

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

Keely McBride, **Keely McBride**

Reference no: 5625

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

Although I don't think degradable ones should go ... I am very keen for the non-degradable to be banned - I want to know what households are going to use for rubbish in their place ... will they now by plastic non-degradable rubbish bags instead?

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Notes

presumably degradable ones which don't cause problems in water ways/ocean

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

but reasonable alternatives should be offer whether this is paper, hemp or degradable.

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

should not be exempted ... smaller retailers are just as likely to use a lot of these bags eg the fruit and vegetable markets

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

Yes

Notes

I do remember before plastic bags came in. We had paper shopping bags ... the bottom might fall out of them and they didn't have handles but they were accepted as part of life and definitely better for the planet

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

I think fabric or hemp bags/paper or similar are all good

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

Rather than spending money on huge campaigns and incentive schemes for retailers, why not create degradable or fabric or appropriate replacement bags and supply them free to the shoppers for a month. Countdown Newtown appears to be making a policy of asking if you have your own bag so that it becomes habit for shoppers to think about this before they get to the counter. It's changing 30-odd years of bad habits.

Clause

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

Notes

as per above

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

have the names on the bags so you know where they came from or a date of production

Clause

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

Notes

Make all bags produced in the country degradable.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.