

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

Reference no: 6053

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

Needless waste hurts our environment in so many ways, and people can easily do without plastic bags. We did just a few generations ago. They are a wasteful luxury.

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

70> will take more bags out of the waste stream.

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

If a few bags will put them out of business the business can't be stable. Nobody should be exempt from efforts to clean up our world.

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

I don't believe this measure is relevant - it should be 'will the business experience significant hardship from the phase out', rather than FTE numbers. They could apply for an extension on the ban, or an exemption.

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

Any costs are human and temporary. The benefits are environmental and priceless. We must not be blindly selfish because we have got used to the bags socially and economically.

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! Reusable bag borrowing, diy bags, local co-op made bags, tiny fold-up bags to put in your pocket/purse, the standard reusable shopping bags, string or mesh bags for veges, paper bags for messy take-aways/bulk buying etc. It's so easy, people can learn to be a little less lazy about bags like their grandparents were.

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

Both voluntary incentive schemes and a national information campaign. Countdown Stoke has signs in the car park to remind you to bring your bags in with you. I'm not sure what use an app could be.

Clause

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

Notes

We have already boycotted them. An increase in bag borrowing co-ops like in Motueka could help if we forget 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

They should be declared on import, as environmental hazards or something similar. The size, type and number of bags should be declared. There could be spot surveys in shops. Stores could report how many reusable bags are sold.

Clause

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

Notes

Please don't let lazy businesses and people scare government off this bill, it is fantastic. I never want my kids to see a plastic bag blowing across their path. If anything, more plastic should be phased out, like that needlessly used to wrap fresh produce. Kia kaha, bag banners!

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