

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

Reference no: 1031

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 would support also the mandatory phase out of ALL plastic packaging on items. Not just single use plastic bags. We are already years too late on this so if we are going to make change we need to make a bigger step than just plastic bags. Plastic packaging is on everything, even veg, which is completely unnecessary when there is glass, paper and other non harmful materials.

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

Ideally all single use plastics were banned regardless of the microns.

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

If a mandatory phase out is happening it should cover ALL bases and have no exceptions. Nature has suffered enough through exceptions, and careless use of plastic already.

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

We need to do it as soon as possible - 6 months seems impossibly long. Long enough for more plastics to enter our waterways, long enough to do more irreversible damage.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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

A mandatory phase out of single use plastics will undoubtedly have greater benefits for the environment, community wellbeing, health of people, create creative thinking, a chance for other businesses to grow with paper bags etc plus monetary savings long term.

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

Paper bags are sufficient or fabric bags made from off cut fabrics (like Boomerang bags). Everybody survived no plastic bags until the 70s. They coped completely well and actually had a better standard of living than now with the 'convenience' of 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

It needs to be a national campaign to include everybody on the same page and not just up to local communities who are more 'switched on'. But also once plastic bags are gone people will have to look at other avenues and alternatives. It'll become a default way of life to carry your own bag, container and not expect plastic.

Clause

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

Notes

Incentives, reminders, encouragement, and no costs attached to non plastic alternatives. Like supermarkets charging \$2-\$5 for reusable bags right now is totally taking advantage of a situation for profits. The whole point is that it shouldn't be exclusionary.

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

Trendy apps, posters, tv adverts - engaging everybody evenly across the country.

Clause

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

Notes

We have to ban all single use plastics as soon as possible; no hesitation. We've left it too late already so this step is certainly an excellent step by the government, but it needs to be bolder, and nationwide with absolutely not exceptions. All single use plastics banned as soon as possible.

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