

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

Reference no: 6083

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 absolutely support the phase out of ALL plastic bags, no exceptions. There is currently a very limited market for the processing of used single-use plastic bags or any 'soft' plastics, for that matter. 'Compostable' bags are not an option and are misleading. I cannot compost these in my home compost system, so why would I bother with them? I can easily home compost paper bags. There are limited facilities also for processing compostable 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

less than 70 microns in thickness

Notes

Again, see my comments in question 1. There are limited facilities for processing single use bags. 50 micron bags will still be treated by the general public as single use, and will not solve the problem

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

No plastic bags whatsoever should be available for use in our country. Videos circulating of plastic polluting our oceans and beaches support this. This ban needs to be pushed worldwide. New Zealand needs to set the example. NO plastic bags should be available for purchase anywhere in NZ (bin liners, black rubbish bags, so called 'compostable' dog poo bags, all consumer goods packaged in soft plastics), as a few examples...

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

Definitely not. We won't eliminate the problem if it only applies to a few parties. Otara market in Auckland is a prime example. Stall holders do not even ask me if I want a plastic bag, they just assume, and dish them out with a vengeance. I use my own recyclable bags and let them know I emphatically do not want their plastic bags!!

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

They must not be exempted from the mandatory phase out.

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

No

Notes

This phase out needs to be implemented as quickly as possible. There are people stock-piling plastic bags from supermarkets right NOW! These people do not know how to cope without a bin liner, education must be put out there to advise them how to live without a bin liner. I don't have one, I don't need one, I don't want one. There are so many other sustainable reusable options, glass jars & containers, metal containers. Note I'm not recommending using plastic containers as I'd like to see them phased out also.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Notes

perhaps 3 months, however in saying that, I am surviving fine without soft plastics RIGHT NOW I fail to see why others can't do the same...

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

YES! Can you put a price on our children's future?? Can you put a price on our marine life suffocating in plastic??? Can you imagine a life of no more recreational and commercial fishing? We're killing our ocean life with plastic right now. Of course the benefits will exceed the costs.

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

Yes, the hemp and kete alternatives are great. Kiwis are a creative bunch, they can work it out themselves to create an alternative. A good old cardboard box will suffice for those who can't sew their own reusable bags, or afford to buy them. Pak n Save provide boxes already, other supermarkets and food outlets need to follow suit ...

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

EDUCATION for both shoppers and retailers. Retailers need to allow the consumer to bring their own containers to the supermarket for filling with bulk goods, eliminating the requirement for plastic bags. This is already happening overseas. Some retailers are allowing this now, others are balking at it, falsely quoting 'health and safety' regulations ...

Clause

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

Notes

Seeing the government introduce mandatory phase out of ALL soft plastics. We're already surviving just fine without them, if you took plastic bags away from our household tomorrow, we would be extremely grateful.

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

Retailers should be required to provide collated data on single use plastics as part of a mandatory product stewardship scheme for single use plastics and packaging. Targets for reductions over time should be set and tracked. Single use plastic milk bottles can be eliminated with the introduction of milk filling stations at supermarkets and/or other suitable outlets. The customer brings back the supplied/required recyclable empty glass milk bottle (just as in the old days), puts it in the machine, a new bottle of milk comes out of the machine and the empty bottle gets sent away for sterilising/refilling.

Clause

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

Notes

Retailers should be provided information on: The most environmentally friendly alternatives to single use plastic bags. The need to avoid bags made from composite materials e.g. jute bags lined with plastic; paper bags with rope handles. The need to have certification for any reusable compostable bags The importance of providing disposal information (eg recycling, composting, landfill) on the bag for end-of-use. Plastic is renowned for contaminating our food with carcinogens. The savings to be made by the health sector are huge, cancer treatment costs would be reduced significantly with the elimination of ALL plastics, not just plastic bags. Plastic leaches into everything. Glass is a far more suitable alternative, it doesn't leach, and it is infinitely recyclable, unlike plastic. Come on you guys, stand up and listen to us PLEASE!

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