

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

Reference no: 129

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

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

California has set the legal standard for a plastic film bag at 2.25 mil. The thickness of a "thick" kind of plastic bag is 2.5 mil, which equals to 2500 microns. I would set the ban at 2 mil, so less than 2000 microns. Because otherwise it's not too hard to go around the ban.

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

That would give them an unfair competitive advantage, and there is no point: reusable bags are cheap, sturdier, better than single-use bags. People just have to realise that, and get organised. Our grandfathers used reusable bags for their whole life, it's not a big deal.

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

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

Reusable bags. Many people use reusable bags. People have to relearn to carry with them, like our grandfathers used to do.

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

Information campaign. Ads on TV showing seas full of plastics, animals dying in plastic etc... people need to understand the global ecologic value of the thing.

Clause

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

Notes

We already live without them. One day we bought a bunch of reusable bags for a few bucks, that was the "big change".

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

That's a problem for experts to be solved.

Clause

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

Notes

Please do it :-)

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.