

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

Reference no: 355

Submitter Type:

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

All single-use bags should be phased out. There is no reason to keep them, other than convenience, and there are already alternative options in place.

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

If there needs to be one bag in place then the home compostable bag should be the only one left. The bag should only be in use if it is fully compostable in a regular home.

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

Why should there be a different rule for smaller retailers? When the plastic bags are phased out, if smaller retailer use them, it will impact on their business as people will opt to shop elsewhere. I know I already do.

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

The sooner the better.

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 long-term benefits of the country far out weigh short-term monetary costs. The longer we wait the more costly the exercise will be, for the environment, and for retailers, as more and more people choose to shop at places that do not use single-use plastic bags.

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

We have already phased out the use of single-use plastic bags in our home. Once you get in the habit of bringing your own bags and containers, and also choosing produce and products that are not wrapped, it becomes a habit that takes no time at all to get used to. There are a large variety of bags available to put groceries in, my partner uses a cloth bag he got for free from a clothing retail shop when purchasing a pair of jeans. We have a lot of reusable shopping bags in our household from years of grocery shopping. And the good old cardboard box used to be freely available in supermarkets in the 90s! There's no reason these can't be offered again.

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

They'll have no choice. Plus it doesn't have to be a "special shopping bag" any cloth bag, cardboard box, etc will suffice. People are not stupid just lazy, when there is no choice they will find a solution.

Clause

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

Notes

We already choose to live without single-use plastic shopping bags. It's easy, there's really not much adjustment, it's a mindset adjustment that's all.

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 don't know what your current monitoring is. If you really want to help the environment, how about taking a look at food waste, that's a huge pollutant to the environment, in co2 emissions and landfill.

Clause

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

Notes

I applaud the govt for taking this step. It's at least a step in the right direction. I do not consent to my name and personal details being published on your website or any other public or private forum. Nor do I wish for my name to be included in any summary of submissions that the Ministry may publish.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.