

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

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Reference no: 6115

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

Plastic bags of any kind are light and easily blow away to create litter and pollution, often unintentionally. There are plenty of better options available for everyone to use.

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, all plastic bags are light and blow away easily.

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

When there are plenty of better options I believe that plastic bags are unnecessary in this day and age.

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

A ban on single use plastic bags should be exactly that, a nationwide ban to help with a nationwide and global problem.

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

The issue has been discussed in the mainstream media, on social media, and other platforms for months now, so I feel business that currently use single use plastic bags must be aware of the possibility/probability that they will be banned in the near future. Surely prudent businesses would have been making plans to replace them with sustainable options before now. The phase out should begin as soon as possible, please.

Clause

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

Position

two months

Notes

See above comments, please.

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

There always have been and always will be costs incurred in saving our planet, but now it's the best time to act.

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

Repurposed products (like t-shirt bags), reusable options made from sustainable sources (eg bamboo), and indeed no bags for single items which can easily be carried, are being successfully used in many businesses right now.

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

I also support voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers.

Clause

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

Notes

I already avoid single use plastic bags wherever possible by taking my own containers many places, and carrying my own reusable shopping bags. Raglan, as a community, is largely single use plastic bag free... and that's one of the reasons I like living here.

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

Make it easy to understand and the consequences of plastic pollution graphic for people to see.

Clause

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

Notes

Congratulations on raising this issue and doing something about it!