

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

Reference no: 421

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

No, it's symbolic activity. More attention should be paid to waste at source issues and packaging. Limiting use per mandatory bag fees, with the fees only going to waste minimisation initiatives, would be more useful.

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

I don't agree with a ban. However, thicker ones are more reusable and more useful, thinner ones tear and become flyaway litter more easily.

Clause

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

Notes

Don't think there should be a ban, so no.

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?

Notes

Don't think there should be a ban / not applicable.

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

No

Notes

Don't agree with the ban, so no.

Clause

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

Notes

Don't agree with the ban, n/a

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).

Notes

Do not agree with ban, so no.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Notes

Well, of course, there are other things one could use... but they are invariably more expensive.

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

How does an app help when you forget your bags at home?

Clause

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

Notes

Would have to figure out what to use as garbage bags that wouldn't cost much. Other than that, not much

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

What's the % of postconsumer waste that this is? Shouldn't waste be on the onus of the producer, rather than the consumer, to provide a firmer incentive to improve/reduce packaging?

Clause

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

Notes

I am against this, as it is window-dressing activity, not addressing the structural problems in the domestic waste stream - lack of domestic recycling processors, overpackaging, poor recovery rates of recyclables, etc etc

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.