

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

Anthony Gallon,

Reference no: 604

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

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 is an equal environmental hazard, with a potential to permanently damage the natural environment [Attached Reference #1]. Such a hazard should not be readily available to the public while they are so demonstrably irresponsible. All plastic should be strictly regulated. A concept of "disposable" plastic is abhorrent. Because consumers comfortably handle plastics in such a way that is known to be harmful, and causing permanent damage to the environment, it follows that anyone who supplies a person with such an instrument for environmental harm, is responsible for criminal negligence toward the environment. Law should clearly reflect the seriousness of such an offence or else bring to light the lawmakers who would rather allow the environment to be permanently damaged and it's inhabitants to be fatally harmed.

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

This is why democracy is a failure. Leadership must have already been subdued by the destructive spirit, to be subjecting itself to such a question.

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

There is no price that can be paid to remove all plastic from the environment, and potentially no limit to the price a future person might be willing to offer if it were possible to prevent it. Even one 10c shopping bag is capable of being annoying and doing harm some thousands of years in the future.

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

Well, in 1985, supermarkets weren't even using plastic shopping bags! I remember people were happy in those days. In fact, we used to draw smiley faces on the paper shopping bags and play with them as masks when we were children. It seems that spiritual discernment has a greater potential value than the question's answer (to identify what is behind such an idea - who is it that shamelessly expects a decision maker to believe that there are "no reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use shopping bags"?!). Christian theology names the spirit that deceives as "the devil" (John 8:44, 1 John 3:10). Jesus characterised humankind's spiritual adversary as a thief (John 10:10): "coming only to steal, kill and destroy" in contrast to the spirit of life that is manifesting through us when we are of the light (John 1:4, John 3:19-21): "I have come that they may have life, and life abundantly".

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

Fix the origin of the bad attitude. The more rushed and anxious a person feels, the less able they are to care. Whereas, when a person is relaxed and joyful, they are more likely to turn back to go an extra distance - to turn back when they realise that they have forgotten their bags, or to wheel the trolley all the way to the car and bring their shopping home loose. I have found that the spirit of greed of the previous government was the primary source of social anxiety, and there is yet residue of that spirit in the communities (albeit the same people do not understand these things). There is also a lot of opportunity for building good morale through television broadcasting - where the cheaper shows tend to encourage poor thinking, lower moral integrity, encourage ignorance and cattiness (resentment, wariness and arrogance toward strangers), while the more creative content that is useful for building moral fibre and encouraging quality thought tends to require greater investment. It is through the propaganda platform of television that society is spiritually directed. People can't naturally be commanded or forced to care, but they will care naturally when they think that it is deserved and appreciated.

Clause

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

Notes

Should just go back to using paper bags like the good old days. It never was a problem in the first place! Pak'n'Save began by charging customers for plastic shopping bags when there were no boxes available. Two years later, New World followed the example, modernising from unbranded brown paper bags to white plastic bags with handles [Attached Reference #2]. There is a compelling argument that the hemp industry could replace many of the synthetic products with less impact on the environment and lower cost. [Attached Reference #3].

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

All plastic should be classified as a maximum category hazard for pollution, thereby heavily restricted, to only be used for components in manufacture of non-disposable items. Impose criminal penalties for the use of plastic in a disposable context or within disposable items. [Attached Reference #4].

Clause

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

Notes

Dear Hon. Eugenie Sage, I support a mandatory phase-out on the sale and distribution of ALL SINGLE-USE PLASTICS. The reason I say this, is because plastic is causing irreversible damage to the natural habitat, and scientists fear that it may remain in the environment forever and ever [Attached Reference #5]. Plastic is not a natural part of earth, but once it is placed in the environment, it remains there until it is removed. People are simply irresponsible with plastic, thereby it is being negligently found in parts of the environment where it is harmful. Humans will always be tempted to have bitterness toward humanity, and especially the present generation, as long as plastic continues to ruin the world that we love. For this reason, I say with the most sincerity, that plastic should be recognised as the most harmful product that humankind has invented, because of it's sheer proliferation of the environment. I advise that all governments must act with appropriate responsibility to the planet and to all people who are impacted by it (which could be hundreds of billions over the next one thousand years). The only appropriate action is to recognise plastic as a permanent pollutant, and legislate to prevent it's potential to harm the environment altogether. The only appropriate way to use plastic responsibly, is by ensuring that it's destination at end of use, is destruction or an allocated waste deposit. This means that any disposable plastic, as wrappings, bags, bottles, cups and straws should be outlawed so that the world can rely upon the environmentally sustainable solutions that did deliver a habitable planet to our parents' generation. ##### The phase-out must include a ban on false solutions, such as degradable (eg, oxo degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic. It must also include heavier weight singlet bags, lightweight boutique bags, and so called "emergency bags" of any thickness (microns). There should be no exemptions from a mandatory phase out of disposable plastics. The phase-out should be applied across all people and industries, with an only exception being that of a valid case where there is no natural alternative to plastic, and where it is not likely to be disposed of irresponsibly. The phase-out should take effect immediately (altogether eliminating disposable plastics within the next few years). I agree that the benefits from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs from implementing the phase out. There is no monetary value we can place the health of our oceans, rivers and waterways and the natural services they provide humans and other species, or any health problems that plastic pollution can cause. Reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic have existed for several thousands of years and are more accessible in the industrial age, meaning that the world can only be advantaged and not disadvantaged by getting rid of them. A phase-out of single-use plastic bags should be the first step in addressing plastic pollution. I also support the call by Greenpeace and others for a national strategy to tackle the global scourge of plastic pollution.

Supporting documents from your Submission

Attached_Reference_1.pdf	Uploaded on 08/16/2018 at 10:17PM
Attached_Reference_2.jpg	Uploaded on 08/16/2018 at 10:17PM
Attached_Reference_3.pdf	Uploaded on 08/16/2018 at 10:17PM
Attached_Reference_4.pdf	Uploaded on 08/16/2018 at 10:17PM
Attached_Reference_5.pdf	Uploaded on 08/16/2018 at 10:17PM