

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

Reference no: 631

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

Only bags that are compostable in a home compost should be allowed. Anything going to the landfill that could potentially escape to the ocean should not be made out of plastic.

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

All bags should be banned, no matter their thickness. However, the thinner the bag, the less likely it will be used more than once.

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

Because this is a global problem and we should all embrace the change. Also, there are alternatives.

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

1

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

Not sure

Notes

I think they could do it faster. Countdown decided to stop giving plastic bags and implemented the change swiftly. I dont see why smaller retailers and other outfits couldn't follow suit.

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

Absolutely. We can all benefit from a more conscious society. I see this as the first step in the right direction and as the beginning of change for a circular economy.

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 they are. I have not used bags in years and even when I haven't had my reusable bags with me, shops have been able to provide boxes.

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

What helped me was having bags small enough to fit in my purse. Having lots of bags helps too. I always have them with me and I have them stored everywhere (car, bike, purse, etc) so that I am never without them.

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

Working with the retail industry and perhaps universities.

Clause

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

Notes

I see this as the first step but it's a long way from eliminating single use plastic bags. Although I don't use plastic shopping bags, I still get home with too much single use plastics. I think the governments should work more closely with industries on alternatives to packaging. Traid Aid uses home compostable wrapping. It would be great to see more products using alternatives to plastics such as the one that Traid Aid uses.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.