

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

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Reference no: 35

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

I believe ALL of them should be phased out

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

We all have a responsibility to do something about the way the earth is heading, we all need to protect it. Once customers get used to the idea that plastic bags are not provided, it will become second nature to bring their own.

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

Not sure

Notes

If it's the fastest we can do it then yes, it's better than nothing. But ideally we would get it done faster.

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

There isn't a second earth, and unfortunately we are killing it. There is no cost that could outweigh the benefits.

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

Clothes retailers have been handing out reuseable fabric shopping bags for well over 10 years. In Europe this supermarkets have very similar bags which everybody knows to bring back with them whenever they do their grocery shopping. My parents (who are not even people who take note of what's happening to the environment) have always used the cardboard boxes at PakNSave ever since I can remember. Or she takes her own boxes, and a chilly bin, leaves them in the car then loads them up from the trolley once she's back in the car park. That was to do shopping for a family of 9, sometimes she didn't have a box so she'd get the kids to chain the groceries into the house once she got home. It didn't take long! And most people are shopping for a lot less people than that.

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

I think so many people are just very unaware of the state the environment is in. They need educating (nicely). Campaigns need to be run, TV ads etc to inform and actually really let people know how advanced the damage is and what we're heading for.

Clause

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

Notes

We honestly hardly use them. As I've mentioned my parents don't even make an effort not to for the environment, but because they were taught not to waste.

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

I'm 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 amazing that we've taken this first step, and am very excited to see what happens next.