

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

Peter Alspach, **Peter Alspach**

Reference no: 871

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

It is in accordance with our Waste Minimisation Act (2008?). Also, plastic bag bans do work (<https://priceconomics.com/where-are-plastic-bags-banned-around-the-world/>): in San Jose, California the ban lead to 89% fewer bags in stormwater drains, 60% fewer in creeks, 59% fewer in residential areas, and use per person dropped by a factor of 10; in Seattle the ban lead to a 49% reduction in residential plastic bag waste and a 79% reduction in commerical bag waste; and San Francisco estimates in save \$600,000 (US) per year in plastic bag processing fees as a result of the ban. So-called degradable bags are either no truly degradable (e.g., just break down to lots of tiny bits) or degradable only in specialised facilities (i.e., not a home compost heap).

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

Not sure

Notes

Six months is plenty of time, particularly given the more innovative retailers are phasing them out already

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 have not used single use plastic bags in years, and there is no monetary cost - in fact, there is a savings.

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**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