

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

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## Reference no: 764

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 waste is a huge source of environmental pollution. Ocean life is suffering from the dumping of plastic, as many animals try to eat it.

### 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

In my view we should be trying to eliminate the use of as much plastic as possible. There are plenty of alternatives available.

### 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

Phasing out plastic bags is unlikely to place an undue burden on smaller retailers. Single use plastic bags are more for the convenience of customers than anything. Most people are using bags when they don't need to. Phasing out bags will encourage changes to consumer behaviour. Simply introducing a charge for single use bags cut usage by 80% in the UK.

### 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**

The environmental benefits would be significant, as single use plastics are a huge source of pollution. Phasing out shopping bags is a good start and will encourage better consumer behaviour. In the long term, using more durable bags will save consumers money. This is because (in theory) the cost of plastic bags will no longer be passed on to consumers.

**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**

A number of supermarkets already sell alternative, multi-use bags. I have already seen people producing alternatives, such as flax-weave which is not only multi-use but biodegradable.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We already use multi-use bags, having become accustomed to it in the UK.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Such a phase out should be a first step to a wider move away from single use plastics.