

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

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Reference no: 680

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 am ashamed that, in our ignorance and greed for easier ways to do things, my generation caused such a huge problem for the planet's eco-systems.

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

All single-use plastic should be phased out as quickly as possible. We have a huge mess to clean-up. The longer it takes to get rid of single-use plastic the bigger the mess and the greater the damage to everything living on the planet.

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

Let's not create loopholes that can be exploited.

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

A blanket ban is the only option. Previous generations used paper bags, cane shopping baskets, glass containers. It can be done again.

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

Plastic pollutes our environment and, I believe, has found its way into the food chain. The longterm impact on the health of all creatures on the planet is potentially significantly greater than the short-term financial impact of a 100% ban on single-use plastic products.

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

The country, economy, environment managed perfectly well before the advent of single-use plastic bags.

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

New Zealanders, traditionally, can be trusted to do the right thing, eg, nuclear free, anti-apartheid, climate change, peace-keeping in war zones.

Clause

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

Notes

Nothing. It only requires a personal/family decision and the development of a new habit, both of which we have already successfully undertaken.

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

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Clause

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

Notes

The proposal doesn't go far enough. It should include all plastic produce packaging - clingwrap, meat and vegetable trays, etc.