

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

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Reference no: 674

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

Single use plastic bags are used excessively by NZ retailers and the amount of damage they cause far outweighs the benefits.

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

If people are expected to provide or pay for their own bags in retail environments that use thinner single-use bags (eg.supermarkets) then they can adapt this to suit others which traditionally use thicker bags (eg. clothing retailers).

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

Once people adapt to the idea of bringing their own bags or purchasing paper bags in other stores, they will cope with remembering them when visiting smaller retailers. Furthermore, many of the plastic bags currently supplied by small retailers are utterly unnecessary or barely fit for purpose.

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?

Position

Yes

Notes

There are many shops and community groups already offering reusable bag options. Many New Zealanders do their shopping with a vehicle so, in a worst case situation, goods could be transferred directly from a trolley to the vehicle.

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**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

More information pushed out the the public about how much plastic packaging is not actually recyclable.