

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

N/A (Rebecca Shaw)

Reference no: 6058

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

less than 70 microns in thickness

Notes

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

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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

No

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**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

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

A mobile app that sets off an alert on phones when within the vicinity of shopping centres. Many people have them in their cars etc and they simply forget to bring them in but just need that simple reminder to help get into the habit of remembering automatically.

Clause

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

Notes

As stated above. I personally remember every time to bring my reusable bags and reusable produce bags. However, many family members state they simply forget when they are waiting in line at the supermarket and it's too late to run and get them. So an easily accessible mobile phone app that alerted shoppers when closer to supermarkets etc would help to mitigate this issue.

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.

Clause

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

Notes

I think education about the environmental impact that the plastic bags have would be beneficial. While it is great that there is a movement towards using reusable instead of single-use, I feel that it would be beneficial for consumers to know why they should make the move as opposed to just being told they need to. Being incentivised by their own understanding of the issue would help push this further.