

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

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Reference no: 782

Submitter Type:

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

Strongly agree

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

If it's single use then it should be banned, thickness is irrelevant when i have to pick it up on our coastlines.

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

None

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

NZ is a nation of small businesses often in small beach towns. Pollution should be prevented in our coastal regions. Subsidise paper bags if a necessity.

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

Should a family run dairy be excused from their responsibilities to the environment, No. Small business should be the easiest to promote change.

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

People should have an adaptation period and a well publicised end date so that they can adapt their habits. In the mean time, \$0.50 a

bag should be charged and donated to coastal environmental charities who are dealing with the inundation of plastic pollution.

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

Absolutely, why should I have to spend regular weekends voluntarily cleaning up plastic pollution from our coastlines, just because it's convenient for the lazy to choose a single use option. The local boards pay no interest in plastic pollution once it's in the environment.

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

Make it the norm. Most people plan to go shopping. Most people drive to the supermarket. Bags in the car, easy. Living in 2 cities without a car, I had to adapt taking a rucksack and strong bags for the bus. Shock tactics of pictures of rubbish found in local waterways or NZ's 'pristine' beaches might change behaviour.

Clause

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

Notes

Not having the option to take one, shopping attendants not default filling plastic bags for you.

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

Vendors/manufacturers of plastics should have to sponsor drain capture devices, particularly in large urban areas that have marine ecosystems. For example, large fast food chains should have to sponsor investigation into how many plastic items are captured in drain systems in a radius from their business and then witness how much of their product would end up in the ocean.

Clause

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

Notes

Well overdue and an excellent display of leadership on a major global issue. Next stop - plastic produce bags!