

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

Kelly Bingham

Reference no: 269

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

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

Banning a wider range of plastic bags will encourage people to look for plastic-free alternatives rather than just using thicker plastic bags.

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

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

Everybody needs to be on board if a culture change is to occur.

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

The period should differ from one business to the next. Business which can easily stop providing plastic bags without it majorly affecting their profits (ie supermarkets) should be able to make the change sooner so should be steered towards doing it as quickly as possible.

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 alternatives, as evidenced by the growing Zero Waste community in NZ, but many people are not aware of them. The plastic bag ban needs to be accompanied by information campaigns which give guidance on how people can replace plastic bags - ie what people can use for bin liners instead of plastic bags.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes**Clause**

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

Notes

We have already stopped using plastic bags. The hardest part has been remembering to bring reusable bags with us - it might help to have a sign on the door of supermarkets etc asking people 'have you remembered your bags?' rather than remembering that you've forgotten them when you are at the checkout.