

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

Shawn Bishop, **Shawn Wright Bishop**

Reference no: 5759

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

Absolutely. No need for them at all. Even "biodegradable" bags need such specific conditions to biodegrade that it's almost misleading to call them that. Reusable bags are now so easily available, there's no excuse not to use them.

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

Should be a complete ban

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

Because it's not about the retailer. It's about the consumer. Consumers must keep reusable bags in their cars or their purse. Then it won't matter whether it's a small shop or a large chain... either way the customer has their own 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

1

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

Should be sooner.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

immediate, or 1 month

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

Because the benefits to saving the only planet we have, and our natural heritage, outweigh any cost. But the cost of reusable bags is literally nil, as they're freely available. The cost to retailers is negligible, as the bags cost so little. And the exposure of people using a reusable bag with their logo on it is very valuable.

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

Reusable bags abound! Everyone offers them now, because it's a way of keeping their brand and logo in the public eye.

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

We already use no plastic shopping bags. It's just a matter of habit and choice.

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

Don't know

Clause

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

Notes

We need to move rapidly on from banning single use shopping bags, to banning single use plastics in retail shopping. Everything comes in a plastic bag! apples, onions, grapes, bread, etc etc etc.