

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

Hannah Slade

Reference no: 5976

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 must start taking clear decisive action to phase out reliance on fossil fuels- the single biggest emitter of CO2 and contributor to climate change. This would be a good step in this direction. We must start reducing plastic pollution, as the accumulation of this in the environment creates significant problems for wildlife, and their habitats. This is an opportunity for New Zealand to be a global leader, to make a significant statement to other nations, that this is the kind of direction we all need to take, together, to ensure a world that is habitable for future generations.

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

Bags of this thickness are far more likely to be re-used.

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

This is ridiculous! Why should anyone be exempt. If there are no single use plastic bags in circulation, consumers will quickly get used to taking their own shopping bags.

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

No exemption necessary.

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

Or sooner.

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

Because the cost of not making change is the overall future of life on this planet.

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

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

Recycling facilities, that replace bags that have reached the end of their life for a heavily reduced fee- so there is a strong incentive to the consumer to use the bag to the end of its life, and then return the bag.

Clause

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

Notes

We already have adjusted. It's easy. We have already significantly reduced our consumption of single use packaging. But that's the next step!

Clause

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

Notes

We must take this small step to begin our journey to a sustainable economy. We have the opportunity to be world leaders once again. We must seize this opportunity.