

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

Reference no: 310

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

Single use plastic is having detrimental effects on our environment. Our lifestyle choices are easily adaptable. I'd like to see New Zealand be a leader internationally in environmental issues again. It is clear from the statistics in the discussion document that this has been successful in other jurisdictions, and that NZ is late to regulate in this area. This is NZ's opportunity to go further and get ahead of what other countries and our own retailers are already doing. I'd like to see smaller fruit and vege bags also included (those without handles which it appears would be exempt). I'd also like to see plastic drink bottles included.

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

Let's lead in this area. Let's not create law that needs to be updated again in three years time. This is our opportunity to kick start lifestyle changes.

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

Because we should be focussing on an outcome we want to achieve which is ultimately zero plastic waste in our oceans. We should find other ways to assist those industries that may struggle, rather than provide exemptions.

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

N/a

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

Because our actions have environmental impacts for several decades. The cost of cleaning our oceans would far exceed the costs of phasing out plastic now. It will make consumers think about environmental issues and may prompt them to become more conscious in all of their everyday decisions. We do need to be cautious of potential rebound effects such as greater uptake of bin liners which may prove just as harmful. The policy should include easy non plastic solutions for bin liners. Newspaper can be used, it very few people subscribe to a physical paper these days.

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**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

Pricing the bags. Inconvenience of buying new bags. I think people's shopping habits will change relatively quickly once they are forced to.

Clause

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

Notes

We already use reusable bags so nothing additional required.

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

Understanding the full lifecycle of plastics. Percentage that goes into landfill, gets recycled, gets shipped offshore and goes into the oceans. I think there is a lack of understanding of how much of what we think we are recycling ultimately goes into landfill.

Clause

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

Notes

Well done to the government for initiating the public discussion on reducing plastic use. I would encourage us to be bold and go further than what most retailers are already doing.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.