

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

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Reference no: 627

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

No

Notes

Individual, retailers, manufacturer, etc. should be responsible on how plastic bags should be use. Ban on only single-use plastic bags would not be sufficient; people will just use another form of plastic to dispose waste. If retailers and manufacturer only use non-plastic packaging, bags, etc., consumers will have no choice but to adapt.

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

Higher chances for people to reuse stronger plastic bags

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

Any plastic bags used for medical and hygiene purposes should not be ban till proper and feasible solution exists

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

Expect government to provide proper scheme, assistance, initial compensation, etc. to assist smaller 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

less than 4

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

a phase-out period between 6 months to 1 year should be feasible

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

Expect cost to be high initially but should be lower in the long run. Environment may not improve if people continue to use plastic bags irresponsibly and no facilities to recycle, destroy and/or dispose plastic bags and other waste.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

The use of reusable grocery bags is common in NZ but can't find example for bags use or ways to dispose food and other waste, especially for apartment living.

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

Various practices and processes that will work for small to large household and property size. E.g if building is not designed to allow ease of food composing, people will not do it

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Provide some small incentive to encourage people to returning shopping bags, cups, containers, etc. back to retailer or common collection points that are convenient. Fine people, retailers, manufacturer, etc. with improper dispose of waste, especially plastic waste

Clause

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

Notes

Ease of food composing, food disposal, recyclable items disposal, etc. within an apartment building

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

Orders of plastic bags to be made through a single shopping app, distribute plastic bags from a single point, common collection points, etc.

Clause

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

Notes

No or limit detail on other parts of recycle, reuse, etc. cycle/circular process. No detail around how retailers, manufacturer, household (apartments, land properties, etc.), etc. should dispose all type of waste without the use of plastic bags. No detail around proper recycling, destroy and disposal of plastic bags and other plastic waste in NZ. No or limit details on how to support everyone to cope with the ban. No or limit details on medium to long term plan.