

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

Valeria Maw

Reference no: 164

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

Absolutely needs to be banned, NZ is lagging behind in terms of reducing consumption and encouraging individual responsibility for the waste we create.

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

Sorry but I don't know the difference - a plastic bag is still a plastic bag. There are plenty of sustainable alternatives to plastic.

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

No, all single use plastic should be banned in NZ.

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

No my household stopped using single use plastic years ago.

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

No way. Exemptions complicate the system and encourages loopholes.

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

See above - no exemptions.

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

This can not happen fast enough - speed up the process.

Clause

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

Position

two months

Notes

See above.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

We already avoid plastic.

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

Take a close look at NZ's huge rubbish problem. Most of NZ's rubbish is plastic.

Clause

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

Notes

This is a great tiny first step for NZ. Please don't stop here. The next overdue step is a container deposit scheme for items such as beer bottles and cans, banning single use plastic drinks containers and other single use plastic items such as plastic cutlery and plates.