

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

Reference no: 122

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

Systemic problem requiring systemic intervention, such as a ban; consumer behaviour will not itself address the issue.

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?

Notes

Whichever has been found to support sustained multiple-use, and reduction overall in plastic manufacture and 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

Absolutely not! This would act to create a political storm in a teacup.

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

I anticipate that within due course, a global treaty will be in place restricting the use of single-use plastics. Front-footing this issue domestically will make this international response simple and without cost for New Zealand; therefore, it is at least cost-neutral in fiscal terms, and net benefit environmentally.

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

Thousands of individuals in New Zealand already live without single-use plastic bags, including myself. While I can't speak on behalf of those with particular needs, certainly I see no real barrier to using alternatives to single-use plastic 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

A ban. The only barrier is that they are still available, and therefore my family members will use them from time-to-time. No other support is needed.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.