

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

Clare Backes

Reference no: 824

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

Plastic is a problem, we should be using alternatives.

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

They can always supply paper bags at a cost, or use a local reusable, borrow a bag scheme

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

Shouldn't be exempted

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

Government has already announced it intends to do this, so businesses need to start planning now. New World and Countdown have already announced that they will not be using single use plastic bags in the future.

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

Long term environmental pollution by plastics is not good for us or the planet. We have to change our habits

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 - use a backpack or a shopping bag not made from plastic

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**Clause**

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

Notes

Do not use them for getting shopping, but trying to reduce the amount of plastic packaging I buy at the supermarket is very difficult. I think more emphasis should be placed on the producer to reduce the amount of packaging and recycle it

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

If shops no longer supply plastic shopping bags then they will not enter the market. This should be reflected in the proposed Sustainable Coastlines project.

Clause

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

Notes

It should be extended to phase out other types of plastic packaging. I think this needs to be done in consultation with supermarkets to come up with better ways of packaging, or not packaging our food.