

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

Reference no: 6066

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

Although I do think that single use biodegradable/ compostable bags are better than the multiple use polyethylene/polypropylene and nylon bags.

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 single use plastic bags need to be banned- the new extra durable plastic bags are still ending up in our ocean and rivers, they are still seen as disposable.

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

Biodegradable and compostable (within a reasonable, short time frame) bags are great options for people to use for things like picking up their dog poop, these should be allowed.

Clause

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

Notes

Biodegradable and compostable (within a reasonable, short time frame) bags are great options for people to use for things like picking up their dog poop, these should be allowed.

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

The same rules need to apply for all, many small businesses like Recycle Boutique have been using paper bags for years with a slight charge for consumers (20c), but many dairys and Asian grocers still use single use plastic bags- this week I saw someone use single use plastic bag for 1 can of sprite! No-one should be exempt as none of us are exempt from the increasing pollution, microplastics and wildlife death these bags cause.

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

If we don't take this action we stand to lose so much more than just money, I as a consumer (and poor PhD student) am happy to pay my \$1 for a reusable fabric bag any day of the week

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

Fabric bags are available at many places- at Countdown your fabric bag costs \$1 and if it breaks or gets worn over time they replace it for free. We still have more work to do making compostable bags more accessible, but at least for grocery shopping it's 100% practical and cheaper for all parties in the long run.

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

If we are to allow those horrible extra thick indestructible plastic bags then they need to come with a visually motivating marketing campaign the way cigarettes do- for example they can be printed with a huge photo of a turtle eating a plastic bag, or an ocean filled with trash- they need to be a reminder of the consequences we face when we discard them so carelessly.

Clause

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

Notes

Already adjusted, honestly I struggle to see an excuse to use them.

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

I'm not sure

Clause

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

Notes

Love the thought behind this much needed initiative but PLEASE- consult with actual scientists on this, (I'm a PhD student in Chemistry) and those new plastic bags are only going to make this problem so much worse, let's be proactive instead of creating a bigger problem for scientists to solve later!

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.