

6 September 2018

Ōtara- Papatoetoe Local Board

Submission: mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Background

The Ministry for the Environment is consulting on a mandatory phase-out (ban) of single use plastic shopping bags. The consultation document outlines various options for reducing the use of the bags. These include a mandatory phase out, a levy or mandatory product stewardship.

Auckland Council are developing a draft submission which includes the following points:

- A. That Auckland Council supports option one in the consultation document – a total and mandatory ban. The inappropriate consumption, use and discarding of plastic bags has significant impacts on Auckland’s natural environment and our waste collection systems.
- B. The ban should apply to all retailers who distribute single-use plastic shopping bags, rather than just the larger retailers. An incomplete ban will be less effective.
- C. Support for the proposed six-month phase-out timeframe.

Submission points

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board support points A and B of the Auckland Council Submission.

The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board would like to see the following strongly considered:

- The Ministry of Environment engages with Mana Whenua, community groups, small businesses and business associations to develop viable alternatives for retailers and consumers pre-phase out period.
- Extend phase out period to twelve-months- this would be a realistic timeframe for retailers specifically small businesses and consumers to adapt to the ban.
- Ban the import and manufacture of single use plastic bags ensuring maximum effectiveness and mitigating opportunities for illegal sales when the ban is implemented.

The Ōtara- Papatoetoe Local Boards would like to thank you for your consideration