

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

Reference no: 5621

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

Not sure

Notes

We use plastic bags for a lot of things e.g. waterproofing and bin liners. I think that supermarkets shouldn't be able to sell them or have them available but plastic bags should still be available in special stores where you can go specifically to buy plastic bags etc. I think we should only have bio-degradable plastic bags also.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

Durable plastic bags are usually in my opinion reused and have a much longer life than your standard super thin supermarket plastic bag. I think phasing out plastic bags is also just going to create a black market for them.

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

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

People should still be able to buy plastic bags for waterproofing and bin liners but they should have to pay for them and go to a special store to purchase them.

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

Yes

Notes

Only certain stores should be allowed to provide and sell plastic bags.

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

15

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**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

Not sure

Notes**Clause**

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Not sure

Notes

Yes and no. It depends on what the person is using the plastic bag for. Waterproofing - no. Bin Liners - no.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

A practical alternative to waterproofing and bin liners that is just as convenient and effective as plastic bags. I'd prefer that bio-degradable plastic bags still be allowed. This will help not to create a black market for plastic bags in New Zealand.

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

Require ALL stores and retailers and any company using plastic bags to have an online log where they are required to enter how many plastic bags they have purchased and how many plastic bags they have sold in a certain time period.

Clause

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

Notes

Please make bio-degradable plastic bags and think reusable plastic bags exempt from this ban. Otherwise, you should NOT be surprised when a black market for plastic bags occurs in New Zealand. It will just become like the black market for drugs and other illegal substances.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.