

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

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Reference no: 6187

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

Because of their impact on the environment (both in terms of production which produces carbon emissions, and their disposal which pollutes our waterways, land and is destructive to ecology) which ultimately impacts human health and wellbeing.

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

Because the environmental impacts (and therefore future human wellbeing impacts) are too great. It needs to be blanket ban to send a clear consistent message.

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

n/a

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

Should be shorter. This is an urgent problem that cannot wait.

Clause

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

Position

two months

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

The long-term cost to the environment (and therefore humans eventually, since we are part of the wider ecosystem and rely on it for life) of not implementing this ban exceeds any short-term cost in implementing the ban. We owe it to future generations to bear this short-term cost.

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

Cotton bags, reusable supermarket bags, kete, cardboard boxes, reusable plastic containers, reusable glass jars/containers, trundlers, backpacks, arms and hands!

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**Clause**

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

Notes

We've already adjusted. All that is required is a mind set change and a sense of commitment to something more important than the convenience of a plastic bag on hand at every turn. It might be trickier to change the mind set of those who don't understand the impacts and downstream implications of ongoing unrestrained use of single use plastic bags, or who are just struggling to survive in their day to day lives and therefore don't have the capacity to think about the bigger picture and future. But it can be done, in the same way we are working to eliminate smoking, drink driving and speeding.

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

Legislation, with enforced penalties