

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

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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

This is virtue signaling and the majority of us are responsible in reusing single which are actually multi use bags. The fact that biodegradable and compostable bags are not being considered proves the virtue signalling. If you don't want to use a plastic bag then don't but do not think that you can control our lives in this ridiculous plastic bag virtue signalling. If you were really serious about plastic bag pollution you would be going to the UN and getting those countries in Asia and Africa who are responsible for plastic pollution to either change their ways or sanctions will be introduced. We in NZ do not contribute to the plastic pollution that is shown in photos that you promote.

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?

Notes

Madness - who is going to measure? There should not be any ban on a plastic bag.

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

What difference does size make? Another example to show this ban is virtue signaling.

Clause

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

Notes

One large one you buy at Countdown. I have been a loyal customer of Countdown and sometimes at New World but I am now shopping at PAK'n'SAVE as there will be no difference in customer service when bags are banned. Unless Countdown and New World drop their prices accordingly to PAK'n'SAVE and have empty cardboard boxes scattered around the store or provide us customers with FREE biodegradable or compostable bags then may as well go to PAK'n'SAVE. I can't believe how much cheaper most of the products are.

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

Along with bigger retailers. There should be no plastic bag ban or instead provide compostable or biodegradable bags.

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

What a stupid question to ask.

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

There should be no ban until you have sorted a replacement degradable or compostable bag and the supermarkets who provide the present plastic bags should still continue providing bags for free until a replacement is found. Most of us do not carry around heavy bulky reusable bags which get dirty and will cause contamination of other food if they are not washed with a hygiene rinse. .

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Do not ban the plastic bag until there is a biodegradable compostable bag available. This government has not thought this out properly but are acting upon whatever was in the Green Party Labour Party coalition agreement.

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

We do not see many plastic bags floating around the NZ environment so there is nothing to measure. All you are doing is removing freedom of choice. Instead you should be investigating how those who do not reuse plastic bags can recycle them - this is already happening in supermarkets and I have seen a plastic bin at The Warehouse.

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

There are biodegradable and compostable bags available. This government is determined to ignore these bags. Why?

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

What you are proposing is not based upon the truth. NZ does not have a problem with plastic pollution.

Clause

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

Notes

I don't use single use plastic bags - I use plastic bags multiple times. What would help us? To give us choice and for supermarkets to offer biodegradable or compostable bags for free as they have always done.

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

They are not single use bags for most people so the data collected is not based upon fact.

Clause

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

Notes

Do not ban the plastic bag until you have secured an alternative to the plastic bag with the handles that has been provided for free by

supermarkets. Jacinda Ardern referred to children's communications as being one of the motivators for her plastic bag ban. Children are very easily influenced by their teachers. Pollution is unacceptable. Using the plastic bag ban as a virtue signal is wrong.