

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

Noel. J. Peterson, **Noel. Peterson**

## Reference no: 981

**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

Ban all plastic bags and wrapping and containers move to natural alternatives and reusable non plastic bags and containers, a hard line needs to be taken to stem the plastic waste stream, the current proposal does not go far enough, the health regulations also need relaxing, one of the main drivers of all this plastic packaging is the over the top food safety standards.

### 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

Other (please specify)

### Notes

Ban all plastic bags and wrapping use natural alternatives, Harakeke is one that comes to mind.

### 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 plastic bags should be exempt, defeats the intention of the legislation.

### 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

Defeats and circumvents the intention of the legislation.

### 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

None, there should be 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**

No, should take immediate effect.

**Clause**

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

**Position**

Other (please specify)

**Notes**

Take immediate effect once gazetted.

**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**

From an environmental cost the benefit is obviously much greater, from a monetary effect the difference should not be greatly different and potentially less, reusable bags cost very little, the cost of natural fibre bags would likely be less also, not having any costing for making natural fibre bags makes this difficult to answer, something that needs researching, how much will a Kete cost to make, either traditional or commercially made, cottage industries come to mind, of great financial / employment value.

**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**

Yes, reusable Harakeke and Boomerang type bags are easily made and sourced, the makings of a great new industry.

**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**

All of what is suggested here and freely available in retail outlets.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Been using reusable for the last 20 years, banning plastic bags that are foisted on me currently will help.

**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**

Ban the sale of single use plastic shopping bags, there will be little need to monitor what is not available.

**Clause**

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

**Notes**

Move with haste, this needs to be happening as soon as possible.