

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

Nina Atkinson

Reference no: 6217

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

Yes

Notes

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

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

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

I'm sure we can rise to the challenge of finding functional and eco-friendly alternatives. A short and definite timeline should help people plan for this. Single-use plastic is causing such massive environmental problems, I very much believe in the benefits of regulating 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

Single-use plastic only became widespread in the 1960s. We don't have to look far to see how things have been done before. Reusable bags, paper bags, DIY material bags, boxes. I think the shift in mindset is the bigger challenge but I am stoked we are taking it on!

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

A sticker you pick up from the supermarket that goes on your front door - don't forget reusable bags!

Clause

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

Notes

Affordable washable reusable bin liners.

Clause

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

Notes

I support ongoing efforts to reduce the amount of single-use plastic being produced and used in New Zealand. I would love to see more regulation like this focused on the companies providing plastic items rather than the burden being on the consumer to find alternatives. This seems especially crucial at this time not only given our global pollution problem, but New Zealand's specific recycling issues. Ngā mihi, Nina