

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

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Reference no: 833

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

There is too much plastic in our world, in our environment and it has become a part of our normal everyday lives. Strong action is required by all countries to phase it out. We are going to kill wildlife and ourselves. We must make a change. While there are a lot of people who feel strongly about it. Too many people, companies and organisations are too complacent. It is going to take strong action from the government to show leadership and help drive this change. I'd also like to see the phase out of other single use plastic bags - it is so pervasive in our lives and it's almost impossible to avoid them without our government - you - stepping in.

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

Please phase out all plastic shopping bags regardless of thickness. There are other materials which can be used for reusable shopping bags. There is no need to have plastic shopping bags in any thickness.

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

Please make this single use bags used for fruit and veg too!

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

Absolutely not. This needs to be a blanket ban. We must take strong action to address this issue.

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

I do not agree with this. The number of employees should be zero.

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

ideally as short as possible, but six months seems realistic

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

Purely based on the environmental, waste and health benefits for both humans and all other living beings on this planet - it is definitely worth doing.

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 absolutely. Cotton, jute, flax, reusing existing cardboard boxes. There is no need for people to have plastic bags. It is simply a habit change - people need to get used to carrying a bag with them.

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

Make the single use bags illegal. If they're not available Do a national campaign - hard hitting, that shows people how damaging plastic bags are. Do a national campaign that gets New Zealanders to take pride in the fact we are going plastic free. Get TV programmes, movies, etc to include examples of people with good habits - characters using cotton shopping bags, drinking from reusable glass cups (instead of disposable cups), not drinking from plastic straws, and drinking from reusable stainless steel water bottles.

Clause

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

Notes

On the whole we already don't use them. But they simply need to be banned. Maybe introduce libraries of cotton bags that people can borrow from when they don't have a bag.

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

I don't know how this is currently collected so can't comment on how to improve it.