

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

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Reference no: 55

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

Plastic is, literally a lethal, toxic waste. So single use plastic is an environmental crime. We must consider the entire life cycle of products being manufactured and tax or ban those that produce toxic waste.

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

Any bag that is not fully, safely, naturally, degradable including in our current, conventional land fill waste system should be banned.

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

handled thin (undecided)plastic bags of all descriptions.

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

The solution is a widespread change of mindset - if you are going to buy something you need to have something to put it in. Anything that reduces the necessary changeover is not helpful.

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

Not helpful.

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

Plastic in the ocean is expected to weigh more than that of fish by 2050! What is the cost of making it uninhabitable? This is a first tiny step on a long path to where we can realistically hope that life on this planet, as we know it, isn't knowingly heading towards its end because of our unsustainable, unconsidered actions.

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

We haven't used them in years!

Clause

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

Notes

Portable small flags in the shape of a bag outside the front door of supermarkets.

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

All plastic bags should be clearly and indelibly labelled. Anyone producing them or using them needs to have a facility where they can be returned for reuse or recycling. Retailers then become their own data collectors, researchers and police - they pay for the full life-cycle.

Clause

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

Notes

Just get it done. If we can remember to get the keys for the car to go shopping we can remember to get bags. No exceptions. And soon - there will be initial back lash and you want it gone by the next election..