

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

Tony Wall

Reference no: 260

Submitter Type:

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**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**

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**

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

I think this ban will make no difference what so ever to the environment. 1. New Zealanders don't buy plastic bags and dump them in the ocean; to say they do is absurd. 2. A recent report conducted by Germany's Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research found that 90% of the plastic bags found in the ocean came from waterways out of Asia and Africa. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5910011/Plastic-bag-ban-criticised-90-cent-plastic-waste-comes-rivers-Asia-Africa.html> 3. I live in a very exposed beach area and I have never seen plastic bags on our beaches. 4. According to Jacinda Adern, thousands of children have written to her stating their concerns about plastic bags? Did they do this on their own, really? They didn't do this with the help of their Greeny, left-wing teachers, perhaps? Is this policy based on what children say? 5. You are banning single use bags such as the big bags groceries are packed into, but they are not single use; they are presently used for bin liners. I never throw out these bags, nor do most other people, I always use them as bin liners. Yet you are not banning bin liners which are single use. This doesn't make any sense at all. You are also not going to ban single-use dog-poo bags when people also use grocery bags for dog poo as well. People also use them for used nappies as well. 6 You have not thought this policy through in respect to the logistics of it for supermarkets and supermarket workers. My wife works in one of the big supermarkets, and she says people that already use recyclable bags cause many problems at the checkout. They collect their fruit and vegies and put them in their own bags and at the checkout they have to empty the bags out onto dirty counters because the checkout operators can't weigh the fruit and vegies in their bags. And then they complain when the checkout operator handles their food. This process is very unhygienic which will mean checkout operators will be forced to use single use plastic gloves to handle this food as they do in delicatessens etc. Then after the checkout operator has finished his/her bit, the packer is faced with the same problem, he/she will also have to use single-use plastic gloves to not only handle the customers food but also to keep themselves hygienically clean from dirty customer bags. Coles in Australia have even placed a notice on their reusable bags saying they need to be disinfected for the fear of food poisoning. In other words, this is using environmentally unfriendly chemicals to solve the problem of the so-called environmentally unfriendly plastic bags. 7. Instead of banning the bags, wouldn't it be more logical to tax each bag at say 10 cents and put the money towards specific research to make plastic bags completely biodegradable? Then after a solution is discovered, New Zealand would have a solution to market to the world.