

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

Reference no: 5803

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

I think there's a lot of strong arguments against plastic bags. When it comes to non-plastic bags (like plant based) there's also arguments against these - for example, they can't be recycled, people can be more likely to litter (because they're seen as "environmentally friendly"), the space for growing the plants could make them similar to cash crops

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

All plastic bags should be included in the phase out

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

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

Not sure

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

I think that there is value in the environment, in and of itself. There is also value in the environment to sustain humans and that should be protected. You can't put a price on that.

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, paper bags, boxes, no bags

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

All (won't let me select multiple). I think action taken on a national level/by government is probably better as it reduces onus on individual retailers

Clause

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

Notes

I think a lot of it would come to breaking habits. Maybe it'll be harder in the regions for those who do bulk grocery shopping. Something people mention a lot is what to use for rubbish bags but there seems to be options for this. The likes of bread and cereal bags can be used as rubbish bags. If composting, most rubbish will be clean and doesn't require a bag

Clause

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

Notes

I think something to consider is whether impoverished people would be hindered if they have to buy reusable bags, and if some disabled people would be disadvantaged if there weren't options available. I don't think this is something to stop the phase out, but rather something that should be considered

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.