

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

Reference no: 1227

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

I would like to see the single use plastic bags and anything that resembles a single use plastic bag (meaning the degradable ones) banned. I believe that the plastic bag issue is only a small part of what needs to change in our thinking and behaviour if we have any hope of making the changes required to exist in any degree of comfort with climate changes... I support an education process encouraging people to use reusable products (preferably not other slightly heavier plastic bags that will largely get sent to landfill) rather than single use disposables in all areas of our lives and education to assist with changing people's behaviour around waste in general. This banning of bags is a great opportunity to move forward in leaps and bounds towards zero waste thinking and economy and I get that it will interfere with some businesses but believe the benefits to humanity and the environment will be vastly better off with a change of culture away from disposable type thinking.

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

For the reason mentioned in Q.1... I would like to see a ban on all types of plastic carry bags that are of the type usually used once, or even a few times and then sent to landfill... I'm in Queensland (for a short break) as I write this and while lots of folk are using reusable bags at the supermarkets (I've been using Coles so only know about them), there are a high number purchasing the 15cent heavier plastic type at the checkout. Interestingly most of those that I've noticed have been men so perhaps an education aimed at getting the guys on board would be a good look

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

For reasons again that have already been mentioned ... I would particularly like to see a blanket ban on disposable plastic bags and an education program to assist in changing the culture back to using reusables (in as many areas as we can do with this change) to begin a process of working towards zero waste

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

N/A see above

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 haven't researched the monetary costs for the country to make this change, but I have no doubt in my mind that the non-monetary costs will be almost irrelevant when compared with the non-monetary benefits. We live in an insane time where we've been fixated on monetary costs and monetary benefits to the exclusion of all else and there is a shift coming that will refocus us away from this fixation... you have the power to make decisions that will help make that transition easier for people... Note: I deliberately used the word 'easier' rather than easy as I understand the changes I talk about will be traumatic for many. It is our responsibility to assist others to make that transition in the 'easiest' possible way.

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 have been using reusable bags for my supermarket shopping for many years. I carry a foldup reusable bag in my handbag and several reusables in the boot of the car. Boomerang Bags is a group that I helped to establish in Whakatane and at the time there were only 20 other groups in NZ... I tried to just check the number now on their website and it's down for a couple of weeks maintenance, but I believe that figure has doubled. There are also the reusable bags that the supermarkets sell and the reusable ones I've seen here in Queensland are available easily and cheaply (from \$1) at the checkouts.

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

Both the voluntary incentive scheme by retailers AND a national info campaign and mobile phone app

Clause

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

Notes

I care for my 98 year old father-in-law and he's keen to change (as long as he can still buy plastic bags for his bin liners, which is unfortunate hahaha but small steps lol)... Media campaigns about the damage caused by plastic, tv shows about working towards zero waste, passionate, non-judgemental advocates employed to come up with creative ideas on a grassroots level... heaps more... people who are passionate about this will come up with lots as the process continues

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

No idea... not my area of interest... I'm sure there are plenty of others who will have ideas

Clause

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

Notes

Thank you for doing it! I have voted Green for more than 25 years now in the hope that one day there would be a govt where issues like this would be addressed EFFECTIVELY. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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