

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

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## Reference no: 977

**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

It's an absolutely essential first step to controlling plastic pollution. If we can't do this, the easiest thing, we may as well give up and look for another planet to call home.

### 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

Legislate to cover as many kinds of bags 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

No types should be exempt.

### 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

Regulation should apply to all retailers. Plastic bags are an unnecessary environmental risk wherever they are in use. If fruit and vegetable sellers in India can make bags from recycled newspapers for their produce, NZ retailers can find an alternative to plastic 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

No exemption.

### 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

The phase-out period should be much shorter. Everyone is already on notice and should be looking for alternatives. Many consumers are already using their own non-plastic bags.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

One month. The longer the period, the more plastic bags make their way into our oceans.

**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 benefits are immeasurable and essential. The costs will be minimal. If op shops have phased them out already, how hard and expensive can it be?

**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. They are already in use in many communities. It's a no-brainer. Consumers can bring their own bags. Boxes and paper bags are readily available..and here's a new business opportunity: recycling paper and cardboard into bags and boxes for retailers.

**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**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

There is no way to offset the environmental impact of any kind of plastic. We need to wise up to the importance of using only biodegradable packaging of all kinds. Multiple use bags that are plastic based are no answer.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

We've done it already. IT HASN'T BEEN DIFFICULT. It has been the easiest change that we've made in our attempt to reduce our environmental footprint.

**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**

I don't know

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

This is an essential first step, the easiest step to take. No-one will be particularly inconvenienced by bringing their own bags or accepting goods in paper bags or boxes. It must be a first step only, not the end of the process as we tackle the enormous environmental problem we have created by becoming dependant on plastics. The next step must be to regulate against all kind of plastic packaging.