

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

Auckland Botanic Gardens (Danielle Cipperly)

Reference no: 504

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

Not sure

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

Not sure

Notes

I am not sure what the size of the retailer has to do with the type of bags 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

How is number of employees relevant to plastic bag choice/use?

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

What is being provided to use instead of the 'single-use' bag? Bags that are used as bin liners are the only real 'single-use' plastic bag. The hand held shopping bags can be used multiple times for multiple reasons e.g. animal litter (cat) clean up, storing vegetables in refrigerators, rubbish bin liners, holding wet bathing suits and towels after a day at the beach. I don't feel as though you can take away such a dependency without providing something in return.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Giving an alternative for people to use instead first. I feel that many people use these bags as rubbish bags so they don't have to spend money on buying separate bin liners. I feel as though people in lower economic situations have other more pressing life needs to be met than to worry about how to get their overpriced vegetables & groceries home to their families. Perhaps we could do a bag trade option at the supermarket like other countries have. I am a gardener and all for saving the environment, but I feel like we are

letting our community down, especially the under educated communities, by simply removing and refusing such a big part of our lives. Has there been research carried out in other cities & countries that have banned to see what the negative effects to it's citizens might be?

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

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

For those who can afford, yes we are able to carry out alternative measures. However, I have the money to buy cloth bags too. Also, a lot of the reusable bags that are sold in grocery stores come from China and are made out of non-regenerative materials. How is this better?

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

Clause

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

Notes

If suppliers of goods stopped using plastic unnecessarily. It can't all be up to the small end consumer.

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

Single-use plastics could be monitored at ports of entry into the country. Start treating unnecessarily plastic the same way we treat biosecurity items.

Clause

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

Notes

I do not consent to my name being published.