

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

Emily Rachel Pearce

Reference no: 506

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

100% agree with the ban of any single use plastic and any products that create a false impression by claiming to be compostible when the reality is that they have to be commercially composted and the infrastructure currently available does not support that.

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

Any and all bags should be phased out. We need to really go for it and not give retailers any room to use thicker alternatives.

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

I also strongly believe there are so many other single use plastic options that should be included. A great example is the dairy industry they are introducing more and more single use plastic products especially in the yoghurt category and are not accountable for it at all.

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

I think the rules should apply to everybody. Smaller retailers should be just as accountable for their business practices as big retailers.

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

Seems reasonable. Companies will just dump their stocks of plastic bags if there is a shorter lead time. They shouldn't be bringing it / producing any further plastic bags during that time though surely.

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 don't need to be higher costs. Companies shouldn't have to replace with paper or another alternative. New Zealanders need to take more personal responsibility and use cotton or other hard wearing bags for all kinds of shopping not just at the supermarket. It is habit and cultural change that we need at a consumer level.

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

Not super thick plastic options. Something hard wearing but natural like cotton.

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

There is such a lack of information given to consumers about the way all types of rubbish and recycling are currently processed in New Zealand. I went to a course recently sponsored by Auckland Council and was blown away with how the system actually works and how many small changes I can make as an individual that will reduce the amount of rubbish I produce and to make sure that the recycling I put out is effectively recycled. I understand that it is difficult on a national level as every council operates under a different system but the councils should be given funds by the central government to communicate effectively with their rate payers about how the system works in their area.

Clause

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

Notes

Not having the option.

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 think there needs to be a lot more transparency of the information. I was shocked by the statistics I learnt in the waste free parenting course I recently did. The information is there but isn't accessible for most people.