

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

**Reference no:** 762

**Submitter Type:**

**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**

As a biologist I am aware of their particular danger to the environment. As a bag blowing about but more seriously as they break down into small particles that remain forever in the environment. Some argue that we could allow biodegradable bags but as profit is such a huge influence on business behaviour now, and the average New Zealander can't tell if a bag is of biodegradable plastic, the best way is for us all to relearn the habit of my parents... take you own reusable bag. Great to phase out.

**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**

This is problematic .. too weak and people double up, too strong and the pump more toxins into the environment.

**Clause**

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

I am assuming that this refers to fully biodegradable bags.

**Clause**

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

**Notes**

No because how does the average shopper know that a bag is biodegradable on sight? I do not trust environmental concerns to overcome profit motive around supermarkets. We can't do it with petrol pollution.

**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**

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**

4

**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**

**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**

As a grandparent and a biologist I have to look to the future. What do they say in sport ... no gain without pain.

**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**

Recycling boxes as they do at Pak n Save Brand specific reusable non-plastic bags. Bags made of polypropylene with a very long usable life. I have used one for 2 years now.

**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**

Have some high profile New Zealanders on the bandwagon and some useful solutions to the lazy and the less well off

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

No problem for us

**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**

Incentives to retailers to earn an endorsement as protectors of our future well being

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

It will be a miracle if you achieve it so may the force be with you!

**You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.**