

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

Oliver Jarman

Reference no: 1023

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

I agree with this proposal as single-use bags and all plastics in general have an extremely detrimental impact on our natural environment, and a complete ban of plastic bags is a logical first step to limiting these impacts.

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 believe a complete ban would be the most effective. There are alternatives no matter what thickness, and if there is a limit on the thickness of bags, companies would just up the thickness of these bags to stay above the limit.

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

Yes - more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

Notes

At my current workplace we give plastic bags to customers with larger orders, and for forward bookings which have been made. These are thicker rubbish-style bags and I disagree with our use of them.

Clause

4a. If yes, please explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

Notes

It would have little to no impact on us, it would be of slight inconvenience to customers but this would not be detrimental to business.

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Even if small businesses are exempt there would still be a large number of plastic bags distributed, as there are plenty of small businesses nation-wide which would still be able give bags out, and this would add up.

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

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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

I think this is reasonable, as if it is too short of a time and it may be rejected by the public due to the costs on lower income families having to purchase re-usable bags.

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

Although there will be some cost to phasing out the bags, the cost on the environment needs to be considered. There is no point saving money and keeping plastic bags if it is going to destroy the world we live in. Without a healthy natural environment we will have nothing, and no amount of money spent can fix destroyed ecosystems.

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

Cotton shopping bags are available and accessible. Even purchasing one per week over the phase-out period would allow plentiful re-usable bags, and would have little to no impact even on low-income families.

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

Education and a national paradigm shift will be the key to ensuring this. Also if every time people go shopping they NEED re-usable bags then eventually it will become habit. As well as this bags will need to become fashionable but not in a way that they would go out of fashion encouraging people to buy more.

Clause

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

Notes

Nothing. We already use re-usable bags and it is not inconvenient nor difficult. It simply requires remembering the bags which is as simple as leaving them in your car or somewhere easily accessible.

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

Accessing the number of plastic bags imported/ ordered by supermarkets would be a way to monitor the amount of bags distributed.

Clause

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

Notes

Although the banning of single use plastic bags is a good first step there is still a long way to go in reducing our impacts on the environment. Without a healthy natural environment we will have no world to live on. Currently our consumerist life style is like a game of jenga, with each block being taken out of bottom being ecosystem services, natural resources, biodiversity etc., and as the tower of the human race builds higher and higher we become closer and closer to a catastrophic failure of the planet. Without intervention in the form of a cultural, political and social paradigm shift in the near future the world we live in and know currently will be at serious risk, and there is a very real potential for the world as we know it to collapse in on itself.