

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

Megan Creswick

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

Yes it is 100% needed! Not only plastic bags but also other single use plastic e.g. packaging, glad-wrap,

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

All plastic packaging and bags

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

Compostable/ biodegradable plastics are still harmful because we don't have the facilities to compost them on a societal, local or individual level. They still break up instead of breaking down

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

A complete ban will avoid any confusion or loopholes. The more demand that comes about in favour of reusable and better quality products the cheaper they will become! Some sacrifices need to be made by both big and small companies.

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

1 employee

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

The faster the better

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

Yes you can't put a cost on the environment and ecosystems we rely on.

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

Cardboard boxes, cotton bags, string bags SO EASY

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

All of the above, EDUCATION IS KEY. Although having no other choice will force change, and producing bags that are sustainable in a fashionable sense so they won't go out of fashion and force people to buy a new one very year or something. A social paradigm shift!

Clause

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

Notes

Not having the option so that sustainable options are the most convenient

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

Some form of environment tax on single use plastics, requiring businesses to report how many plastic bags/ products are being ordered, used and sold.

Clause

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

Notes

Make the environment a priority. We cannot have an economy, society or anything without a healthy environment! A lot needs to change and although the banning of plastic bags is good it is only a start. Eco friendly transport, circular economy, less meat and dairy production, less pollution of the environment (including air, soil and water), more conservation, more awareness and education ect ect. The consumer lifestyle we live in NZ is not a healthy or sustainable life, and it is killing our planet. We need to act now before it is completely catastrophic. It is possible to live sustainably it will just take change and effort. For more info see Bill McKibben's 'Terrifying New Math' article in the Rolling Stones (2012).