

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

Bruce Church, **Bruce Church**

Reference no: 656

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?

Notes

Single-use plastic bags is a bit of a misnomer. Whilst I reduce the number of bags I require (by using my own) I do re-use those I get as rubbish bin liners. I support the ban of those bags that are not degradable or compostable; but consider that degradable/compostable bags could continue to be used

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?

Notes

If degradable bags are able to be reused, they need to be strong enough to suit that purpose

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Notes

degradable bags should be able to be reused, and they need to be strong enough to suit that purpose

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

One rule for all

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

N/a

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

The sooner the better

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

No

Notes

The savings are environmental on a worldwide scale; the costs are personal to the consumer

Clause

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

Position

Not sure

Notes

Fruit and vegetables will be hard to shop for without

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

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

Notes

Why limit this to shopping bags? What about all the magazines / promotional material that is mailed out in plastic bags? Why shouldn't paper envelopes be used instead? It's probably not part of this discussion, but it needs to be!!