

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

OpenMedia Limited

Reference no: 853

Submitter Type: Business / Industry

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

The main issue is the potential of them getting into the waterways and open sea. Second to that is the fact that they inhibit any possibility of the material inside breaking down.

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?

Notes

Is there really that much of a difference in the damage that they can cause?

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

We shouldn't be using any.

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

Small retailers will likely have smaller quantities of product sold in any transaction and shouldn't need single use plastic bags.

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

See answer to Q5

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

No

Notes

It should be shorter. The larger supermarkets are already voluntarily reducing the use of these bags so it could happen quite quickly now.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes**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**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

Suppliers are already making better, longer-use bags from stronger plastic and other materials. Craftspeople are upcycling used fabrics into shopping bags and Boomerang Bags are becoming available in many areas. We need to continue down this path.

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

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

I'm not entirely certain what a phone app would do, but the supermarkets are already putting up signs in car parks "do you have your reuseable shopping bags?" etc

Clause

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

Notes

we already are

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 think that gathering data on single-use plastic is a little like shutting the fence after the horse has bolted. Let's concentrate on alternatives in our supermarkets, our industry and our homes instead. If you could impose regulations on plastic manufacturers that ensure they all use the same, recycled materials in their products then further recycling would be much easier. If you could encourage all companies to use an alternative to plastic for packaging in the first place then that would immediately slow the plastic tide.

Clause

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

Notes

Do it immediately. Do it nationwide. Do it bigger - you need to be looking at the other single-use plastic items as well