

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

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Reference no: 1057

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

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

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

Small retailers often use bags for one or two items which could easily be carried in your hand or your own bag. They seem to be the worst at giving you a bag for everything.

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

Why take so long?

Clause

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

Position

two months

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

Yes

Notes

People are destroying the environment for the sake of our own convenience. Well it's not convenient for future generations to have to clean up this mess or have our waterways poisoned. Manufacturers and importers are not held accountable for the waste their products create yet they profit from it. You should be responsible for the waste of products you create.

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

Many options of reusable bags available.

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

It's a change in habits. If you take away the option of a plastic bag then you have to find another way to carry your goods.

Clause

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

Notes

Having a compost collection in our city. This would keep food scraps etc out of landfill and it's usually this wet stuff that makes your bin messy. So with cleanish rubbish only you don't need a plastic bin liner. It's very hard to avoid single use plastic as so many food items are wrapped in it and usually it's cheaper than items not packaged in plastic. Again manufacturers should be responsible for the waste they create, they need an incentive to use other packaging options, make using plastic more expensive for them to use and don't put the cost onto the consumer all the time.

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

Stop importing all this plastic junk. If we are going to accept plastic it needs to be able to be dealt with in NZ at the end of its life. Maybe that means restricting the types of plastic that we allow in this country. If it can't be recycled then it's a design fault and should not be allowed to be created or imported here.

Clause

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

Notes

Please keep the momentum going. It's great to get rid of the shopping bags but you only need to look at the supermarket to see that most items are also in a single use plastic wrapper - alternatives should be found for this and that need to happen at the manufacturing level. You can't always blame the consumer as often there is no alternative.