

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

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Reference no: 1063

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

We need to reduce plastic waste to protect the land and marine environs. The amount of plastic that is getting into our food chains is poisoning all creatures and planet. The resources to make plastic is totally unsustainable and we need action now.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

Dont agree in a "keep the masses happy" approach. If you do introduce a soft phase out charging significantly for bags is mandatory for behavioural change to occur.

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

None should be exempt

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

manufacturers should be looking at alternative now so they can meet the public's needs for reusable bags

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

i see no reason to exempt them

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

na

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 should prepare now so when the regulations are passed everyone will be in the habit of taking reusable bags

Clause

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

Notes

na

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

No

Notes

delay tactics are just going to cost money and cost the environment

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

Reusable bags. boomerang bags, cardboard boxes. if necessary paperbags but again making new bags for single use wastes energy, water and resources

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

I think a uniform and consistent approach is best for compliance to avoid confusion by the public

Clause

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

Notes

We have been single-use plastic bag free for years. I carry a reusable shopping bag in my handbag and we place shopping bags straight back in the car once shopping is unpacked. if I use public transport, I keep bags by our shoes at the door.

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

Financial data from shops on quantity and cost of purchasing bags. Public surveys at point of purchase

Clause

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

Notes

I understand people don't like change but the move away from all single-use plastic is necessary. Education is a big part but I know a lot of people just don't think it is their problem. Having free reusable bags at the shops rather than thicker single-use bags would be my preference. It also serves as an advertising platform and can be government funded with educational messages.