

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

Reference no: 588

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

Not sure

Notes

Although the various types of degradable plastic bags seem to be a step towards making them less of a problem in land fill, the public needs to know what the true 'biodegradable' performance of these bags really is.

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

Plastic bags have got thinner over the years. Has this made them more likely to escape and fly around the landscape than heavier ones?

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Not sure

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

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

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

The composition shopping bags which many people bring to the supermarkets are a good alternative, and education is needed

encourage shoppers to continue to see these bags as an effective alternative to plastic bags. However, there are few other alternatives available - eg paper bags and sacks, mesh bags, cloth bags. Have studies been done on the use of single use plastic shopping bags for other purposes eg bagging of food scraps destined to be sent to the dump. How many bags are truly single use? Paper sacks for use as bin liners are a possible choice for dry food, fatty food and other household rubbish. Some food scraps are suitable for green waste disposal. In the last three months my paper sack has largely been filled with household rubbish - paper, soiled paper towels, and non-recyclable plastic film,

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

The ability for the shopper to bring their own solid containers to the supermarket or food outlet, in which to place unwrapped food items such as meat, cheese, and other foods which are not suitable for shopping bags. Legislation to shift the liability for food safety would have to become the responsibility of the shopper, not the food outlet, alone.

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

Shoppers and retailers combine to share stories about uses for plastic shopping bags, and a national information campaign to spread these ideas

Clause

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

Notes

Enough alternative methods of safely transporting food from the supplier to the family food store

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.