

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

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Reference no: 6010

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

Absolutely agree and the definition of "single-use" needs to include wrapped goods, pre-packaged goods, post-bags, etc as these all significantly contribute to environmental waste and long-term damage

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

All plastic bags, not just shopping bags but also bags that are used to wrap goods. The scope of this ban is too narrow and will not effect significant change or improvement to environmental degradation.

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

Of course not, This is very simple - the change requires consumers to change their attitudes and plan ahead for shopping. It is irrelevant where they consume from.

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

N/A it's a ridiculous proposal to exempt some people from this, it defeats the purpose and is simple pathetic. Why can't we have a full ban, fullstop.

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

Should be effective immediately. There's no excuse and much environmental damage has already been done. People will learn quickly.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Immediately

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

Of course. The world and NZ survived happily for millenia without plastic bags. In as little as the last 20 years suddenly we are so dependent on them that it's a problem to remove them?? I can't believe that. There are huge impacts to the environment with plastic usage, future generations will consider our treatment of the planet deplorable. Plastic usage and manufacture has always externalised the real cost - the environmental impacts should have been built into the plastic industry and costs to consumers from day 1 and maybe now we wouldn't be in the mess we are in today.

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

Of course

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

Multi-use plastic bags are not a solution to this problem, they are still damaging to the environment, just take a little longer to get there. If the proposal is so narrow as to recommend plastic bags that people use 20 times rather than once, then we are destined to fail and we'll drown in plastic regardless. This is not a solution.

Clause

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

Notes

We have done so already, it's damned easy.