

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

Reference no: 5669

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

Reusable bags or paper bags work in other countries and this sort of plastic use is totally unnecessary.

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

Thicker bags still cause a problem if not disposed of responsibly and offer no benefit (other than they can be used a couple more times).

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

A single use shopping bag is not necessary. A consistent ban across all retailers will be easier to enforce and give a single message to consumers (take your own bag or carry the goods home without a plastic bag).

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

No

Notes

It would be better to ask the retailers to hand in all their stock of single use bags then ask them to use them up in the next 6 months. You might as well just chuck them in the environment straight away! Maybe you could buy them off of retailers for direct recycling so they don't make a loss but I think they are already being warned now so shouldn't be stocking up!

Clause

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

Position

two months

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

The benefits of a single use plastic bag (both tangible and intangible) do not out weigh the costs to the environment (even just aesthetically let alone the health impacts on wildlife and ultimately humans). Human life will not be made harder or worse by not having single use plastic bags.

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

Plenty of stores give free reusable bags to customers. Every conference, open day, employer seems to want to advertise on reusable bags and are issuing millions. You are hard pushed to avoid the things. There are enough reusable bags in NZ and you aren't proposing to stop their production.

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

Start putting a return deposit on reusable bags (some retailers are already giving you a free reusable bag when theirs wear out).

Clause

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

Notes

Nothing - already doing it. But please include produce bags as well (i.e. those supplied in fruit and veg sections).

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

Voluntary data submissions from suppliers / retailers (in return for recognition and awards). Data submissions from collection points should be mandatory - and may already be happening. Requests for data from beach / environment cleanups. In addition you could ask for volunteer shoppers to monitor their waste and submit photos / reports of what they see as pointless single use plastic (i.e. products or packaging that should be changed). If retailers start using their weight to force suppliers to change packaging the results will be far superior to the individual consumers voting with their wallets - maybe audits of the largest retailers could affect the tax they pay (if you are putting less single use plastic into circulation then you pay less tax of some kind - or less environmentally damages contribution).

Clause

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

Notes

Please just go all out for this - no excuse help NZ lead the way on environmental protection (no more following other countries).

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.