

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

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Reference no: 5875

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

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

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

Not sure

Notes

I don't think many submitters would be aware of the benefit cost. Some topics require B:C analysis, plastics pollution in waterways and oceans is not one of them. If there is a greater cost then so be it. We are dealing with a very significant issue here.

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

Non-plastic, re-usable bags are the practicable alternative. And, such bags have been flooding into letterboxes from all sorts of local companies since the ban was first mooted. Personally I take my knapsack into the supermarket and use it for my shopping.

Clause

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

Notes

We have already stopped using them. Was easy to stop putting them in the kitchen bin - just biff the rubbish in it and empty straight into general waste wheeli-bin. Have not had any issues with smell or mess because we compost vege and fruit waste and put any other putrescibles on the lawn for the birds.

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

No idea

Clause

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

Notes

It is good that NZ/Aoteroroa is tasking this initiative. The big issue is that the majority of plastics in oceans come from Asian countries. People there throw their rubbish by the local creek or stream, it goes to the rivers and then to the oceans. They are 60 years behind us in terms of thinking on refuse. In the 50s and 60s we used to have cliff-top dumps. In South Taranaki district when working for the local authority, I visited old cliff-top dumps at Patea and Opunake. We just didn't know back then. We probably had no clue as to the effect on marine life and could not conceive that one day there would be 7 billion people on earth. However, there was stuff all plastic back then. Now everything is plastic. And plastics float.