

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

Jane Mcphee

Reference no: 1040

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

No

Notes

I don't believe bags from NZ are the problem.

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

Yes

Notes

I don't believe that plastic bags are single use or pose a significant problem when disposed of correctly.

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

N/A

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

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

The bags could be made of a more environmentally friendly material?

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

This is not about money.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Not at the moment

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

Alternatives to plastic, ie paper or just more biodegradable ones.

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

Educate users and penalise sly tippers and litterers

Clause

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

Notes

I wouldn't need help

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

I am not currently privy to any such data so I can't answer the question.

Clause

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

Notes

I believe that all packaging should be recyclable and if that means returning to using more glass so be it. More infrastructure needs to be built to actually recycle in NZ or a concerted effort is needed to work with those who currently are offering to help. Roadside collection of inorganic waste needs to be reintroduced and dump fees need to be removed so there is no excuse for sly tipping. Also people need to be encouraged to do in litterers. More effort is needed to catch sly tippers possibly with the use of cameras and those caught need meaningful punishment. In other words there needs to be real investment made and a strong stance taken not just pussy with plastic bags. We know that NZ makes a tiny contribution to our oceans pollution from domestic users but we are still a Nation with a cavalier attitude to rubbish and you only need to look in the gutters and drains at the roadsides to see the evidence. We also need to employ more roadside cleaning teams, we need to get serious.