

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

Reference no: 5

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 support the mandatory phase out, including degradable plastics. New Zealand is fortunate in that we have a small enough population to effectively bring about national level behavioural change and that we have marine and land environments that generate so much tourism revenue. I believe the proposals are a great first step in taking back our 'clean, green NZ' image. I do not believe we have sufficient resources or population to support the infrastructure required to process degradable plastics and therefore they should be excluded.

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 70 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

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

No, to be an effective intervention I believe the phase out must be applied to everyone. By asking consumers to bring their own reusable bags, or giving customers the option to use packaging boxes (like pak'n'saves and many dairies have been doing for years) the re-use and recycling aspects of the system are reinforced.

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

Two full time equivalent employees

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

While it will require a change of mental models held by many consumers and shopkeepers, the environmental benefits, and future consideration of reductions of other plastics, far outweighs the short term monetary costs (such as finding reusable hemp or cotton alternatives).

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

Yes! We use re-usable shopping bags all the time. Although I think caution needs to be taken as to what these bags are made from, recycled fibres from the fashion industry could be a good example of a further opportunity to close a loop in the system, rather than using new materials to create reusable bags.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

[Questionnaire field does not allow for more than one option to be selected] Both national campaigns and incentive schemes would be beneficial as well as discounts (or no cost) on purchase price of reusable bags for those in low income households (community service card holders, superannuants, or those using WfFTCs for example)

Clause

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

Notes

We have already made the change, but were very motivated by supermarkets running promo deals to get the bags at a lower cost (we stocked up and got 3-4) and by advertising campaigns

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

make it transparent and easily available to the public. People do not easily understand statistics and data needs to be presented in a way that has meaning to individual e.g., don't just publish numbers

Clause

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

Notes

I am happy to discuss my submission further but do not wish to have my personal details published online

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.