

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

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Reference no: 1083

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

It's a no brainer. We've all seen the damage that plastics can do in the environment, particularly in the oceans and who wouldn't want to try to ameliorate that situation. Yes it will require a change of behaviour but we all have other bags at our disposal but whilst single use plastic bags are a possibility most of us are too lazy to remember to bring an alternative. Other countries overseas have taken this important step years ago. We are not leading the pack here.

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

Bringing in new legislation is an opportunity to do it properly. Don't take the easiest path. Take the best path for the better environmental outcome. I'm not sure what that that is, but assume that including thicker plastics is better for the environment.

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

I can only think that dog owners might want to be able to use plastic bags. But these should be of the degradable kind anyway.

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

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

Signalling the likely outcome so retailers/ distributors and manufacturers have time to change their processes makes sense.

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

The non-monetary costs of benefits to the wider environment far outweigh the negative monetary effect on a few businesses. We are talking about the impact of future generations here in terms of how the planet functions. You've got to take into account the intergenerational effect and not just short-term implications.

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

Supermarkets have been selling alternatives for years. More alternative options are also bound to pop up as part of this process.

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)

Notes

Not sure. My reusable shopping bags have been used for years but I have no idea how many times I would need to reuse to offset those costs. Could they be recycled at the end of their lives?

Clause

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

Notes

Do it! The tide has turned and the majority of people now know that this should happen, even if it causes individuals a little bit of inconvenience. We will learn new habits.