

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

Reference no: 77

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 harm the environment and by reading you report even the supposed biodegradable ones.

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

70 microns and over weight is preferable. Even the thicker bags can only be used so many times and due to being plastic the mentality will still sit with the consumer that it is ok to throw away. A bag which is cotton, jute, hessian seems to have a better mentality over re-using. Plus it can be fixed easily as it is fabric.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

The small plastic bags used for fruit and veg. Provide brown paper bags instead.

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

Yes

Notes

They are just as responsible as the big companies. It is single use, it is waste.

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

Not sure

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

Plenty of places sell them from \$1 upwards. There is also the boomerang bags initiative.

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

I feel also retailers should be responsible too.

Clause

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

Notes

N/A we already do.

Clause

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

Notes

I keep thinking though as much as there is a 6 month phase out, many big businesses will surely have a big stockpile of the bags in a warehouse. What happens to them? They have been paid for by the business, it is a loss a small one for sure. How will they be disposed of since they cannot be distributed to customers? Is there an initiative to recycle them responsibly? Would be good if the soft plastic recycling businesses get involved to help close the loop on surplus stock.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.