

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

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Reference no: 763

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

All plastic bags - degradable bags only break down to breakdown to become smaller microplastics. Biodegradable bags still result in wasted resources.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

Thin bags are even less reusable. They all cause too much waste and waste resources. They all need to go.

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

The issues are environmental, not about penalising some businesses and not others (as it will be seen). We need to change our culture of plastic bag reliance.

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

NA - see above.

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

Six months seems reasonable. As much as I would like to see an immediate ban it would be just as environmentally damaging to just throw away unused ones.

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

Maybe in monetary terms for some such as the oil and plastic bag industries but the benefits to the environment are far greater and this is why it needs doing.

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

Examples such as compostable bags made of plant starch, material or paper 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

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

Or voluntary incentive scheme's.

Clause

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

Notes

We never use them unless they are surreptitiously forced upon us.

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

Self-reporting by companies although unreliable.

Clause

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

Notes

This must be done and soon. We have a responsibility to do this as kaitiaki for the environment. It will not be initiated by a National Govt so please move in this.