

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

Reference no: 6011

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

The use of plastic bags (and single use plastic) has become ingrained in our society so much so that laws and enforcement are needed to reduce their impact. It isnt difficult to take bags with you once we are used to it, but many people will not get to this point on their own. I agree with including degradable bags due to how our landfills work

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

Would prefer all plastic shoppings bags to be phased out. But still happy the government is phasing out some!

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

Some smaller retailers appear to have less of an environmental conscience then large retailers therefore they need prompting to stop giving out single use plastic bags just as much, if not more

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

0

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

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 positive effects on the environment and for future generations is priceless

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

Bring your own reusable 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)

Notes

No not allow any plastic shopping bags - even the new ones (like the Countdown thick bags) often get used only once despite campaigns etc.

Clause

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

Notes

Not being offered one by the retailer, or being asked "do you want a bag". We take our own bags but often forget to say until the retailer has started packing things into plastic bags.

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

Unsure. This is your job to figure out :)

Clause

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

Notes

Please ban all including the thicker ones. I would love to see a future where single use plastics are phased out. We try to reduce the amount of single use plastic we purchase but it is very difficult with a young family and without driving around half of Auckland to different shops for different products. We do what we can within our area which has made a huge difference to our amount of rubbish, but it would be great if there was more regulation or taxes on all single use plastic to encourage manufacturers to use alternatives. I know this will make food etc more expensive, but it will also encourage finding or creating cheap alternatives and has a massive positive environmental impact. Bring back milk in glass bottles!!! And more bulk bins at the Supermarket :) Please do not publish my name on the Ministry for the Environment website or release my name as part of an official information request. I am happy for contents of the submission to be published but not my name. Thanks