

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

Elizabeth Turner

Reference no: 5594

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

Single-use anything should be heavily discouraged, and this is the first step to requiring product stewardship by producers (which should be the ultimate goal of this and any related or similar rules).

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

ALL single-use plastic bags should be banned. Not just ones with handles, and not just at grocery/convenience stores, and not just when they are composed entirely of plastic. What about fast food outlets? What about fruit bags? What about baked goods bags at supermarkets that are paper but have a plastic "window"? Please ban all of these! Also, single-use stickers on plastic, pre-bagged fresh goods / shrink-wrapped goods at the supermarket/convenience stores. All of this is single-use plastic, all of this is equally harmful, all of this should be banned as soon as possible. It all needs to be seen as the same problem - agree with a phased ban for different types of single-use plastic to allow for market adjustments.

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

The cost to environment and society of dealing with the single-use plastic bag does not depend on which retailer provided the bag. The existence of the bag is the problem, not who supplied it. I support a 100% total ban on single-use plastics, full stop.

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

N/A

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

Yes but no longer.

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

Yes I believe the benefits outweigh the costs. This is ultimately dependent on consumers changing behaviour, and producers taking more accountability for cradle-to-grave impacts of their products (including packaging).

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

Multi-use / reusable non-plastic bags do exist.

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

Increase the cost of multiple-use shopping bags. Make it a large cost increase after several months / a year after the majority of people have had time to a) obtain multiple-use bags at low/nil cost; and b) modify behaviours (eg carry bags with them). I support a large increase all at once to help mitigate the impacts of creeping cost on low-income/struggling families (eg. the frog in the boiling pot scenario)

Clause

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

Notes

We have been making the change slowly over the past years. Marketing (commercials, signs) have been very helpful to us. More helpful has been peer pressure, and support in finding other ways to replace the "second" use of single-use bags (rubbish bin lining, etc)

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

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