

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

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Reference no: 693

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

Plastic has been identified as a hazard to many aspects of our health and our environment. We need to make a start to try to get rid of it - not by putting it in landfill and not by sending to the recyclers as both these options are failing.

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

Need to try to target all single use plastic shopping bags. Need also a discussion around other single use plastics around products packed for retail

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

The plastic bags are a problem no matter where they originate from

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

see above

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

We must start calculating the whole of life cost to single use materials. When whole of life costs are included, its clear that the phase out is essential, economically and environmentally.

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

Plastic bags are a convenience that we can no longer afford. Groceries and other purchases can easily be carried by other means.

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

Supermarkets are doing a good job with this currently. On the other hand, bags made specifically for putting the groceries in are not so necessary. Boomerang bags and other community driven schemes are a good option.

Clause

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

Notes

We don't need help thanks

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

I guess getting data from manufacturers and marketers of single use plastics would help. Maybe there needs to be discussions with them. Packaging industry need to be on board here. I see WasteMNZ are pro their removal and implementation of product stewardship schemes for single use plastics. This is a good start.

Clause

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

Notes

Just do it.