

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

Kathy Voyles, **Kathy Voyles**

Reference no: 5585

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

We didn't need them in the 60s, we don't need them now. There are so many alternatives: paper, cotton, hemp, baskets, kete, boxes

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

I believe all single use plastic bags should be banned: there are alternatives already I believe. There would seem to be many imports of toys etc that contain components in a single use plastic bag... we will need to look at import regulations.

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

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

They should not be exempt. I think hospitals/health boards will particularly need help to look at their plastic usage: every pill dispenser, every food item is often encased in plastic.

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

That's too long a time.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes

If we warn businesses now and provide alternatives working with companies such as Innocent Packaging to help companies: I believe that if we educate people about landfill and the dangers of plastics they will come on board willingly. Companies with little landfill should be rewarded. We should have awards for alternative packaging. We also need to work with food producers to get their product to markets in safe and bio-degradable packaging.

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

It's a beginning only: we are plastic addicted and must look at every form of plastic. On the beaches, I am picking up tampon packaging, baby's dummies, milk bottle tops, plastic ropes, straws, plastic toothpicks, cotton buds. Plastic bags are just the beginning.

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

Paper, hemp, second hand materials, wool, flax, cardboard boxes, baskets, kete, shopping trolleys

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

Reward shoppers by giving them a bag for free, with cash incentives, with education!

Clause

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

Notes

We already use alternatives. We keep bags in the car at all times. I collect baskets from the opp shop.

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

Look at our import laws: it would seem many items are coming in to the country pre-wrapped. Forbid single use packaging coming in with these exports. Work with the cucumber growers and the veg producers, packaging NZ wide to find better ways of protecting their wares. Set up helplines and facebook, insta, twitter accounts to report over-packaging. Have positive awards for good "stores" good shoppers. Have plastic free markets in small towns, encourage zero waste community groups all through NZ.

Clause

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

Notes

I think supermarkets must be engaged with immediately and large shops such as farmers etc. All restaurants and cafes should be asked to stop buying plastic straws and single use plastic cups immediately. Fast food companies are some of the worst in terms of single use goods and should be asked to have a code of environmental practise. This could be voluntary at first but should become mandatory in the next few years. Fast food companies should have zero waste separation - food to hot composting, paper clean and not clean, landfill.... these must be hand sorted and put into the correct waste stream. Look at our cities: it's so hard to find the right place to recycle. At bus stations there is no separation of the waste stream. We also have to educate beginning with our children what the consequences of not dealing with our waste is, and what components can be reused, recycled and composted. It will be a big huge thing but it is so needed. Good luck!