

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

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Reference no: 73

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

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

Phase out should include ALL plastic bags. When in India plastic bags of less than 50 microns were phased out, new plastic bags of above 50 mic appeared in shops just the day after the old ones disappeared. It did nothing to alleviate the rubbish problem.

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

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

Should be shorter. People will learn quickly to take a reusable bag along if they stand in a shop with no option to carry their items.

Clause

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

Position

two months

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

Costs or not, we have no option. Plastic is killing us in the long run. The sooner we stop producing and using it, the better.

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

I use a cardboard box for my grocery shopping for many years - it's very practical, convenient, easier to pack and easier to carry. There are no limitations with good and sustainable alternatives to plastic. Humanity survived well before we needed plastic for everything.

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

A multitude of approaches might work best. We could have school competitions to design shopping carriers that fold into the car boot. There are many options for solving the shopping issue, if we only start thinking about alternatives. In order to do so, plastic bags need to vanish from outlets.

Clause

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

Notes

I am living this life since over 30 years without any trouble or limitations.

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

Install plastic collection points around shopping areas and residential areas - waste collectors will get a good measure of how much plastic is (still) used. Monitor retailers.

Clause

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

Notes

It's a no-brainer. Single-use - and also multi-use - plastic bags are not necessary. It's a matter of just adjusting a habit. Not difficult to do. Simple stop the use of plastic bags. Today. Nothing bad will happen. We must change our attitude to consumption if we want to survive.