

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

Johanna Church

Reference no: 1024

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

Plastics make up an estimated 80 to 85 percent of marine litter. There are far too many negative impacts. These include internal damage and starvation to marine life and animals as they often mistake rubbish for food. Even when the bags are in landfills, they will be around for ages as they only breakdown to smaller microplastics. They still have the chance of getting into our oceans which is where they have the most negative impact on life. Single-use plastic shopping bags are so easy for people to get a hold of and use, especially when they are free. We currently use approximately 154 bags per person per year and that is only in supermarkets. That is 750 million bags per year which is unacceptable. There are alternatives that are just as easy and not expensive, so why are we still accepting the use of single-use plastic bags?!

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

I believe all bags that are made from plastic no matter how thick should be phased out. All of the plastic bags will take a long time to break down and when they do this they breakdown into smaller micro plastics. I think that it needs to be done in smaller steps in order to not scare people off the idea of phasing out plastic 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

There are none that should be exempt

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

Why are they any different from other retailers? In order for the phase, the rules need to be the same for everyone. You either need to get rid of them or allow everybody to use them

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

ZERO! No one should be exempt! As I said before it is not acceptable to allow some people to have bags and some not allowed. It is not going to work!

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

This is a reasonable amount of time as it allows current retailers to use the remaining of their stock if they like and allows shoppers/customers to adjust to changing to a more sustainable option of reusable bags or cardboard boxes that have already been used for food packaging at supermarkets

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 the benefits outweigh the costs of changing/banning the use of plastic bags. We are thinking about the environment here. Not so much the costs

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

Yes. There are many alternatives. Make your own bag out of old clothing is one of the most sustainable. Cardboard boxes are a good to get from supermarkets from food that has already been packed onto the shelves. The use of materials over the thickness of 70 microns will last longer and can be used for a longer and more sustainable time than single use plastic bags.

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

Educate family and friends about the impacts that plastic bags and other plastic is having on our environment.

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

More publicity on social media. Keep the nation involved with the projects for removing the use of plastic

Clause

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

Notes

PHASE OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS! AND THEN THE USE OF OTHER SINGLE USE PLASTIC!