

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

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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

While getting rid of plastic shopping bags is a good start, much more needs to be done. While degradable and compostable plastics should not be as big a concern, there is a real problem with PLASTIC PRODUCT PACKAGING that no one seems to be addressing. I take my cloth bag to the supermarket, but at least HALF of the groceries there are packaged in non-recyclable plastic - including fresh fruits and vegetables, crackers and biscuits, etc. Why is this plastic not being addressed?

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

Phasing out will take too long. Get rid of them NOW! It really isn't that difficult - just stop manufacturing them. I shop at New World in Lincoln and they offer inexpensive cloth bags and free paper bags for veggies and fruits. They also have a sign at the entrance reminding you to bring your bags.

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 heard at one point that someone was trying to produce bags that had some of the properties of plastic (but were biodegradable) that were made from the keratin in chicken feathers (a byproduct of the poultry industry). That sounds like a place to start.

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

Smaller retailers have even less reason to use these bags than large retailers. This is so easy to do. If they provide attractive natural fiber bags to their customers with their store name on it not only will it be even more convenient, but when their bags are in use it will advertise their store as well! Take a tip from Europe. Pretty much everyone takes sturdy attractively designed reusable cloth bags when they go shopping.

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

They shouldn't be exempted, nor should the number of their employees be a factor.

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

Right now we have two huge gyres of plastic trash in our oceans. Sea birds are being driven to extinction because their bellies are filled with plastic and they are starving to death. The overabundance of CO2 in the atmosphere is destroying the coral reefs where most of sea life gathers. Unless you are keen on the extinction of half the human race I suggest you get a move-on.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Stop manufacturing them NOW! Sorry, but anyone with half a brain cell should have seen this coming many months if not years ago and started preparing for it. I was in California over 2 years ago and they had ZERO plastic bags in the markets that I went to - all fabric bags which they sold at cost! Catch up!

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

Let me ask you a question. If we manage to kill the oceans as a source of food how many millions of people do you think will die from starvation? Humans are facing a crisis as great as the one faced during WWII. Did everyone blinker themselves or did they pitch in? The assault on our environment is a threat to everyone - and we haven't even factored in the incredible damage being caused by airplanes: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_of_aviation

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

Of course they do - they're called fabric, net, and paper bags. I use them all the time.

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

Why would you have to encourage them? If the bags are inexpensive and readily available they'll use them. P.S. Don't ask me to select "one or more" when your web page only allows one answer.

Clause

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

Notes

"Adjust to life?" Seriously? This isn't a diagnosis of cancer. There was no "adjustment" necessary. We bought several fabric bags and we use them on an almost daily basis.

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

Forget data. Hit the manufacturers with an "environmental tax." Corporations are more concerned with their bottom line than they are with the health of the planet, so if you raise their cost of producing plastic bags they will find a way to move to fabric bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Stop messing about and get it done.