

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

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Reference no: 5577

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

The proposed ban should include ALL single use plastic bags - also those without handles

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

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

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

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

no exemption

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

should be faster - 3 months is ample time for adjustment

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

The monetary or non-monetary cost are not relevant. If we are committed to sustainability (RMA) then only the rate at which the ecology can absorb and digest plastic waste is relevant. i.e production of plastic must be in balance with natural absorption rate

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

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

There are many types of re-usable containers, backpacks, cardboard boxes, crates etc. If plastic is priced at the true cost i.e. if manufacturers are forced to include all the socialised cost of plastic disposal then people would not need encouragement

Clause

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

Notes

What is the alternative? Destruction of the human species? I think my family and I will cope very well without single use plastic bags. Shopping bags are the very tip of the iceberg, the low hanging fruits. We need a plan to remove plastic packaging step by step from food distribution and other areas. Shopping bags are a really insignificant problem in respect to the need to adapt to a world with much less plastic. If we have problems as a society to adjust to life without single-use plastic bags I would be very worried about humanity.

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

A ban on manufacture, importation and distribution should be coupled with punishment for perpetrators. I believe the circulation of single use plastic bags will be next to nothing within a few months if compliance with the ban is actively monitored.

Clause

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

Notes

If we tackle the question of how to reduce plastic waste from the point of cost and inconvenience rather from the necessity to bring our plastic use in line with nature's ability to break down the different types of plastic (digestion rate) then we will not achieve a meaningful reduction in time.