

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

Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated

Reference no: 5798

Submitter Type: Iwi

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

Plastic bags made of any plastic-like material impact on our indigenous biodiversity.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

We propose a phase out of plastic all together and a shift to New Zealand industry based materials such as hemp or harakeke. These plant based industries are better for the environment and could provide local economic benefits.

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

We do not want to see this exercise result in plastic bag look alike's replacing traditional plastic bags. We want meaningful results that will protect biodiversity.

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

All plastic bags should be phased out with a national shift to a sustainable option. No one should be excluded from this. This policy needs to represent a cultural shift in the way New Zealanders treat the environment.

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

Yes

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

Yes absolutely. This phase out represents the beginning of a positive cultural shift in favour of the environment, of which a monetary value can not be placed upon. In terms of a monetary impact, we think that this is very minor and may outweigh the costs as people become more familiar with the "reduce and reuse" kaupapa.

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

Most shops stock reusable bags making alternative options extremely practical.

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

We support New Zealand plant based products. Our industries should be supported to expand and provide for this opportunity. The use of New Zealand plant resources for everyday shopping bags could promote our clean green image and unique culture.

Clause

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

Notes

Bags that had a kaupapa Māori flavour would be helpful for our wider whānau to uptake this kaupapa.

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 would appreciate more policy based actions that stop the import of single use plastics at the border. We would also like to see policy prompt the uptake of biodegradable alternatives to plastic packaging found in everyday items.

Clause

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

Notes

We very much support this kaupapa.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.