

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

Prue Stringer

Reference no: 5939

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's probably the easiest place to start changing our habits, and reduce our use of plastics.

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

The more bags phased out the better. No good if shops just replace 50m with 70m

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

So-called biodegradable should go too, they just trick us into thinking they're ok !

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

easier if there's a blanket phase out. Small businesses can adapt, and are often keen to be seen as part of the community effort.

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

Not sure

Notes

Ideally could be shorter, but maybe that's unrealistic for necessary planning.

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

The required habit of taking re-useable bags should train us to think about other areas of consumption/waste, and save public costs in landfills, pollution etc, and private costs in reduced spending...Not only leads to environmental benefits, but also to our health.

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

Many places provide cheap alternative bags, boxes, paper bags. Growing awareness also of making own cloth bags.

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

Charging a small amount for bags in UK reduced plastic bag use by over 80%. Money makes people think ! Possible deposit schemes for "boomerang bags" . Education/media campaigns

Clause

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

Notes

Already do without them.

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

Don't know how that is done currently.

Clause

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

Notes

Well known figures such as David Attenborough are making statements, people take notice. Use Sam Neill again and/or others? Plastic is now a common talking point, a few years ago it wasn't...so we're on track for successfully making more and more people aware, it's no longer a "fringe" concern.. Education/media/schools are vital to keep the subject in the public eye. It takes time, but we CAN change attitudes/behaviour !