

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

Reference no: 585

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

It is a small step in the right direction.

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

Ban all single-use plastic packaging, regardless of thickness.

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

Ban all single-use plastic packaging, no exceptions.

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

The harm done by the plastic is the same, no matter where it comes from.

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

1

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

Too slow.

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

The benefits of reducing plastic pollution accrue to everyone including the innocent and the victims, while the costs are borne only by the guilty, those who profit from or contribute to the problem. The relative magnitude of costs and benefits don't matter so long as there is justice in where they fall, and there is in this case.

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

Recycled paper or other plant-based packaging, multi-use bags. If there is any need to develop further alternatives then that should be paid for by a tax on the manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging.

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

Tax the manufacturers and importers of all plastic bags and other plastic packaging heavily, so that the price is high enough to make single-use uneconomic, and to provide sufficient funds to properly monitor and fix the problems caused by its use and misuse.

Clause

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

Notes

No help needed, just ban them already.

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

By employing more skilled, dedicated, independent, well-paid people to do the monitoring, funded from a tax on the manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging.

Clause

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

Notes

Don't limit the ban to bags provided by retailers, but ban all single-use plastic packaging regardless of where it is added. Whether a bag of bread or potatoes comes pre-packaged in a single-use plastic bag from the baker/grower or wholesaler, or the single-use plastic bag is added later by the retailer, the problem is the same. Ban them all.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.