

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

Mouthfull productions

Reference no: 5788

Submitter Type: Other

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

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

We need to stop having a single use approach to bags - even if the plastic is slightly thicker that is not going to solve the issue as people will end up just buying one of those each time they go to the checkout. What we need to encourage a change in consumer behaviour. You wouldn't go to the supermarket without your wallet so why is it any different to remember your reusable bags ?

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

But maybe they should be or provided subsidised paper bags as an alternative until they are able to stand on their own feet

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

This is irrelevant when we are trying to tackle the issue of plastic pollution. Nobody needs plastic bags.

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

3 months is plenty of notice for shoppers and retailers

Clause

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

Position

two months

Notes

Up to 3 months

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

We need to look at environmental costs not fiscal costs. It is time we change our thinking about the true price we pay to use plastic bags. However, I think it is important to realise that plastic bags are only a small part of the issue - we need to address single use plastic culture across the board, and reduce packaging in general

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

We lived for centuries without plastic bags and I'm sure we are smart enough to figure out how to carry our groceries home in something else

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes**Clause**

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

Notes

I think we will live

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

Each store should have updates on their reduction goals near the checkouts