

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

Reference no: 605

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

I think compostable bags should be excluded from the phase out as when used correctly they can be very useful without the impact of standard plastics. Either that or corn starch bags be made available instead (also not to be sent to landfill though).

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

I think all single use plastics of any thickness should be banned, including bin liners, black sacks, supermarket fresh produce bags, ziplock and sandwich bags, council rubbish service bags etc. There are reusable, dishwasher safe alternatives for ziplocks or sandwich bags, material bags for shopping, mesh bags are available for fresh produce shopping, compostable dog poo bags to go in a dog poo compost system, and the rest don't really need alternatives.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Compostable or corn starch bag options, with the knowledge that they are not to be sent to landfill

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

I believe these could be useful for things that require single use bags, such as dog poo bags for when out and about.

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

I can't see a reason for exemption, it wouldn't cause any financial or other stress to the owners to not provide plastic bags, it would mean less cost and customers would provide their own. It would prevent the public from changing the stores they use in favor of plastic stockists.

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

6 months maximum. Ideally less, the sooner the better

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**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

Although at this stage they are rather expensive, but a once off cost in most cases.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Both latter options could have their benefits. Signs in supermarket car parks asking customers if they've remembered their reusable bags could be useful, many people comment on their tendency to forget them in their car. Data and info campaign targeting schools and supermarkets etc would likely have a positive impact.

Clause

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

Notes

More plastic alternatives being affordably available in supermarkets. Supermarkets using less plastic in the fresh produce sections (wrappings and bags around small amounts of fruit and vege) so we don't have to avoid purchasing what we need/feeling guilt if we do purchase it due to the unnecessary plastic involved. Pushing larger companies to sell their products using environmentally friendly packaging, in the hope that smaller companies will follow also. Providing more recycling options whilst we work towards phasing out all plastics, such as recycling for tetrapaks, oral care goods, and a wider range of plastics accepted for recycling. The government should be pushing further than banning just plastic carrier bags.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.