

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

Reference no: 6346

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

No

Notes

I always reuse the supermarket plastic bags for my waste bin and I've heard that these plastic bags decompose faster than the plastic bag rolls readily available for purchase at supermarkets.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

DON'T phase them out - why should a few spoil it for the majority of us who are responsible.

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

Smaller retailers would possibly only have foot traffic and those pass-a-bye shoppers don't always carry on their person their own reusable bags. This could impact on smaller retailer's sales, affecting their livelihood in providing for their family

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

10 as the staff could well be on rotation

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

No

Notes

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

I object to the phase out of single use plastic bags altogether. Why should a few careless people affect the majority of those who are more responsible. Supermarket plastic bags are re-used in the majority of homes in keeping household bins clean and sterile. Less germs and sickness from flies and the like from open smelly bins in impoverished households. Plastic bags seal and dispose of that rubbish.

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

No

Notes

Even if the mandatory phase out of single use plastic bags is passed, I still can't see it affecting the waterways to any great extent as those who dispose of their bags willy nilly will still do that with any sort of plastic wrapping which is what I feel is causing just as much havoc to the fish population.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

I use reusable woven bags for my groceries now but I find with meat and fish etc packaging leaking I regularly get the plastic wrapping not completely sealed and am constantly washing my woven bags. an added nuisance for persons who are time poor. If these were in a separate plastic bag, then that bag would be the first one to use in my kitchen waste bin and then I'd seal that and place it in my roadside waste care bin for collection.

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

More people being vocal with people being irresponsible with disposing of those single use plastic bags. We need a clean approach to NZ as a whole (like Singapore where you won't see even a lolly wrapper on the ground) and enforce heavy fines on littering. In NZ we have too many laws which are not being enforced. We need to have less laws and society needs to have the confidence and anxiety that those few laws will always be enforced. No exception to the rule.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Taxpayers don't need the additional cost of a national campaign or mobile apps as I can't see those people that would benefit most from such, actually taking any notice or using a phone app. Produce on your web site comprehensive list of uses for these single use plastic bags. Starting you off with one of mine where I put some coffee grounds and sheep pellets into one bag & half fill it with water. Leave that to mature a couple of weeks, then pierce some small holes in the base of the bag to release the fluid like a simulated watering can.

Clause

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

Notes

All I know is that it is just going to be messy & unhygienic with collecting my kitchen waste and keeping my roadside bin clean & sterile without them. I do have a couple of rotating compost bins for my green waste so that is not a problem but it is the likes of fish remains, meat wrappers, basically anything smelly that can be secured inside the single use plastic bags. It's also a great convenience for a busy household and I can't foresee phasing them out making a great difference to the ocean and waterways.

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

Anything you do is going to be more costly to the taxpayers for little gain. People have to just be more aware and accountable. Govt needs to spend our hard earned money on getting the country up and running more efficiently. Finalize talks with the nurses and teachers, farmers have polluted streams in hand now themselves albeit it will take time for some areas to recover, restrict immigrants until more of our own are housed and fed. Look after our own before burgeoning our shores.

Clause

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

Notes

Keep the single use plastic bags in supermarkets and don't have wastecare bury them on each weekly collection. These bags do break down if left out in the open under the sun within a relatively short period of time as I have experienced in my garden. I fully understand that this will lead to larger landfill sites having the rubbish laid out in the sun for a longer period until ultimately being dug into the ground.

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