

Subject: RE: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Recipient: proposed-mandatory-phase-out-of-single-use-plastic-shopping-bags@submissions.mfe.govt.nz

Sender: wastefree@mfe.govt.nz

Date: 18/08/2018 12:44 PM

Kia ora/ greetings Thank you very much for taking the time to share your views on the proposed mandatory phase out of single use plastic shopping bags. A summary of all submissions will be provided to Cabinet in late October 2018 to support their final decision on this proposal. Cabinet will also decide on publication of consultation results, and we will update you as soon as we can. If you want to keep up to date with developments in this area and have not already done so, please subscribe to our email list (go to "Stay informed" in the right margin at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags>). If you have asked a question rather than made a submission with your email, please be patient as our priority at this time is to process the submissions. You may ask questions to the Ministry for the Environment any time directly to info@mfe.govt.nz Ngā mihi mahana/ warm regards wastefree@mfe.govt.nz 0800-499-700 or +64 4-439-7400 -----Original Message----- From:

Thursday, 16 August 2018 2:14 PM To: Wastefree Subject: Submission on the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I support a mandatory phase-out on the sale and distribution of all single-use plastic bags. The phase-out must include a ban on false solutions, such as degradable (eg, oxo degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). There should be no exemptions from a mandatory phase out of single use bags. The phase-out should be applied across all retailers, no matter the size and staff level of the business. This is the fairest and most comprehensive way to ensure the elimination of single use plastic bags from the waste stream. The phase-out should take effect as soon as possible (2-6 months). I agree that the benefits from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs from implementing the phase out. There is no monetary value we can place the health of our oceans, rivers and waterways and the natural services they provide humans and other species. Reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags already exist in New Zealand, such as reusable cloth bags which are already available in many retail stores. A phase-out of single-use plastic bags should be the first step in addressing plastic pollution. I also support the call by Greenpeace and others for a national strategy to tackle the global scourge of plastic pollution. Yours sincerely, Andrew Tobert