

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

Mark Garner, **Mark Garner**

Reference no: 552

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

Most effective option

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

Provided over 70 microns is reusable many times

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

Our little under-sink kitchen bin is designed for a plastic liner - for our plastic waste (supermarket food wrapping). Really need a different design i.e. be able to remove the bin and transfer contents to our garbage bin

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

We consumers need to take our reusable shopping bags everywhere

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

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

Not sure

Notes

Need time to make and distribute suitable reusable bags. When I say suitable I mean a bag type that meets government

specifications such as polypropylene non woven.

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

provided the reusable bags to not become the new problem

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

There are a lot of reasonably practical options from consumers point of view - but they may have a high environmental impact

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

They need to be expensive enough so that they are not a throw away item. Manufacture and distribution of the bags needs to be controlled. Each consumer only needs one bag. Do not want a flood of give away promotional bags by retailers. Bags need plain packaging.

Clause

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

Notes

It is just a habit (to take the bag when shopping) requiring constant reminders to form the habit.

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

Not sure

Clause

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

Notes

I fully support the ban, and support replacement by reusable bags. I am concerned that the reusable bags will become the new problem if not controlled properly. I am also concerned that kitchen bins are designed for plastic liners.