

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

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Reference no: 5537

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

There is no such thing as compostable plastic. Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean its not there.

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?

Notes

Which ever results in less single use bags being used.

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

Why would any be exempt. What is the point of banning some but not all? All "bags" should be fully compostable e.g made from plants not plastic. Anything less is a joke on our environment.

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

Of course not. Why is this even a question? Plastic is plastic no matter who is using it.

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

Seriously? This is actually a thing? Why is this even a question? Small retailers think their busienses will fail if they can't use plastic bags. Come on. Be serious.

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).

Notes

The major supermarkets have made it clear that there is money to be made in phasing out single use bags. They are able to market a new product. The reusable bag. At a dollar a pop, nobody will be losing out financially. The environmental impact of eliminating single use plastic bags is pretty great. From the dirty manufacturing process to no longer seeing 100's of them floating around everywhere or smothering aquatic life. Next step, get rid of plastic packaging. Plant "plastic" is already a thing being done. NZ should be on that industry like white on rice.

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 so many varieties of reusable bags that anyone who says there isn't, is either lying or ignorant. If you forget your bags, buy new ones for a dollar, or take the trolley to your boot. People managed just fine without plastic bags until the last couple of generations. People will be manage just fine again.

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'm not sure what the mobile phone app is about but education is the key. As it is in any scenario. All people need to do is learn to remember to take bags with them. If they can remember their phone, wallet and keys they can learn to take a reusable bag.

Clause

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

Notes

Compostable rubbish bags. That seems to be everyone's biggest issue. They are losing their bin liners. They need a replacement. I am happy to make my own newspaper liners, almost nobody is that dedicated. Get rid of plastic council/area rubbish bags, use trash bins like the old days.

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

How can the data be better improved? I wouldn't know as I do not know how you currently collate or use "data" about plastic bags. Importation of certain plastic products needs to stop. Environment needs to be put first.

Clause

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

Notes

It's one step. Next target food and product manufacturers who like to wrap everything in plastic. Target toy and "junk" manufacturers who make everything out of plastic. Get rid of the stuff.