

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

## Reference no: 815

**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

No

### Notes

I very strongly believe in phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags, and highly commend the Government for making this bold step. However, I don't believe that phasing out all biodegradable and compostable bags is necessarily the best route to take. I think the government should work with these companies to better understand the role they play in New Zealand's packaging supply chain, and whether they can positively contribute to plastic reduction

### 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 50 microns in thickness

### Notes

All plastic bags should be phased out, regardless of thickness.

### Clause

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

### Position

Not sure

### 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

No, but it is important to support small retailers to make this transition so that it does not disproportionately impact them. This could involve giving grants to not-for-profits such as Boomerang Bags

### 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

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### 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, social, and health benefits of phasing out plastic are greater than the monetary costs

**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**

Reusable bags are the least costly alternatives in terms of non-monetary impacts. It is obviously important to educate the public on how they are still resource-intensive, and quality over quantity is always the best solution.

**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****Clause**

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

**Notes**

Clear information campaigns on why the change is so important

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Thanks for making this bold and important decision!

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