

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

N/a (Catherine Pollock)

Reference no: 5816

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

Phasing our completely unnecessary forms of plastic is a logical starting point in reducing plastic waste. As NZ does not have systems for collection of biodegradable and compostable plastics, or adequate facilities for composting these forms they must also be banned. Currently these just create confusion for consumers or contaminate recycling systems.

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

Replacing thin plastic with slightly thicker plastic risks creating more plastic waste

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

Consumers will become better at remembering to bring their own bags if no retailers supply bags. It will also prevent consumers from deliberately collecting and stock piling bags by taking unnecessary bags from small retailers. Already retail staff are reporting this is occurring.

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

Reduced damage to the environment and potentially our health . Reduced waste in landfills . Creates conversation and awareness regarding plastic waste so the public and manufacturers will then look for alternatives to other forms of plastic waste eg straws , takeaway containers , industrial plastic packaging

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

Home made bags from discarded fabric , used cardboard boxes now provided by many supermarkets , jutebags , bringing a small back back , simply putting small items in a pocket or handbag , reusable mesh vege 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

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

My family stopped using single use plastic bags a couple of years ago . It took a while to become a habit not to forget a bag . I carry a couple of small reusable bags in my handbag . Not so easy for men , as they pop into shops with their wallets in their pockets !

Clause

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

Notes

A good first step in a much bigger journey in reducing plastic waste. It is essential not to allow thin " single use " plastic bags to be replaced by thicker " reusable " plastic bags , as in many cases these will be discarded after one or two uses and create a larger problem . An example of this is the " emergency " plastic bag supplied by Countdown . Now I see customers leavin with multiple thick plastic bags which I suspect they will not bring back to reuse the next time they shop .