

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

Nat Christensen

Reference no: 76

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

Would not want retailers to transition to thicker single-use plastic bags instead of replacing them with re-usable packaging.

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

An exemption for small retailers would undermine the perception of the ban (even if it removed a large % of the bags from the market).

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

Re-usable shopping bags are easily accessible and convenient. Many retailers offer these at low prices, and they can be purchased from one retailer and used again at any other (eg take your Countdown bags to the Warehouse or to the local produce market). There also exist good alternatives to using a shopping bag as a rubbish bin liner - these will become more accessible, and we should encourage the development and sale of fully biodegradable bin liners.

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

Incentive schemes would be good as well, can these costs be offset for retailers?

Clause

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

Notes

More easily available fully biodegradable bin liners.