

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

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Reference no: 5761

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

I'm not opposed to the use of bio-degradable/compostable bags made from plant based materials like comstarch etc, but these should only be used in situations where no other alternatives are available like rubbish bin liners, although this could be solved by using thicker paper lining.

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

The issue is not just plastic it's single use items. The embodied energy to make something should be net zero. If people aren't going to reuse a thicker plastic bag then it doesn't make a difference whether it's 35 or 70 to me. Public need to be educated about embodied energy and that we have finite resources.

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

I can't think of any reason they should be exempt. Most companies pass the cost onto the consumer anyway.

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

Could and should be sooner. You must have been living under a rock if you are a business owner and haven't been hearing about proposed ban.

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

I feel like monetary costs are arbitrary if we poison the environment that we live in so life becomes unsustainable.

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

Hmmm traditional flax woven bags, paper bags, reusable cloth bags made from recycled scraps of material... all things we already have.

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

Please educate people about embodied energy - where our energy comes from and that we only have finite amounts of it. If people grasp this concept hopefully they will understand the need to reduce single use plastic, not just plastic bags. At least we currently have a means of properly recycling these.

Clause

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

Notes

Education. Teaching people what alternatives they have. le lots of people say they use plastic bags for rubbish bin linr. Promote so zero waste options as alternatives.

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

Not sure.

Clause

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

Notes

Why is it single use plastic shopping bags? Can't we just make it single use plastic bags? What about the bags used for salads in super markets, or at the bulk bin section or that the council makes you buy for rubbish? They are also single use so why are they okay and shopping bags not? And why are we just talking about shopping bags? My major concern is that companies are going to come up with alternatives which are no better for the environment and aren't not net zero. Also maybe we should just charge for any single use bag whether it's plastic or paper, people might start thinking how much waste we create then.