

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

Jenilee Hill

Reference no: 6173

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

There is absolutely no reason for us to continue using plastic bags. We are at the stage where we are aware that there is a problem with the amount of plastic in the world, so we should be doing all we can to stop that from getting worse. We have so many other alternatives.

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

3

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

I understand that people and companies need time to find sturdy alternatives, however the sooner they go, the better.

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

Absolutely! Even the tiniest bit of help for our environment is worth it.

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

People can take in anything they have at home to pack their groceries in. Storage bins, washing baskets, they can made their own bags out of old t-shirts, or just buy bags made of material. Basically no resources available are 100% ideal, but it's much better than soft plastic

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

If people are seeing it as a national/international issue they may be likely to change. However, at the moment people are seeing it as only Countdown (and a few other places) doing it. People appear to need the Government/trusted company to tell them that it's an issue or they won't listen.

Clause

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

Notes

My family is absolutely fine without them, however I do know some people are struggling with the fact that they have to find alternatives for bin liners and doggy doo bags. Most of the alternatives you can buy are actually just made of plastic. Perhaps more corn starch bags for these purposes would be good, otherwise a national scheme to advertise alternatives to every day uses for plastic bags would be helpful.

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, but displaying that data in supermarkets and places people go every day would hopefully create awareness.

Clause

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

Notes

This is such a big step for NZ. When all is considered, the people complaining have no real reasons - apart from selfish ones. They don't want to change their lives because it is convenient to have plastic bags. People also think that because so much food is wrapped in plastic, it's not worth getting rid of plastic bags. I work in a supermarket and I see how many plastic bags were being thrown away for having holes, and people just being lazy. There was SO much waste. What people need to understand is the idea of progress. No, the plastic on food is not good, but now all those plastic bags are gone it is such a big step forward. Perhaps some statistics on how many bags were used a day in supermarkets could be collected and released? Then published and displayed in supermarkets.