

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

Sarah Tay

Reference no: 489

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

They are an unnecessary convenience product. There are multitudes of alternatives for all uses. All forms of plastic are unlikely to degrade in landfill and cause environmental issues for our tamariki.

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 thickness - I don't believe thicker "reusable" plastic bags is the answer. Rwanda is a great example of this.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

Hospital waste bags (biohazard), medication, goods purchased/used on planes - protect biosecurity.

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 would nullify the impact of the bag - these bags would become a commodity. For a ban to be effective, all bags should be banned. New Zealand needs to take non-negotiable action.

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

Several companies buy in large stock of bags. Sending these to landfill is not the answer.

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

Not sure

Notes

I don't understand this question.

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

There are many alternatives, however, there needs to be a far greater push towards composting to reduce the need for people to use plastic bin liners.

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

Education on the impact of plastic bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Education - especially around other uses for plastic bags, promotion of composting.

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

Businesses must notify that they are supplying plastic bags.