

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

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Reference no: 5692

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

Because plastic is ruining our waterways and oceans and killing marine life. We need to stop using them sooner rather than later and start educating people in ways to shop and carry their items.

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

The more plastic we can remove from society the better.

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

Ecco friendly 'produce' bags are now available to place fruit and vegetables in - the current plastic produce bags should also be banned along with their larger white counterparts.

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

Everyone needs to get on-board with this, not just the larger supermarkets and chain stores. People will get used to taking and carrying their own shopping 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

I don't agree they should be exempt

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 should be stopped immediately - why does this need to take so long? Just more plastic being washed into our oceans and waterways and more marine life being killed.

Clause

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

Notes

Immediately

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

Just educate people to carry their own non plastic bags - they will only forget a few times before they catch on - people should not be treated like babies.

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

Hundreds of people are already using and re-using their own non plastic bags when they shop.

Clause

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

Notes

We don't need any help, it's just using ones common sense and wanting to 'do the right thing' for the environment and for future generations.

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

Reductions can be monitored when supermarkets and large chain stores no longer have to buy thousands of single use plastic bags
Not just plastic bags but there is too much packaging around many items in the supermarket - this also needs to be addressed but I concede one thing at a time.

Clause

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

Notes

Just get rid of the plastic bags as soon as possible, the longer we leave it the more damage they are causing to our environment.