

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

Melissa Wells

Reference no: 197

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

Not sure

Notes

Yes to the single-use plastic bags. But it would depend on the length of time required to see the degradable plastic bags break down. If it's within a year then they should be allowed, if over a year then no.

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

Why not all thicknesses?

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

6

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

Yes

Notes

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

It will be costly for retailers and consumers will need to be smart about bags to take shopping. But the impact on the environment is a larger problem and that is why we're doing this (finally).

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 -- but more can be added. See: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/05/this-plastic-bag-is-100-biodegradable-and-made-of-plants/> And: <https://www.good.is/articles/agar-plasticity-amam-araki-maetani-muraoka-packaging>

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

A mixture of the above. Voluntary schemes have been operating for years already, so do tap into what they have going on. But having a centralised place to source information would be helpful for everyone. Just remember having a phone is a privilege, not everyone owns one. So a public website, a hub or something accessible through local libraries/councils would be good as well.

Clause

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

Notes

Already not using them. I was brought up in a household where we used reusable shopping bags and I do the same now. People will need a replacement for bin liners though.

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

Businesses and manufacturers should have to front up to how many they're using. If everything is graphed visually then people will be more likely to get behind it.

Clause

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

Notes

Alternatives need to be supported by the government. Next thing is to get behind single-use plastic packaging as a whole and stop the use of this product entirely.