

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

**Reference no:** 913

**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**

I believe single use plastic bags that are classified as degradable should be banned. However, I believe compostable and biodegradable bags should remain- and education about how to use them correctly be encouraged.

**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**

**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**

This is a very confusingly worded question, I am aware of the proposed ban, I am not certain of the intricacies of exemptions.

**Clause**

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

**Position**

Yes - more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

**Notes**

We are currently working to bring in a new form of compostable bag that softens and dissolves in water, offering this as an alternative to petroleum based bags. They are safe for the environment, animals and humans to consume.

**Clause**

4a. If yes, please explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

**Notes**

Our business model will be heavily effected, it is not our only product but is proposed to be a popular one.

**Clause**

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

**Position**

Yes

**Notes**

The cost of alternatives is high, and many smaller retailers are making their own measures to be more eco friendly. I do believe they should use a compostable alternative- but they should not have to stop providing 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**

between 1 and 3 full timers

**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**

That is not long enough or retailers to confirm their new sources, especially if it is unclear what they can and cannot provide.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

one year

**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****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**

Compostable bags are perfect, however education is needed

**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**

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

**Notes****Clause**

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

**Notes**

Already don't use them

**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**

rate of re ordering I guess?

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Compostable and Biodegradable bags should not be included in this ban

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