

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

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Reference no: 6210

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 have made the decision we need to reduce plastic waste because plastic does not break down in landfills, it gets into the oceans and waterways and recycling, while beneficial, is not a total solution. As a society we need to stop producing plastic products and make more sustainable choices. Phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags is a very good first step in this direction.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

I would like to stop the use of all single-use plastic shopping bags.

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

All consumers need to take responsibility for transporting the goods they buy in a sustainable manner. If retailers do not provide single-use plastic bags, we will all quickly come up with easy alternatives.

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

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**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

Many communities are now making free or cheap cloth shopping bags and produce bags. Groups who are passionate about this will increase as the community mind-set starts to change. Government support for this initiatives would increase their effectiveness.

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 have already stopped using them. For many years I have brought my own large bag for grovery shopping at Pak N Sav and this year I have also started using cloth produce bags given away free in Whanganui during plastic free July. I now have a good stock of shopping bags and produce bags which live in the boot of my car. I have a light cloth bag which folds up very small that lives always in my handbag, so I use that when shopping at stores other than the supermarket.

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

Manufacturers and importers could be required to register the amount of all single-use items they produce or import.

Clause

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

Notes

Thank you to our politicians for introducing this proposal. The time is right for New Zealand to make this change. It is just the start however, we need to make more use of the provisions already in place in the Waste Minimisation Act and we need to increase recycling so that NZ recycles all of our own plastic waste.