

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

Reference no: 1001

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

The focus should be on moving towards reusable items, rather than relying on energy-inefficient recycling in order to cling on to small conveniences that are easily overcome through a change of habit.

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

Any unnecessary production of plastics should be avoided, therefore even multi-use plastic bags would not be preferable to more environmentally friendly materials. Also, these bags tend to be more easily thrown out than something more sturdy.

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

I see no need for any types of single use plastics, reusable should always be prioritised

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 population as a whole needs to change their behaviour with regards to disposable single use items of all kinds regardless of the type or size of shop they are visiting. Convenience should not be used as a selling point for any retailer when it causes damage to wildlife or the environment.

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

They should not 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

The sooner the better, 6 months equals a lot of plastic bags being thrown away

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

cost benefits include zero cost in manufacturing of bags and recycling them, environmental benefits hugely outnumbers any monetary cost it takes

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

I have not used a single-use plastic bag in over one year with little effort involved. Purchasing reusable bags is easily accomplished.

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

Clause

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

Notes

Retailers allowing access to boxes that products arrive in for the event that you forget your bags

Clause

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

Notes

People will almost always take the easy option when available to them, it's important for retailers and government to step in and take away the convenience of harmful habits that are detrimental to the planet. We will survive without single-use items, wildlife will not survive if we continue with them.

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