

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

Reference no: 352

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

These have no place in our supermarkets anymore - we need to educate consumers about the dangers and havocs of single-use plastics, and this will start with action.

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 think there should be no plastic option at check-out regardless of thickness. Customers should be expected to either provide their own bags or purchase reusable bags at checkout. This has been implemented with success in many different places, including the island of Maui in Hawaii.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

All plastic bags - because we need to transition away from the use of this material and into more environmentally-friendly options.

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 need to stand together in this, regardless of business size.

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

The benefit is the protection of the planet - this perk much exceeds any negative costs associated with the phase out.

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

I have seen many beautiful, affordable canvas bags for sale. My favorites are The Paper Rain Project's and Thunderpants' bags.

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

If funding can be put toward education about the phase out at the nationwide level, I believe the maximum amount of people would be reached.

Clause

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

Notes

I have already phased them out, but I think it would be most effective if they were no longer an option to use. Then you would be forced to find alternatives.

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

Eliminating their production.

Clause

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

Notes

I am excited that this could be happening! NZ has a chance to live up to its "green" reputation.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.