

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

Rachel Mitchell

Reference no: 224

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. There is no reason to be using plastic bags anymore. The environment and our future is much more important than a few people's convenience.

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

I am for phasing out all plastic bags, shopping bags, bin liners, "biodegradable" single use bags, single use fruit bags in super markets etc. There is no reason to have any kind of plastic bags anymore. Fabric re-useable bags are enough.

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. There is no need for single use bags.

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

The environment is everyone's concern. The responsibility should be on us as consumers to bring our own bags.

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

They should not be exempt.

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

This is a realistic timing that still displays some urgency to fix the problem.

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

Without our environment humans will cease to exist. We should do everything within our power to protect our environment and our animal species. Environmental damage is becoming worse everyday and we need drastic action to change it.

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

Re-useable shopping bags are just as practical as plastic bags. There are even small ones that can be rolled up and carried in a hand bag. Some places could also offer paper bags such as butcheries, or supermarkets.

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

Encourage the use fabric bags such as cotton, rather than plastic re-useable bags

Clause

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

Notes

Put out an article on different alternatives to plastic bags, especially in situations like what to use for rubbish etc.

Clause

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

Notes

The emphasis should be placed on businesses to implement the ban of plastic bags. They have a responsibility to their community to do the right thing, and not create loop holes or further exploit the environment for profit.