

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

Reference no: 1086

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

The waste created by single use plastics is a significant global issue. While individual efforts help, I think regulation is justified given the scale and significance of the use.

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

The more bags phased out the better. Even though thicker bags are more useful for reuse, they still ultimately end up as waste.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Not sure

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

People can adjust and change their behaviour by carrying reusable bags.

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

Yes

Notes

Yes while there will be some initial costs, the environmental costs of inaction are likely to exceed those of taking action.

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

Yes there are a whole range of reusable bags available. However I think that some of options around reusable produce bags are less well known. It would be good to consider how to ensure low income families have access to reusable bags.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

I already try to reduce plastic waste as best I can in our family.

Clause

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

Notes

Many people (including myself) use plastic shopping bags as rubbish bin liners. It would be a shame to remove the single use bags from retailers only to have sales of bin liners shoot up. It seems to be just transferring the problem. It would be great to consider ways that people could avoid this, and provide education around that. For example I plan to go without a bin liner and wash the rubbish bin out regularly. Also, I realise this may not be within the scope of the current consultation but I think consideration also needs to be given to reducing packaging waste. For example, it's all very well to adopt reusable shopping bags at the supermarket, but most of what we place in those reusable bags is heavily packaged in plastic that also ends up in landfill. Producers should be taking responsibility for reducing the waste on their products. Also supermarkets wrapping fruit and veg in plastic should be avoided.

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