

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

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Submitter Type:

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

No

Notes

Provide biodegradable bags. Penalise those that produce bags that are not good for the environment. The end consumer has no choice but to use bags offered.

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

Not sure

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

Yes - more than 50 microns and less than 70 microns in thickness?

Notes

Clause

4a. If yes, please explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

Notes

Will continue to buy rolls of plastic bags for bin liners & storage purposes. Will continue to buy products wrapped in plastic. Will continue to buy council plastic rubbish bags. Will continue to pay for these using my plastic credit card etc etc etc

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Notes

Makes no difference plastic is plastic.

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

This is a stupid question. Plastic is plastic doesn't matter how small or big the business is there is always an impact on the environment.

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

People should be given choice whether they want to use plastic bags at a charge. Plastic bags should not be phased out but alternatives should be offered eg. biodegradable plastic bags.

Clause

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

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Unrealistic to phase plastic bags completely when consumers continue to buy food stuffs wrapped in plastic or fruit & veges that have been grown using petroleum based fertisers & insecticides.

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

Would have bigger impact if the companies who produce the plastics are penalised for producing such products that have negative effect on the environment. Reward those that produce environmentally friendly goods eg. Tax breaks etc

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Carry bags or alternatives offered instead of thinner plastic bags are just as bad for the environment and will take longer to degrade. Plus carry bags need to be laundered to stop spread of potential salmonella etc from raw meat products. This also has an impact on the environment too.

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

Give back customer choice of using plastic bags & ensure the bags on offer are biodegradable.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Already use plastic bags multiple times before discarding. Also councils should bring back community recycling centres in areas of convenience. Bring in cash refunds for recycling eg. Plastic bottles etc.

Clause

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

Notes

Bring back option of plastic bags with a charge. It makes no sense that shoppers buy goods wrapped in all sorts of plastics & that is often paid with a plastic card. Its ridiculous. You would have a greater impact on the environment if you reduced petrol cars & encouraged electric.

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

You should already have this data available through business network production of goods & services. Plastics are used in practically all industries. Its the disposal of them that is the major issue.

Clause

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

Notes

You will have a bigger impact on the environment if you phased out petrol cars. Introduced incentives to encourage people to use

electric cars. Maybe this will stop people drilling holes in the earth for oil.