

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

CBEC

Reference no: 5847

Submitter Type: NGO

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

We want to get rid of all unnecessary plastic (95% of what currently used). A ban on plastic bags has captured the imagination of the NZ public. The support is there for this government to do something bold "just do it". There are only 10 people against it in NZ, the 10 who run the packaging industry, while 4.5 million want action to save the ocean.

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

As above why do things twice, ban all plastic bags. For MFE to go through this process of gathering submissions must cost millions. So why do this once for 50 micron bags and in three years we will be doing this all again for the rest of these bags. Our organisation and other community waste minimisation organisations all over NZ could make better use of the savings from not doing this process twice. This process is raising the issue for all NZ'ers deal with this once, send a clear message then move onto the next product. 'Dont let the new government be held back by unnecessary bureaucratic process. The whole world is making the same decision.

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

No exemptions

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Notes

Our customer shopping bags at our Garden Centre are corn starch bags

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

No exemptions to smaller retailers (and we would be classified as one). Everyone will find new solutions once we dont use plastic bags.

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

Irrelevant the number of employees, no exemptions

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

Will accept 6 months if we have to but make it happen quicker. It is only a plastic bag some supermarkets and retailers have already shown how easy it is. We dont want to be waiting a year for bags to go.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Six months maximum

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

No

Notes

As stated in Item 2. Do this whole process ONCE!!!! Bureaucrats and consultants to government love dragging out time and costs. Why waste time evaluating costs. How can there be a real cost if you stop doing something. the packaging industry love making government do lots of research and evaluation to stall the process. As soon as plastic bags are going to disappear on a set day the alternative start arriving.

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

There is always alternatives to any product and service we use. What did the public use before plastic shopping bags. Create a vacuum and something will always fill the space.

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

Please give the public some credit for common sense. This is a Wellington Public Servant question " The public if going to the trouble of purchasing or acquiring a reusable shopping bag are obviously going to reuse these as many times as they possibly can". Spending any government (MFE) money on researching this question is a total waste of tax payers money. The public want this to happen, they go to work and find their own way home, buy houses, raise children, cook food without any help from government. they will work out that it is sensible to reuse a reusable shopping bag. Please drop this question 9, 10, 11 from any further discussion as they are an irrelevant waste of time.

Clause

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

Notes

You have got to be joking....Maybe this will provide an opportunity to come together and have family problem solving session rather than watching TV or computer games. An opportunity for family bonding. This would be a sad family that sees this as a major issue (maybe they need some shock treatment).

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

Again dont waste everyones time and MFE resources measuring the reduction once gone = improved waste minimisation through out NZ. Very simple to review current NZ bag manufacturers and bag importers (large scale only). This will be close enough as the reality is the bags will be gone. What else does government and public need to know. Of course the waste consultants will love to spend a million on doing research that will have zero practical value. Again a bureaucratic Wellington policy maker question. NO ONE ELSE will care

Clause

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

Notes

There is nothing more to be said. It is causing a major global environment problem. We dont need them. The public want them gone. We are just waiting for MFE and our leaders to lead. Pretty much we expect them to make a decision that is obvious to a 7 year old and show leadership.