

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

Susan Mary Fitchett

Reference no: 521

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

My understanding of the science is that a product similar to plastic that can be truly broken down to original components and consumed by bacteria is still in the research stage. The so called degradable bags mentioned above are not truly degradable or only degradable over a very long time period, during which time they can pollute the land and marine environment and be consumed by marine species which in turn are consumed by other beings e.g. humans. We only have a finite number of oceans and a finite number of marine species.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

As per above the thickness of the plastic is subject to the same problems of any return to its original components or being able to be safely returned to this state by bacteria,,all still in a research stage..

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

as per my answer to the first question

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 am happy getting paper bags from small retailers which often are provided instead anyway. A ban has to be complete; comprehensive

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

It gives a chance for consumers and retailers to adapt and for example source paper bags or indicate to customers they can bring in their own bags or containers by signage etc. This six month period would go alongside a government sponsored education campaign about reducing single use plastic and remembering to take your re-usable bags and containers to shops

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

The protection of our marine environment and species is priceless and now we know that plastics are being ingested by humans from us eating and being exposed to plastic in food and other sources - who can count the monetary impact of adverse health effects from this???

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

I already use my own bags to shop with; paper bags in garbage containers and I am willing to pick up dog poos using alternatives like a poo trowel and paper bag!

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

I mentioned this above

Clause

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

Notes

Support for paper bag manufacturers

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

Surely this is a question for retailers who sell products that are put into plastic or where bags and plastic packaging is offered. Possibly consumers could have a chance to feedback about packaging improvements in the marketplace via a appropriate govt. website.

Clause

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

Notes

Well done Government - we have joined other countries that are spearheading a future that will be sustainable for the planet and the living beings on this planet.