

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

Reference no: 6235

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

They're bad for the environment, they're unnecessary: modern society functioned for decades without them until they became ubiquitous in the 80s

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

Just because they are a small retailer doesn't mean that the bags are magically any better for the environment or less wasteful, additionally if they are banned then people will get into the habit of bringing their own reusable bags to all shops, including small retailers.

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

NA.

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

There would probably be an outcry about how the end of the world is neigh if they are banned, this gives people sufficient time to a) get used to the idea, and b) slowly transition.

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

alternatives such as reusable bags or paper bags are still cheap, as well as being re-usable. Currently the cost is to the environment rather than financial, however since these bags will take anywhere from 20 years to hundreds it's pretty rude for us to be passing this cost (whatever it may be long term) onto future generations.

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

I haven't used single use plastic bags for 2 years or so and I manage fine, even though I initially often forgot to bring reusable ones. there are cardboard boxes, shopping trolleys, and many other ways of transporting goods the few dozen meters from the store to the bus/vehicle/bike

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

They're convenient, I don't think much encouragement will be needed if/once single use ones aren't available.

Clause

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

Notes

We have, it hasn't been hard.

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 don't know.

Clause

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

Notes

Everyone managed to survive without them before they were invented, I'm sure we can survive again if they are phased out.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.