

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

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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

Absolutely, even the biodegradable ones require energy to produce. Best thing is to go cold turkey as that will ensure that everyone brings their own bags. Have a look at how they introduced this in The Netherlands. I happened to be there on a holiday when the change got introduced. You forget your bag once but never again. I now always have one of those foldable bags in my handbag for those just in case moments, and sturdy ones in the boot of my car and pannier bags on my bike for groceries. In other words, you want to create a new habit, so replacing one single use one with another is in my opinion a compromise we shouldn't aim for.

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

You want to ensure the bags can be reused so you want the 70 microns as a minimum as they will last longer.

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

No, as mentioned before I would be against exceptions as we want to change habit.

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

Although I have a small business, I don't give out plastic carrier bags and place the products in brown paper bags (if customers want them but many don't but that is probably because they are conscious consumers).

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

That would be a very silly idea. Why would they need to be except? The consumers can take their own bags to the small retailers too right, and like I said before, it will soon become practice to have small foldable reusable shopping bags in your pocket or bags so you are not caught out (or you just carry your bottle of mild in your hand). Again, please have a look at what happened in NL. Also you would create confusion for the customer

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

Silly, silly idea. You want to change the habit of the consumer!!!! I've been using my own bags for many years and it never stopped me from buying anything I need so I really don't see how retailers could be impacted negatively from this, especially if roll it out for

everyone at once.

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

That is a good time frame to run some campaigns to notify everyone that this is happening. Already in shops people are talking about this and you see more and more people bringing their own bags (as well as reusable produce bags) so change is already happening.

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

What cost do you expect for the implementation? I am surprised by this question really. You can buy a sturdy multi use bag for a couple of dollars so that shouldn't hold people back (and it should be the user pays principle). The long term environmental cost (impact on wildlife, visually (plastic bags blown around in wind, adding to landfill) is very likely to exceed a campaign to stop using the bags (I really don't know what else is required, I may be terribly naive).

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, and i've been using them for many years. Supermarkets have been selling multi use bags for ages and offer boxes for those who forgot a bag. Any many smaller shops offer the same, e.g. the Dutch Shop, BinInn or Ontrays. Then we have initiatives as boomerang bags that appear in many communities. Again, the alternatives are there, it's the mindset and habit that needs to change.

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

I guess you need to inform everyone what's going to happen on date x and that you already can start using your own. But then from day x, it just needs to be introduced. You forget your shopping bag ones and never again :-). Not sure what a phone app will do so can't comment on that.

Clause

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

Notes

Nothing as I have adjusted to it many, many years ago. It's not hard. You don't even need plastic bags in your rubbish bins in house (that is often the excuse for how these bags are reused), just clean it out after you have emptied them in your container or council rubbish bag (as in the good old days) or buy rubbish bin liners (the user should pay for the pollution it creates).

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 what data you currently collecting, what data you need or how the data is going to be used so I can't really comment on this.

Clause

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

Notes

I suggested a lot of things along the way. Most of all, look what other countries have done and sign up to FB groups like 'zero waste', you will get a wealth of knowledge and ideas of what you can do that you can include in your campaign. Good luck!!! (PS the check box to withhold name is not visible so you may want to check this. I'm using this form on my laptop). Happy for you to show my name.