

Memorandum

5 September 2018

To: Sophie Brockbank
Team Leader, Strategic Planning, Waste Solutions, Infrastructure and Environmental Services (sophien.brockbank@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Subject: **Feedback on proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags, Ministry of Environment, 2018**

From: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Purpose

1. To confirm Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board feedback on the Proposed mandatory phase-out of sale or distribution of single use plastic shopping bags, Ministry of Environment 2018.

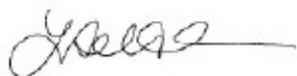
Feedback

- a) The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board notes that the Ministry of Environment is consulting on a proposed mandatory phase-out (ban) of single use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand. It is one of the many steps to reduce the negative environmental impacts of plastic waste
- b) The proposed mandatory ban on single-use plastic bags addresses the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Plan (2017) outcome, 'Protecting our natural environment and heritage' and the objectives:
 - Manukau Harbour and its coastline is clean, improved and protected; and
 - Reduce waste by improving waste management practices in the local area.
- c) supports option one in the consultation document – a total and mandatory ban. Reducing plastic use, litter, and marine pollution are priorities in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018. The inappropriate consumption use and discarding of plastic bags has significant impacts on Auckland's natural environment and our waste collection systems.
- d) agrees with the principles and rationale of Auckland Council's submission supporting a mandatory phase out (ban) of plastic shopping bags.
- e) supports the proposed six-month phase-out timeframe
- f) requests that the ban should apply to all retailers who distribute single-use plastic bags, rather than just the larger retailers. An incomplete ban will dilute the effectiveness of this behaviour change intervention on consumers
- g) notes its concern that the six-month phase out carries a risk of defaults by some small businesses and small entrepreneurs if alternatives and incentives are not put in place speedily
- h) asks that there are opportunities for further engagement and discussion with community organisations, small retailers and business associations for planning effective implementation and managing transition
- i) strongly advocates that the Ministry of Environment engages with community groups, marae that work on developing alternatives to plastic bags, to promote viable alternatives at a larger scale
- j) supports the idea that groups active in waste minimisation, supported by Auckland Council and local boards are taken into consideration by the Ministry when engaging with retailers on alternatives to plastic bags. These are opportunities to encourage a 'circular economy' at a local level that the central government can actively fund and support.

- k) advocates that education, encouraging good practice with incentives and other supportive measures be planned for geographical areas with evidence of low income and high-deprivation.

Next steps

- a) The board notes that their feedback will be included with council's draft submission to be reported to the Environment and Community Committee on 11 September 2018 and looks for the opportunity to speak to the committee.
- b) The board is informed that the due date for submissions to the Ministry for the Environment is 14 September.



Lemauga Lydia Sosene
Chair
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board