

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

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Reference no: 407

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

I have believed that single use plastic bags should have been banned for the last 10 years and have endeavoured to always use reusable bags when shopping.

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 plastic shopping bags should be banned. There are paper bags and reusable bags that can be used instead. I see absolutely no need for plastic shopping bags at all either in supermarkets or any other store.

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

I see no reason why paper bags, compostable bags, Boomerang bags or reusable bags cannot be used.

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

One

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

I feel the obvious environmental costs are the main concern here. I do not believe that it is not too costly to provide cheap reusable bags or paper bags. The making of paper bags could be a new, growth industry for NZ as we grow many pine trees and already have major industries manufacturing toilet paper, newsprint etc.

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 a plethora of cheap reusable bags becoming easily available. I am involved in Boomerang bags also which is another source. I don't know about the cost of paper bags but I think they would be a great option.

Clause

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

Notes

I don't need to adjust as I already don't use them.

Clause

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

Notes

Just please do it. This is just a beginning. Plastic packaging of food and all other items needs also to be reduced. Takeaway shops need some incentive also to stop using plastic containers whenever possible?