

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

Reference no: 5997

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 have no sustainable way to manage these products, and there are better alternatives out there. The government needs to lead a change in the way we consume products

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, even those less than 35 (so called degradable plastic bags) still have a negative impact on 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

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

a good amount of time will be needed for companies to manage the change (get rid of already bought plastic bags responsibly as possible, source new types of bags if required) - But there could be a bonus for making the switch earlier to incentivise bigger companies that are absolutely able to make the change earlier but will wait until the last minute anyway in the interest of saving as much money as possible

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

In the short term the cost-benefit trade off might not seem to favour phasing out plastic bags, but the long term difference will be more favourable. Soon companies may not have to produce their own bags at all. Also the financial cost is less important than the environmental cost in this case

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

I think the best model to encourage is byo bag, however paper bags are also a better alternative as we already have models of sustainable forestry in new zealand

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

I like both options suggested. Something similar to boomerang bags as a scheme for making reusable bags more accessible would work well too - also a great community building exercise that can be used for other important social exercises such as hazard preparation etc

Clause

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

Notes

lots more exposure - big marketing campaign, constant awareness

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

Fund more research done by psychologists and statisticians who have the infrastructure but not always the finances to access community groups. Allow them to do surveys to monitor behaviour of consumers Alternatively or in addition to that one could request that countdown/new world provide data on consumer behaviour

Clause

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

Notes

We also need to utilise the growing research in science communication to help educate the general population about why this is important. It is becoming increasingly clear that just giving people the facts and expecting them to draw the right conclusions about what to do is not going to work. See the great science and society team at Victoria University for more info

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