

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

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## Reference no: 923

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

They're unnecessary as we have better alternatives to plastic. Too many end up in undesirable locations (i.e. the ocean) and create harmful and potentially irreversible damage.

### 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?

### Notes

Unsure. I'd just like to see all single-use plastic bags phased out as soon as possible.

### 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

It should be nationwide. There are alternatives that exist (i.e. Sustainable forest products) or consumers can learn to bring their own. We need to stop giving allowances at the expense of the environment. These plastic bags will also end up in undesirable places causing damage.

### 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

0

### 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**

Again, there is irreversible damage happening from plastic based products in the environment. Plastic bags in the ocean appear like jelly-fish and other food to ocean-dwelling animals. This kills them. Also, plastic bags become brittle as they wear and break apart. This will get into our soil, our waterways, and more. The benefits for eliminating these is far greater than the costs in the long term. Also, sustainably grown forest products can help with forest management, with trees helping with carbon sink and clean air as they grow.

**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**

There are lots of canvas and paper alternatives. The fabric industry has thousands of cut offs that can be engineered into fabric bags for carrying groceries and other store-bought products.

**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**

A combination of both national leadership, and also an incentive scheme by retailers.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Good video tutorials on creating bin liners using newspaper and/or other sources for bin liners.