

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

Hollie Sherlock

Reference no: 288

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

Please ban ALL single use plastic bags regardless of thickness. They still all end up in the ocean or our native birds bellies.

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

Single use plastic bags found in supermarkets and retailers as well as Biodegradable and compostable plastics. These plastics can be extremely harmful if they are not processed in the correct way - even the compostable ones! When plastic breaks down into microplastic it becomes even worse than the plastic bag in its entirety as it is in tiny pieces that animals and waterways can absorb more easily. For compostable bags to be used they need to be processed in a particular environment e.g. very hot compost heap. At the moment this is not happening and they are still ending up in our oceans where they do not break down at all!

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

Why should they?! Banning all plastic bags will change consumer habits and in the end people will bring their own bags with them - they'll keep them in the car, in their hand bag or their pocket.

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 exempted.

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**

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

The cost of keeping plastic bags is a far greater cost to our environment than any immediate cost to retailers. If our environment deteriorates we lose so much more - tourism, lifestyle, brand reputation, clean water, native flora and fauna.

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

YES! There are options everywhere!!

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

Both of the options provided are good. People should be encouraged by the fact that their doing their part to keep NZ beautiful. I think there's also an element of public social pressure - if you are seen with a single use plastic bag other people may judge you. The more information we can get out there about single use plastic, the better. Eventually people won't want to be seen with a plastic bag, just like they won't want to be seen dropping litter. Of course, some people will always do it, but it's the majority that we need to work with.

Clause

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

Notes

We have already cut out most of our plastic - we use fabric bags for weekly supermarket trips. We keep many of our cleaning products in glass and refill them. We take along our own mesh bags for the bulk bin section. We always have a fabric bag in our car. We have even started using paper bin liners instead of plastic. There are ways to change your lifestyle, you just to be informed and make a start!

Clause

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

Notes

Not sure.

Clause

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

Notes

I think it's a great idea. I'm so glad the government is backing this initiative! Thank you, and well done!!