

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

Karen Lee

Reference no: 333

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

More education please on why degradable/biodegradable/compostable are not an alternative - there is a lot of confusion about this

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

All plastic bags. Many people doing this survey may not understand why microns in thickness are relevant?

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

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

Position

No

Notes

Too many loopholes if we start creating categories for exemption - customers will adapt very quickly

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

Would prefer to see this expedited

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

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

Agree because environmental impact of bags is a factor. Also opportunity to show leadership/support global initiatives to reduce

single use plastic. Also potential benefits in consumers starting to reduce other single use plastics.

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

Alternatives include shoppers own bags, boomerang bags, excellent range of bags for sale, cardboard boxes in stores etc

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

Prompts to keep bags in car once they've been used, etc. Partner with retailers to create prompts through in-store signage and their own advertising campaigns. Not sure about the app - more information on what is intended with this? Some social diffusion campaigning - Jacinda Ardern and other trusted or popular community figures being seen actively reusing bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Information and education campaign as above to normalise so that our teens don't feel awkward using their own bags, as is currently the case with peer pressure.

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

Monitor LoveNZ soft plastic collection? baseline retail surveys? Also baseline survey of hospitality industry to monitor use of single use straws? Council landfill data?

Clause

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

Notes

Circular economy comment: in NZ we have a problem with high volume of unwanted textiles going to landfill. It would be interesting to see if the loop can be closed with an industry to create reusable bags out of unwanted textiles?