

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

Derek Youmans

Reference no: 373

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

No

Notes

They are not single use. Mine are used post supermarket as lunch bags, rubbish bags, food coverings, food protectors, storage in the garage, poop bags etc. Many I have left in the garage disintegrate over a couple of years. If this goes through, then I will be buying SINGLE use bags to account for the above.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

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

Not well advised to the public.

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

Yes

Notes

Small businesses are doing it tough enough at the moment having to address Labour Party policies re minimum wage, living wage, leave for abuse / miscarriage etc

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

10

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

There will be smaller retailers who may have stockpiled bags that last longer than 6 months.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

2 years

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

No

Notes

As mentioned above. NZ contributes little to this problem, which is well documented. Why should we be punished for others' mistakes just to look good, yet inconvenience the population. Just policies should be based on scientific fact, not idealism.

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

But will be added expense.

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)

Notes

That is the big question. How many times DOES it take to make a re-usable shopping bag more environmentally friendly, over its ENTIRE life cycle.

Clause

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

Notes

A new and realistic and in touch government.

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

The problem is I don't think the policy makers in this case are using data applicable to NZ.