

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

Reference no: 487

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

Absolutely. SUP are about laziness with people. They are one time use and they last forever. They pose a huge risk to marine life and birds and are a blight on the landscape. NZ has to move on this and ban SUP as soon as possible.

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

Ban all SUP usage. This includes: plastic bags at all supermarkets, shops, petrol stations and fruit and vegetable shops.

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

This only punishes the larger businesses, who are forced to comply with the phase-out. Now is the time for NZ to step up, draw a line in the sand and say "we are going to rid our country of these plastics and help preserve our environment for the next generation". There should be NO exemption for any person or business, no matter the size. Time for everyone to step up.

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

They shouldn't be exempt. What is the point of partially implementing a SUP phase out, only to have some sectors, allowed to use plastic bags? Think about it.

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

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

There will be short term pain. It is critical, that the Govt injects money into industry providing solutions to the SUP replacements and in the roll out of the phase out of 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

Some fruit and vegetable shops have good reusable bags (this is what we have used). The supermarket reusable bags don't last long. There is clearly an opportunity for a better quality reusable provider in NZ.

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

Don't encourage. Simply enforce. Ban SUP's and people won't be able to use them. People are like sheep. If you let them use SUP, that is what a lot of people will use, because they are lazy and don't see / care / understand what the impact of SUP's are on the environment.

Clause

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

Notes

We have already done it. It isn't difficult. Buy a bunch of reusable bags; start buying food from bulk sellers; buy packaged products at the supermarket with as little packaging as possible. This is about behaviour change.

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 have absolutely no idea!

Clause

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

Notes

It must include all SUP's. This includes those god awful thin plastic bags at fruit and vegetable shops.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.