

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

Reference no: 1035

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 support the proposal but feel it should go beyond 'singlet 'type bags to include all 50 micron bags. The plastic bags for fruit and vegetables are equally as damaging. If not included now, their phase out should be signaled for a future date. Single use take away food containers should be the next to go.

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

And all plastic bags up to rubbish bag size - singlet or not. Many items already come in their own packaging and could easily be carried with the help of natural fibre string - just like we used to. Newsprint and brown paper served us well in the past.

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

Proportionality is not necessarily at play here. Smaller businesses. could generate a disproportionately large number of plastic bags

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

Not a valid relationship to plastic bags generated.

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

On the assumption it will take 6 months to be Gazetted. However research on supplies purchased may show the need for a slightly longer lead in time.

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

If externalities are factored in over a period of time benefits will likely exceed 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

After only a year or so we are already seeing a move to wide use of customer owned reusable supermarket 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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Incent manufacturers to make them from discarded materials e.g. coffee, sugar, rice sacks etc.

Clause

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

Notes

Repeated practice of using multiple use carriers. Rubbish bin liner replacement will be more challenging

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

Utilize importation and NZ manufacturing data. If items are in-country they will likely be used. Consider awards/recognition for retailers submitting data on reductions in use.

Clause

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

Notes

A good start that needs to be introduced sooner than later. Voluntary Packaging accords have not worked. There will be inconveniences but they can be worked around. Takeaway single use food plastic packaging/utensils should go - other countries have got rid of it. Polystyrene packaging should go - again, as has happened in other countries.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.