

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

Reference no: 268

Submitter Type: Business / Industry

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

No

Notes

We are a small Florist shop and due to the perishable nature of cut flowers we put a 'wet wrap' on our bouquets that we send out for deliveries. We use wet tissue paper inside a biodegradable plastic bag to keep our product fresh. If we can't use a biodegradable plastic bag for this process it could really affect our livelihood as our product would perish. All alternatives that I can think of are much more harmful to the environment e.g. cellophane, oasis, other forms of plastic wrap. As the suggested alternative to plastic bags are not water proof We are conscious consumers in our personal life and business and all of our other packaging is paper so can be easily recycled and we are a small business so it's not as if we are having a damaging impact with mass use. I'm really concerned as this could really damage us. We have minimal waste overall. The other alternatives like paper or hessian bags are not water tight.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Approved biodegradable or corn starch bags

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

It would be wonderful if we found an approved biodegradable bag that was able to be disposed of correctly in NZ. And we could educate consumers on how to dispose of them correctly.

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

Yes

Notes

Can be detrimental to small businesses livelihood. An out right ban doesn't take all factors into consideration. Banning them for our industry could actually create more waste and harm to the environment as we don't have an eco friendly alternative that I am aware of.

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

200 a week

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).

Notes

n/a

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Notes

Yes and no. For our particular use of biodegradable plastic bags (water tight wet wrap for stems of flowers in bouquets) the only alternatives are far more damaging to the environment - cellophane, glad wrap, oasis blocks, individual gel tubes stuck on each stem, flow pacs (these are also far more expensive and could affect us badly) For general shopping paper bags and reusable totes are great, but these are not water tight which we need.

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

Education and make it trendy to re use. I think education is the main thing and awareness.

Clause

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

Notes

Awareness of the harm to the environment

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

Importers can track quantities

Clause

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

Notes

Thank you for having an open discussion and I really hope you take into consideration smaller businesses who can be incredibly negatively affected by this ban. As a family we are so environmentally conscious, we don't consume or use any animal products due to the damage to the environment of the industry as well as choosing minimal waste and packaging when we shop or consume. Banning one thing outright doesn't actually fix the problem. For large chain places like a supermarket where paper or reusable bags are a simple and easy alternative the ban is a fantastic idea that I welcome but it's a bigger picture than that and I am really worried for my business and income. There needs to be room for movement. Please do not use my personal or business name to be published in public however am happy for my opinion to be anonymously published.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.