

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

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Reference no: 30

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

The only plastic bags that should be available for use or purchase are big garbage bin bags (the black ones).

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

No, they should move to brown bags which can have their own branding on them.

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

3

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

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

Yes the benefits outweigh the costs. We become a more efficient society by phasing out single use plastic bags. It makes people think twice how much they are purchasing and also by implementing such a ban, it also brings to light the plastic pollution problem overall and how our use and consumption of plastic affects the environment.

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

Brown paper bags, reusable bags. If you jump online there are plenty of websites where you can purchase reusable bags for cheap.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

The cost of the reusable bag plays an important part. If you make them too cheap then people will purchase them and throw them away. If they are at the right price people will keep them. Overseas it is second nature whenever you go shopping to take your reusable bags with them. I think the key part is that retailers need to offer good, useful and appealing reusable bags (designs, practical) for them to be used properly. The biggest issue is that everyone puts their vegetables in plastic bags. There are some really cool reusable bags online that people can start using so it is important to ensure there are bags for each kind of area they will be used. 1. Shopping 2. Vegetables 3. Frozen stuff

Clause

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

Notes

The bags are fit for purpose.

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

Get sales data from the supermarkets / major importers. Or even put a tariff / tax on those single use imports as a way to keep track. Supermarkets (if you make a law to provide the information) can easily give those datasets to you since there are only 3-4 major supermarkets in NZ. It is important to note though that commercial purchases of single use plastics do not go through supermarkets for the casual takeaway restaurant.

Clause

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

Notes

Make sure there are enough variety of bags available. Question and food for thought: the biggest issue for people will be vegetables at the supermarket, what tools can be provided so it isn't as much of a hassle?