

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

Reference no: 9

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

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

They still contribute to the problem. There are also many small retailers that use things like paper bags, rather than plastic bags and I don't see why everyone can't do the same. Also if all the big retails have bags phased out then there will be a shift towards bringing your own bags so people will bring bags to smaller retailers too.

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

I don't think they should be exempt

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

No

Notes

I think they should be phased out as soon as possible. I think 6 months max.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

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

We can't keep prioritising economic ease over the damage caused to the environment. This is just one small thing to try and combat the devastation we cause the environment. I'd like to see more things like this implemented in future. For example, community composting and more recycling bins in public. Bottle stations and ruing out other types on non-recyclable waste.

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

PacnSav has been doing it for ages by providing cardboard boxes. If people forget their bags they can put items straight in the car. if people are cycling or walking they can bring backpacks. There are so many options. Clothing retailers could very easily use paper bags instead. I think this debate over the thinkness of bags is silly and missing the point. No one is going to start reusing bags more just because they're thicker. If anything, having that rule is just going to put even more plastic in our environemnt.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

We already have, for the most part. I think the banning of them will make it more of a priority to remember reusable bags.

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

I don't know

Clause

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

Notes

Phase out all plastic bags. I don't think retailers having slightly thinker bags will change anything.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.