

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

Reference no: 1002

Submitter Type:

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

I'm not entirely sure what micron thickness is, but any "disposable" plastic needs 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

No, a plastic bag is a plastic bag- it's all contributing to the plastic waste problem

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 shouldn't 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

Yes

Notes

Realistically, if it were imposed I'm sure we could do it in less time. Logistically, putting the infrastructure and community education in place is going to take time, and putting down stronger foundations is going to make the switch more sustainable and well-accepted in the long term

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

Is there an answer that says hell yes?

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

Again, hell yes. Obviously there are the reusable shopping bags sold in most supermarket chains, as well as some fashion stores (think Cotton On). Some supermarkets around the country have implemented "Boomerang Bags" which are likely to work in smaller communities. Oh, you forgot your bags? Ask your local supermarket etc if they can keep boxes for when people forget (banana boxes, chip boxes etc). And! Just carry your stuff if it doesn't actually need a bag- if it can fit in your pockets/hands, why worry? Oh-tourists? Tell them that they need their own bags on the sexy aimz videos or have signs in the airport's, it's not that hard.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

Multiple things! Firstly encourage people to buy bags that are made of natural fibres such as cotton or jute rather than microfibres (it's just fancy plastic tbh) as this has a lower environmental impact in the production, individual retailers giving discounts for those who bring their own bags, education on the impact of plastic wastage on the earth

Clause

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

Notes

Not being able to use plastic shopping bags, nicer-looking reusable bags (I work in a supermarket and the amount of people who get excited when we talk about how cool looking their bags is a little bit ridiculous, but hey, it works). Education education education on WHY it's important to create the circular habit of bringing your own bag

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

Actually get data? A plastic census? And have the results readily available to the public!! Make information about the plastic/microplastixs in New Zealand's beaches and sea territory something that's widely known, not something that people seem crazy for talking about it. Have widely recognised measures, that the everyday person can understand.

Clause

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

Notes

Please please please please don't just stop at shopping bags. They aren't the only issue, and the biggest thing holding people back is lack of education and far too much misinformation. Show people what the landfills are like. Show people what our dirty dirty beaches and rivers are like. It is taking a country that prides itself on its "clean green" image and reputation for innovation far too long to make the strides it should be making in this arena. We can do so much more. Please. From the next generation.

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