

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

Chris Bindon, **Chris Bindon**

Reference no: 6226

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

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

Phase out all single use bags, regardless of how many microns any of them are!

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

No, apply equally. Why should these outlets be any different? Going back a decade or 3, none, small or large had any plastic bags and everything was fine. We've just become too accustomed and far too lazy!

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

I don't agree that they should be and regardless, I see no significance as to how many employees someone has.

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

Yes but that's plenty and there needs to be alternative solutions and bags being plugged along and everywhere through this change over phase.

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

Not sure

Notes

Not sure but if paper bags for instance are a little more and it's passed on to us, the customers, then so be 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

Yes, I use a couple of alternatives but there needs to be much more and every opportunity that's commercially available, should actually be available, not just what can be offered over seas!

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

Using every means as possible and making a cost mandatory for the issuing of any plastic bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Lots and every alternative being available at the start of the phase out, not the end and including any options as offered over seas too.

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

Who knows, large scale Govt and local Govt supported schemes, advertising campaigns etc

Clause

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

Notes

Include an "environment" tax per bag to customers on any plastic bag still sold after the phase in is completed. Government to get in behind and actually be proactive in thinking well outside the box and ensuring that there are lots of other alternatives available from the start and that these are widely available, subsidised initially at least if helpful and or do anything to best support this transfer to be as smooth as possible.