

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

Reference no: 1141

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

No

Notes

Biodegradable is fine. Replacing single use with multi use PLASTIC bags doesn't actually solve the problem if they're not biodegradable. Or paper bags. They work great. We've got heaps of trees. Hawaii do paper bags. And you can compost them in your home compost.

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

I feel like this is a bad metric. So we'll make our plastic bags 51 microns thick, charge the customer 10c (like we already do) and continue the plastic problem. You should make it high 300 microns) to really prevent retailers from doing this.

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

They should use biodegradable bags. All the small village stores in Samoa do.

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

No

Notes

I think we'll create a new problem. Someone came home with a reusable plastic bag from Countdown. When I saw it, it was clear it

wouldn't be reused. But it's thick so meets the requirement of multi use. But humans are humans. They're lazy. They're forgetful. They'll just end up not reusing it and paying another 10c for another multiuse bag and end up throwing them away in our landfills. Also those .99c plastic reuseable bags stores sell. Ever see what happens when they degrade? They turn into a powder. A yummy breathable powder. Almost worst than you <50 micron plastic bag because that was created from a film whereas some of these other plastic bags are created from plastic fibers. They're both bad but yea. Replace plastic with plastic is a terrible idea.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Replacing plastic with thicker plastic is just wrong.

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

Why don't we use paper?

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

They can't. People are lazy and forgetful. Use paper or other biodegradable alternatives. Not plastic.

Clause

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

Notes

I use reusable bags. I don't when I forget them at home. We should use paper bags and provide/promote non plastic reuseable bags (eg canvas or cotton or hemp)

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

Do you have data? Does it say or hint at whether your policy will work? The goal should be plastic free. Replacing plastic with plastic is bloody ignorant.

Clause

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

Notes

You need to provide easy and better alternatives or this policy will fail. Remember most people are lazy and forgetful. Using paper instead of plastic is the best option here. Use biodegradable plastic if absolutely necessary. If people are educated properly from day one then this wouldn't be an issue but you're not the ministry of education - I'm referring to a general well rounded education not just educating on plastic bags. But then again I've went to school with incredibly bright people but they're lazy so still don't make the effort to use reuseable bags.

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