

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

Reference no: 779

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

Yes I agree to banning all single used plastic bags, but at the same time would like to encourage the government to experiment with biodegradable/compostable plastic packaging so that we can get rid of more plastic containers in our stores. Even if all single used plastic bags were to disappear, there is still a large plastic packaging in our supermarkets, which we need to review as well. Maybe one way to do that, would be to start manufacturing compostable alternatives.

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

I don't understand what thickness of plastic has to do with the fact that these bags are polluting our environment and killing our wildlife. What difference does it make if its 50 or 70 microns thick....ban the plastic bags!

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

I have heard about plastic bags being made out of hemp...as long as the environment doesn't suffer while making this product, and providing the bags are guaranteed to decompost even when they land in the ocean, they might be worth a though to produce as rubbish bags for local households...that way whatever gets send to the landfills can decompost at the same time as the plastic bag that is surrounding them.

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

Plastic bag is plastic bag...no matter who sells them or how big the establishment is. Everyone needs to work together to look after our environment and wildlife. If I can make a difference as an individual by refusing to use plastic bags, just think of how big a difference small companies can make when they help to ban this product!

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

Everyone needs to ban plastic bags. No exception!

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

Yes, it gives everyone an adjustment period and gives establishments time to get their acts together with finding alternative solutions to the plastic bags and hopefully all of their plastic packaging as well.

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

Let me put it this way: if we continue to pollute our environment and kill off our wildlife, the cost of plastic bags means the end of our lives. There will be nothing for us to eat. There will be no safe place to live. Why the heck would we want to pass that legacy on to the next generation??? My grandmother's generation didn't live with all this plastic....my mother grew up without plastic bags...yet my generation wants to leave a legacy that can potentially wipe out human lives. Ban the plastic bags!! Ban plastic packaging! Allow BYO containers/ linen bags to be used in supermarkets. Ban plastic toothbrushes...bring back bamboo toothbrushes....let's leave a legacy that we can be proud of!

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

Yes, but there's not enough alternatives available. It's great that we've started with cotton bags/jute bags, but they need to be represented in more stores. We need the option to put our shopping in paper bags, we need the option of reduced packaging in our shopping..banning plastic bags is a great start, but we need to do more - other countries are miles ahead with preserving their environment and yet we, with our green, clean environment image, are only starting this discussion now.

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

Charge money for these bags...if they're expensive enough, then people will want to save money and re-use them...alternative, lower your cost of jute bags/cotton bags so that people will start to invest in these alternative products....maybe start with a promotion for free jute bags or the chance to win when using these products.

Clause

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

Notes

My family has stopped using single-use plastic bags over ten years ago! Ban single-used plastic bags and reduce plastic packaging in all supermarkets and smaller stores. I've survived living without single-use plastic bags and others will too.

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

Start a conversation with manufacturers....monitor their plastic use and re-enforce alternative products like reducing packaging, introducing hemp/plant materials to manufacture their packaging or better yet, allow BYO containers in supermarkets and produce shops. Or perhaps do what other countries do - Germany for instance has a lending system for how they recycle bottles: buy a case of juice and when you return the case with bottles, you get a refund back. If you use some incentive with re-using the same products again, we can decrease the production of new containers/bottles.

Clause

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

bags.

Notes

We need to ban single-used plastic bags. But that's only the start....we need to look at the bigger picture and look at the legacy we're leaving behind for our children....it's a good start and one that I believe is long overdue!

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