

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

Again Again Limited

Reference no: 653

Submitter Type: Business / Industry

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

I agree that all light weight single use plastic bags should be phased out. In fact all plastic bags in which there is no value achieved by the plastic component. That is to say, if the bag is used solely for carrying, and not for the preservation of food or a need for waterproofness, they should all be banned.

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

Both are detrimental to the environment. I would like to see it go further, but appreciate this ban is a first step.

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

Nothing should be exempt if it falls into the category of single use and being used without value for food preservation/waterproofness,

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

There is still no value. By allowing some to stay it will not encourage real behaviour change of citizens.

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

None should be exempt

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

The sooner the better. A time lag is only to allow people to find alternate solutions and they will do that in the last month no matter how long the lag.

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

The environmental need to phase our single use plastic outweighs the cost. A more comprehensive ban on the bags levels the playing field such that the costs will be borne by consumers and not create unfair advantage to some businesses.

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

There are plenty of alternatives. Businesses will be resourceful and no people will suffer.

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

It being normalised. If everyone is doing it there will be no problem.

Clause

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

Notes

I applaud this as a first step. There are many more to take. Keep pushing!