

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

Warren Jowett, **Warren Jowett**

Reference no: 5891

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

A major environmental concern relating to plastic bags is the number that end up in our waterways and the sea. Even if they were biodegradable they would remain in these environments for some time before they disappeared.

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

To be effective the ban must apply to all retailers.

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

I am not sure how the cost to the environment is measured. The pollution that the bags cause is obvious visually and the negative

effect that this has on wildlife, especially aquatic, is a serious issue.

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

We are an innovative nation, and if alternatives have not yet been developed, they soon will be.

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

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

Clause

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

Notes

Refer 10 above.

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

Once plastic bags have been dealt to, the next issue is the over-use of single-use plastics. The reduction of this is problematic because it is not just the retailers who have to come on board, it is the manufacturers, often overseas. For starters, maybe the mfe can begin to collect data on this to quantify the issue.