

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

Massey University, New Zealand (Andee Zorn)

Reference no: 137

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

Yes, all single-use plastic should be banned, including plastic bags.

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

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

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 one should be allowed to pollute the earth for the next generation.

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

Not sure

Notes

I would be happy with an immediate ban. Six months is the next best thing.

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

Yes, New Zealand and New Zealanders can afford the monetary costs associated with this ban. Our main income is through tourism and we need to realize that single-use plastic is directly against our "clean green NZ" tourism attraction.

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

I have about twenty fabric bags that were given to me from clothing stores. I have zero excuse to use plastic bags.

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

We need to be better educated. Usually those complaining are over sixty and have a backwards view of the issues we are currently dealing with (and will be dealing with long after they're gone!)

Clause

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

Notes

If your family needs help "adjusting to life" without single-use plastic, there is something seriously wrong with your lifestyle.

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

Charge/ fine businesses who are reported using single use plastic

Clause

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

Notes

Costa rica is a country who is known widely among travellers for their eco conscious efforts. I would love for New Zealand to "lead the way" in the world for eco-tourism. Yes, plastic-bags suck-- but where else can we improve? I can't get a cucumber from New World without it being wrapped in plastic. This is so wrong and completely useless. Educate our society on the harm we're doing to our planet. Single use plastic isn't even convenient-- it is pure laziness.