

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

Jane Banfield, **Jane Banfield**

Reference no: 707

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

Its urgent as a first step in showing NZ citizens that change to a waste-free society is a necessity for the sake of the natural world of which we are a part.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

ALL plastic bags, whatever thickness. We do not need plastic shopping bags of any kind.

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

It is vital to include all single use plastic bags used in shopping including those for vegetables and fruit and for wrapping delicatessen items.

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

It is vital there are no loopholes. Otherwise imports/manufacturing is still allowed which opens the door to black market sales, loopholes of other kinds.

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

No

Notes

3 months maximum

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

3 months

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

Benefits to society and to our natural world cannot and should not be monetised.

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

Kete and paper bags are both good alternatives and can be composted (time to support local government in localising composting - the best way to counter carbon emissions too).

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

1. All school children and retirement villages to be sponsored using Waste Minimisation Funding to take part in a programme to make and gift to neighbours kete, cloth bags, string vege bags, t-shirt bags. 2. Similarly fund the Para Kore organisation to provide national education - their alternative approach targets the hearts of citizens in understanding other living species as our kin (kaitiakitanga) - Kiwi citizens need to regain their heartfelt connection to the environment - Para Kore provides the local Kiwi way for this to happen.

Clause

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

Notes

I have lived zero waste for last 2 years - this means no plastic bags of anykind...

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

Use waste levy funding to empower schools or other community organisations to undertake the monitoring and evaluation - remove M & E from those who profit from the waste such as retailers, Packaging Council, Waste Management Ltd.

Clause

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

Notes

this needs to be linked with concurrent deposit refunds on bottles and cans.

Supporting documents from your Submission

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