

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

Reference no: 5571

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 I agree - the impacts on our environment from single-use plastics is horrendous. At it's simplest - the toxins from single use plastics and the inevitable micro-plastics has devastating effects on wildlife and will ultimately adversely affect our health . Disgraceful and utterly concerning.

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

Personally I would prefer to see no plastics at all but anything over 70 microns is more likely to be reused

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

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 see no reason why they should be exempt - all single use plastics are the problem and should be banned across the board. There is no point on only doing half a job.

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

No

Notes

The problem is here. Now. Retailers should be given the shortest period possible to use up those in stock/organise alternatives, after which they should have to surrender them to soft plastic recyclers eg 'Replas'. Why does it supposedly take several months to 'phase them out'? Just stop. ASAP

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

Absolutely yes, the benefits of not having single use plastic bags outweighs potential monetary costs. The benefits to the environment and ultimately our own health are immense.

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

Of course there are. There are already many initiatives in place to ensure access to and encourage awareness of alternative packaging be that simply boxes at checkouts or reusable bags inc those made by communities/home-made ones/jute ones - there is a growing industry around reusable bags/packaging. The only limit is ones imagination and the general public's habit of easy convenience. Habits can be changed.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

both options. I already see more and more people taking their own bags into supermarkets/general shops/markets.... it will become the new normal.

Clause

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

Notes

To not have retailers attempt to foist them on us - we don't want them, we don't accept them but retailers should not be automatically trying to pack your items into plastics. No bags should be mandatory and promptly with minimum 'phase out' time

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

unsure

Clause

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

Notes

Disappointed that this has taken so long to come about - so many countries have already banned these it's high time NZ followed suit. The 'phase-out' should be as short a period as possible and the ban should be broadened to all single use plastics - not just bags - as soon as possible; there are too many alternatives out there not to, no excuses. The horrendously negative impact on the environment plus the resulting effects on health and well-being are too devastating to continue 'pussy-footing' around.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.