

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

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Reference no: 5961

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

We do not need plastic supermarket bags (or for other retailers either.) There are probably enough reusable bags already in circulation already to avoid plastic bags. Plastic bags are not reusable, tear easily and there is no real plan to recycle them effectively. They are harming our environment and our fauna. They must be eliminated.

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

All plastic bags need to go. We should be encouraged instead to upcycle existing fabrics to create reusable bags, at no cost to the environment.

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

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

They should not be exempted.

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

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes

As little time as possible. Retailers need to get rid of their current stockpile of bags.

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 environmental benefits far outweigh the costs required. Rather than asking retailers to manufacture and provide reusable bags, we should expect communities to work together to source these. Every family probably already has something they could use or upcycle, or these could be sourced from second hand stores (including kete, baskets, containers, boxes, upcycle fabric etc)

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

See above.

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

As above. Retailers may not even need to mass produce these. They could even just provide cardboard boxes from their wholesale sources, like several shops already do.

Clause

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

Notes

We already avoid these. I would appreciate an ad campaign around reusing what we've already got, with examples of how to do this and tips for remembering.

Clause

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

Notes

We just need to bite the bullet and do it! Come on NZ!