

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

**Reference no:** 885

**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 think that plastic bags are a huge issue facing our environment, however personally I don't believe that a mandatory phase out is the best option. As a 13 year old student, the future of the planet and the environment is extremely important to me, and that is why I disagree with this new law. Think about it, one year from now all of the companies will be forced to throw away their plastic bags. That means that millions upon millions of plastic bags will be dumped into landfills and who knows elsewhere. When landfills are filled to the brim, all it takes is a gust of wind and thousands of plastic bags will be blown into our waterways. I think a much better option would be to force the manufacturers, the costumers and the companies; everyone who has anything to do with plastic bags, to pay a certain amount for using them. This means that the companies will gradually stop using plastic and there wont be that problem.

**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**

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Dog poo bags. Using reusable bags for this is unhygienic and if you use paper bags not only would it be impossible to pick up (as well as going soggy) but it would contribute to deforestation.

**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**

If you must phase out plastic bags then exempting smaller companies is totally besides the point.

**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**

15

**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****Clause**

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

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

At least 18 months

**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**

No

**Notes**

Like I said previously, a mandatory phase out will only make things worse environmentally as well as financially so really, no one wins.

**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

**Position**

No

**Notes****Clause**

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

**Notes**

Quantity. Fabric bags can cost between \$5 & \$20 each and often, in one supermarket trip you come home with 15 bags!

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Our family reuses plastic bags a lot. Even just for swimming at school plastic bags can be the difference between getting all of your books wet from the togs and keeping them dry. I think that yes we would adjust but it will cost us individually a lot of money to buy separate bags for each activity we need to do! Just thinking about it, plastic bags are so much cheaper! You can put fabric in them, beads, paint, togs, food, clothes - even other plastic bags! Like I said, buying a new 10 dollar bag for everything you might use the 10c bag for will cost a fortune!

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