

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

Reference no: 105

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

There are more eco-friendly, less wasteful reusable options that are no less convenient.

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?

Notes

Having (at no inconvenience to me) been avoiding plastic shopping bags for some time now, my view is that they should all be mandatorily phased out.

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

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

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

Not sure

Notes

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

Once upon a time, not so very long ago, single-use plastic shopping bags did not exist. The option available to shoppers were not impracticable - crocheted, knitted and woven cloth shopping totes; cane shopping baskets and trundlers; back packs and so on. These options are still available - a choice for every taste and life-style.

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

Will people/do people really, having purchased or made a multiple-use shopping bag, need some additional encouragement to use it? Assuming the answer is 'yes' a national information campaign maybe (not sure what a mobile phone app for shoppers would do).

Clause

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

Notes

Already done. We have shopping totes that fold down to almost nothing and stay in our bags/backpacks/pockets/wallets.

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

If single-use shopping bags have been phased out they shouldn't be entering the market at all unless manufacturers and retailers are stockpiling them in anticipation. In that case, perhaps introduce a disposal/recycling charge/penalty/tax/fine.

Clause

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

Notes

I'd like to see all plastic shopping bags phased out - there are other, more environmentally friendly options for (both new and upcycled) multiple use shopping bags.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.