

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

Reference no: 5949

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

Because they are unnecessary and a blight on our environment.

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

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

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

Prevention is better than a cure.

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

We currently have a number of community groups providing free bags made from repurposed materials. I think this should be a funded initiative, along with education on bag care (as reusable bags have a risk of carrying bacteria and viruses if not cared for correctly).

Clause

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

Notes

The production of sustainable, long lasting, free, readily available fabric bags and information on their use and care. Similar to the production of plastic, just moving to a sustainable fabric.

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

The use of reusable bags needs to become mainstream and 'normal' and not relegated to being a 'hippy' or 'greenie' thing. Peer pressure! If everyone is doing it, hopefully Joe Blogs doesn't want to look left out with his old school plastic bags in front of his mates. (Apologies for my overuse of quotation marks!) A big public campaign that isn't run by a particular company or store would help this.

Clause

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

Notes

Better access to free or cheap fabric bags. Reminders at stores. Also - strong paper bag options instead of plastic. Most produce/bulk goods/bakery items at supermarkets and similar could EASILY be put into paper but plastic is all that's available.

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

Accountability for producers and suppliers. They are the ones flooding the market with plastic, so they should be required to provide data on their packaging and products. If they have no incentives (or no repercussions) why would they change their model.

Clause

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

Notes

EDUCATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. Again - normalising this so it's not a huge shock for those who don't know how to make the change.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.