

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

Reference no: 131

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

No

Notes

I'm fully supportive of companies moving away from plastic packaging... but with plastic carry bags the costs seem to outweigh the benefits. It's especially inconvenient if you leave your reusable bags at home. Then you have to buy a new set of reusable bags. Now you own two sets of reusable bags. And the next time you forget... now you own three sets of reusable bags? That doesn't seem eco-friendly. Also... a lot of "single-use" plastic bags aren't single use at all - at our home we use them again to carry non-groceries or as trash bags etc. Banning of "single-use" plastic bags will mean that we have to buy separate trash bags, which tend to be thicker and packaged in even more plastic! Once again, doesn't seem eco-friendly to me :(All this also ignores the fact that according to a Denmark Govt study, you have to reuse a cotton reusable bag 7100 times before it's more environmentally friendly than a plastic bag (that's 135 years if you use it once a week). The flimsy polypropylene "reusable" supermarket bags need to be reused 43 times, but most of them don't last that long! Paper bags are really just as "single-use" as plastic bags, but are worse for the environment. Link to the study: <https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2018/02/978-87-93614-73-4.pdf>

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

Yes

Notes

It's hard for smaller retailers to provide reusable shopping bags (especially market stalls and places like that)

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

20ish? Same as the 90 day trial period cut off.

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

Clause

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

Position

one year

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

No

Notes

A 10 cent tax for "single-use" plastic bags would be much better - if 200 million bags are sold a year in NZ, then that's \$20 million that can be used to support environment clean up efforts! Surely an individual plastic bags cost to the environment is less than 10 cents. Most end up in landfills, and they are a very small percentage of what ends up in landfills!

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

I'd support an information campaign. People should know that they need to use their cotton bags 7100 times! Not sure what an app would be used for? Not everything needs an app.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.