

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

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## Reference no: 791

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

ALL plastic bags- the so-called degradable ones have all sorts of requirements and issues that often mean they are as much of a problem as the others, in reality.

### 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

A mandatory phase out of ALL plastic bags. Why go halfway? Re-useable bags are excellent :-)

### 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

Once plastic bags are banned plenty of alternatives will quickly become more available so it wont be a problem.

### 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

As soon as possible- people and businesses will quickly adjust so why delay.

### Clause

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

### Position

two months

### 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**

This is absolutely critical for our planet- effects of plastic pollution are becoming more and more obvious and irreversible. People's habits will quickly change once this is introduced, and businesses will adjust accordingly.

**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**

They managed fine in the "old days"! I have hardly used any plastic bags for several years now- cloth work fine, and businesses will quickly adapt to paper or cloth bags, waxed paper, or whatever is appropriate to 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**

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

**Notes**

Change people's habits and the culture round bags, convenience etc. Educate them re the effect on wildlife, the planet etc. Offering incentive schemes helps. If single use plastic isn't available people will adapt quickly.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Already have! The most helpful thing would be not to supply them in the first place!

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

I know this is about single use plastic shopping bags: I deeply hope we can go further and address ALL single use plastic (except for a few vital things like medical supplies), starting with unnecessary double-wrapping, styrofoam trays under veges wrapped in plastic and similar absurdities. Thanks :-)