

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

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Reference no: 5844

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

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

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

In the UK small retailers are exempt from the 5p cost, but if we are going to remove plastic bags entirely (rather than charging a fee) then I don't see how the size of the retailer makes any difference

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

4

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

The benefits to our environment exceed everything else.

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

100%. Any bag would do. It would be good to see some compact alternatives. It's handy to keep a plastic bag in your handbag to use for an unplanned shop but most reusable bags (i.e the ones supermarkets sell) aren't compact enough to keep in a handbag at all times.

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

Retailers ability to target their customers motivations would likely impact people more than a broader national campaign

Clause

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

Notes

Options for compact reusable bags. It's handy to keep a plastic bag in your handbag to use for an unplanned shop but most reusable bags (i.e the ones supermarkets sell) aren't compact enough to keep in a handbag at all times.

Clause

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

Notes

I think this is great. I was in the UK when they introduced the 5p charge. People were outraged at first but after a short while it became the new normal and habits adapted to avoid paying the fee. I felt very uncomfortable coming back to NZ and seeing people use a plastic bag for one or two items. I admit I have starting falling back into bad habits so I am really proud to be a citizen of a country that is going to take this further and make a real stand. Hopefully next we can see improvements on other one-use plastics - at least some people reuse their shopping bags, but many products in a supermarket are only able to be used once and are sometimes unnecessary