

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

Reference no: 85

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

But please don't stop there. Plastic bread bags must be in the firing line as well - this is a major part of the plastic waste that we take to the supermarket to deposit.

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 50 microns in thickness

Notes

Surely it's the lightest ones that are the biggest problem? The slightly heavier ones are reusable and with the thin ones gone, will be very useful for nappy bucket liners, dog poo bags and so on.

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

Absolutely not, why should they - fruit and vege shops are some of the worst offenders. Small bags to put your veges in and then a bigger back to put the bags into at the checkout.

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

Agree - you need to give retailers (particularly small retailers) time to come up with some options.

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 - great to see government taking a lead on this, where the market cannot.

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

Of course there is - paper bags and boxes are far easier to recycle. For the supermarket, we have years of experience with people bringing their own reusable bags.

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

By charging for them. If you forget your bags, you have to buy new ones. That should focus the mind on remembering them. It won't take long for people to get into the habit.

Clause

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

Notes

Ensuring that the places we shop have alternatives - paper, boxes. People just will - it's not the end of the world is 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

Don't know.

Clause

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

Notes

Great initiative, just get on with it. Don't stop there though - next job must be some form of tax on remaining plastic packaging and then dealing with the fast food industry.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.