walk along a beautiful beach and not be greeted by plastic and dead animals. I want animals to thrive and people to be aware of the consequences of their waste and take responsibility for themselves. We are living on this planet as if we have a spare one that we can move to. Right now we are ruining this wonderful gift of a world we live in. We need to do everything we can to keep it clean, healthy and protect it at all costs. I'll say again that this should go far past the ban of plastic shopping bags and continue with all plastic packaging. This is our first step.