

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

Sustainable Taranaki

Reference no: 6315

Submitter Type: NGO

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

This is a clear step towards sustainable practice for Aotearoa New Zealand, that has the potential to engage and educate all New Zealanders, leading to further uptake of environmentally preferable behaviours. It's critical for oxo-degradable and biodegradable bags to be included, given their negative impacts on the environment when littered. Compostable bags also pose limited environmental benefit currently (other than the source materials not being petroleum-based) without commercial composting facilities available. We would like a ban on compostable bags revisited in the coming years, as kerbside pick up of organic waste increases, and businesses connect with commercial compost facilities. New Plymouth, for example, will have kerbside organic waste collection within the next 2-3 years.

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

No

Notes

We would

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

We also support the phasing out of single use plastic produce bags and plastic bags in delis and bakeries, to support behaviour change throughout the shopping experience. We would also like to see thicker 'durable' plastic bags (such as those currently sold by Countdown) removed, with supermarkets offering stronger reusable bags that are less prone to single use.

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**Clause**

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

Notes

A wider range of options need to be introduced outside of plastic and plastic-lined supermarket options, including bags with no plastic lining.

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