

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

Reference no: 215

Submitter Type: Individual

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

It's really important that supermarkets in particular can retain small plastic bags for bagging raw chicken. Often excessive chicken juice from packaged raw chicken leaks out of packages (particularly where no soak pads are used), which could contaminate reusable bags with salmonella.

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

Seems anti-competitive.

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

Not sure

Notes

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Not sure

Notes

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

Just wanted to note that the idea of a voluntary incentive scheme by individual retailers seems somewhat bizarre - assuming that we continued with the status quo where individuals have to buy reusable bags, there's already a market incentive (i.e., the cost of the bag) to re-use. So if consumers still don't re-use - because they're forgetful, probably, or have irregular shopping habits - that problem going to be hard to counter. Also, seems like people in positions of relative disadvantage are likely to be the ones most likely to have irregular shopping habits and so suffer as a result of this policy; whereas members of the middle class with more regular shopping patterns, vehicle access etc. are more likely to re-use bags regularly.

Clause

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

Notes

Seriously, please exempt the raw chicken bags. It would make me highly stressed if I had to put my leaky chicken in a re-usable bag, and I'd absolutely throw them out every time I had to use one for this purpose, and it'd probably also make me much more belligerent at the supermarket about leaky chicken which is broadly antisocial behaviour.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.