

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

Reference no: 1189

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

If an alternative solution is available (which there are many alternative ways to carry things) we should be using it. The cost would be minimal compared to the impact and risk to the environment and no doubt the costs that would be incurred trying to fix the damage down the track.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

I think we should eventually move to 70 microns or less but to get more people/businesses on board I would think starting at less than 50 would be easier. With a lot of marketing to promote the fact that these bags (between 50 and 70 microns) can be used more than once.

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

No single-use plastic bag types should be exempt as far as I am aware. As far as I know the only degradable bags are oxo-degradable and are designed to degrade into micro plastics. In regards to bio-degradable and compostable plastic bags these need a very specific environment in order to fully degrade which they very rarely enter. None of these bags currently offer any less risk to the environment than standard plastic bags.

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

I think the government could assist with funding this phase out for SME/smaller retailers so that it is feasible. Why would they have an issue being part of it if there is no additional cost to them? I definitely don't think anyone should be exempt as this means the bags need to stay in production/distribution. I don't feel this would target the issue.

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

If anything it should be defined by the number of customers and not FTE employees. If smaller companies were to be exempt based on their staff I think it should be based on what defines a small enterprise in New Zealand and I believe this is up to 20 employees total.

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

Perhaps small enterprise companies could be allowed a bit more time to phase out if it is not government funded if it's going to make it more successful.

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

Absolutely! There are so many reasons I am not sure exactly where to start. The impacts (positive) on our environment and wildlife would be paramount.

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

I think so but the main problem is human behaviour and changing this. If there are no single use plastic bags available then people will definitely use an alternative option that is available. I think promoting the multi-use of bags is paramount and encouraging this some way. I know there are some retailers who have schemes in place to try and encourage multi-use. People also may be more inclined to multi-use the same bags if there is a cost to the consumer as people would definitely only prefer to pay once rather than every time they go to the shop! Maybe some kind of marketing strategy to remind people to take the bags with them as well - I think a lot of people have the intention of multi-use but if you haven't planned to do a shop and then end up at the shop without the bags I think a lot of people currently go with the single-use plastic bags rather than purchasing a new multi-use bag. I would like to invent a multi-use bag that you can attach to your keyring (very small) or folds up to be very compact and can go into your hand bag or wallet!

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

I think multiple approaches will be required - campaigning as well as schemes will be needed even if the larger brands are the only ones with the schemes going. I am doubtful that this would be the case and I think smaller brands would probably get right on board which seems to generally occur.

Clause

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

Notes

Complementary alternatives and information sheets delivered to addresses like the council does with recycling bags.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.