

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

**Reference no:** 908

**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**

Yes, I agree and so excited that NZ has joined the movement.

**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**

I believe we should ban ALL plastic bags, period. Kauai County Council (in Hawaii) adopted a law that requires all retail establishments to provide only recyclable paper bags or reusable bags to their customers. We have already seen Coles supermarket new 'thicker' plastic bags in our oceans only months after changing their policy. New Zealand should be at the forefront of the plastic-free movement and I think only targeting 50 microns or under is not a strong enough stance on the matter.

**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**

To reduce the significant impacts of plastic bags on the environment and to encourages customers to bring their own reusable bags, no one should be exempted mandatory phase out. I understand there is a increase in cost, maybe this can be phased out over a longer period of time for smaller retailers.

**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**

In all honesty, I would have liked to seen NZ address this issue sooner, but the sooner we can introduce the phase-out the better.

**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**

Absolutely! There is already a large amount of reusable and eco-friendly alternatives to plastic bags, I have been using them for over 3 years already.

**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**

I think our biggest issue around environmental issues is education, lack of communication between industries and that manufacturers hold no responsibility for the product they produce that goes into our waste stream. We are not aware of the impacts single-use products have on our planet and I think there needs to be a bigger push nationally to reeducation us on being clean and green NZ. I also believe voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers will help encourage the customer. UK charge on plastic bags saw an 85% reduction in plastic bag usage.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Setting a rule for myself and my family, if we had no bag them we had to carry it. Offer reusable bags exchanges like Boomerang bags.

**Clause**

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

**Notes**

This has been done in so many countries, I am sure there is a great example available somewhere - sorry I could not be more helpful.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Great Job on introducing the phase-out. Don't stop all the positive work and look forward to seeing whats next for NZ.

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