

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

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Reference no: 257

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

I definitely support the ban of single use bags. I support the inclusion of biodegradable bags in the ban because there is insufficient access to suitable composting facilities for most households. If commercial composting was more readily available I would be less likely to include biodegradable bags in the ban.

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

less than 70 microns in thickness

Notes

The thicker bags will have a longer life and the higher production cost will encourage businesses and individuals to move away from plastic altogether

Clause

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

Position

Not sure

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

If consumers are using reusable bags they can take them to a small retailer.

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

I think it should be no longer than 6 months but people do need time to adjust.

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

There are plenty of reusable options available and many shops are now using them as a matter of course without charging consumers. People just need to take a little more effort to take bags with them.

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

Clause

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

Notes

The only thing we will need to consider is how to line our rubbish bins as we occasionally get supermarket bags for reuse as bin liners. Otherwise we already use fabric bags and net produce bags as a matter of course.

Clause

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

Notes

Once this is through please look at other forms of single use plastic packaging.