

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

Reference no: 555

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

Yes. People also need to be made more aware that biodegradable plastics that isn't actually placed in a commercial composter will not decompose in the landfill.

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

People need to shift their thinking to using no plastic bags at all, rather than just choosing thicker ones.

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

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

I use reusable shopping bags whenever I can. This includes produce plastic bags. I do not like when my shopping is placed in a plastic bag without asking.

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Everybody should be working together and raising awareness. Retailers who go above and beyond not using single-use shopping bags should be awarded.

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

1

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

Faster is better! But find a use for all those plastic bags that have already been produced - do not allow retailers just to throw them away.

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

Protecting our environment is much more valuable than money spent! Action from the government is important.

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 use yute bags and they are perfect. They are durable and hold much more volume than single use plastic bags. Alternatives are accessible everywhere and with a shift of mindset people will carry them with them at all times, just like their wallets and phones.

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

A shift in law is crucial in combating the problem. Many people are unaware, don't care, or value convenience too much. If there are mostly environmentally options available people will have to change automatically.

Clause

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

Notes

Offer affordable and very durable alternatives, not like the \$1 synthetic ones available at Countdown at the moment that will break easily also. Work with non-for-profit companies to create stations where people can pick reusable bags up for free (or for a deposit) when they forgot their own that then can be returned.

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

Create incentives for retailers to become plastic free enough so that large supermarkets will offer less single-use packaging.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.