

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

Phil Bonham, **Phillip Handley Bonham**

Reference no: 5709

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 is to be avoided. Most made from oil.

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?

Notes

Mandatory for all except those that bring their own

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

A lightweight crunchable plastic bag that will not degrade for years is a wonderful thing. If it is privately owned and used in supermarkets or other shops...fine. When we learn to make such things from sustainable products, and they do not do not break down into toxic or environmentally harmful substances is the only time to have them for sale. If they end up in a whales stomache is another issue more to do with over abundance of production, single use due to low cost, and idiots who dispose of them. Hefty fines for all littering needed in conjunction with production.

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

If they cost about \$5 each

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?

Notes

Too long...half that time is plenty if in conjunction with hammering the approaching deadline on radio, tv and online.

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

Plastic bag phase out is a necessary, but token step in what we need to achieve. It will be important in that it will piss off a lot of people including myself and force them to change one itty bitty thing in their routine...our first step.

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

Heavy duty flat bottom paper bags such as are used in supermarkets in The US can be used many many times. I'm not advocating them being supplied in supermarkets, just, that any bag can be multiple use. The cotton ones available at supermarkets could last out my lifetime. Multiple use bags must be sustainable.

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)

Notes

1. Price the reusable ones at a sustainable level...enough so the average person will not keep forgetting to bring them and having to buy them each time. People can use any sack or box or sarong swag...it's a no brainer. Hopefully more and more shops will emerge that have no packaging on their products that we pay for and have to immediately cut or tear off and dispose of as soon as we get home...better to tear it off in the shop and leave it with them to deal with...maybe then the shops, in turn, will pressure suppliers to not put everything in packets...take used plastic cherry tomato box with you...or a handkerchief or whatever...transfer the tomatoes into it (because we can't buy them loose) and throw the shop box back in the bin...just like the people who don't compost currently do with corn cob husks and lettuce leaves.

Clause

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

Notes

A brain. Cognisence of what's going on in the world.

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

We don't need to...it's bleedingly obvious there's a problem...it will be obvious if there is any improvement...it will be obvious to every frustrated shopper who forgets their bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Start to prioritise the list of other phased out products (I'm leaving aside the question whether it happens by regulating the users, suppliers or the manufacturers. Her's a few: single use lighters, plastic toothbrushes, single use ball point pens (no one refills a BIC pen, and if they did, the refill has a stainless steel ball, brass tip, and plastic tube that are thrown away), twink, glue sticks, kitchen sponges, cling film, all the 'rip off a roll' bags that go into the single use shopping bags, twisties, bread bag clips, disposable razors, plastic cups, paraffin coated paper cups, paraffin wax paper, aluminium foil (after years of rolling my scraps into a ball and putting them with the recycling, I was told that they are not recycled because it is a different type...ban it or recycle it)...I could go on forever...eventually we will have to make it a criminal offence to produce a product from non renewable resources that is designed for a short life, or, require that the manufacturer takes back all their used products when they have died, so that they can refurbish them, or reuse the materials in perpetuity.