

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

Reference no: 866

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

They represent a wasteful and inefficient part of the economy and consumer culture. In all aspects of the economy we require a transition towards a smarter, more sustainable, greener future and consumer culture.

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

The more plastic bags phased out the better.

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

The transition in the culture and the economy needs to be ubiquitous.

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

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

Not everything is a commodity. The value of the environment needs to be protected, precisely because it is not a commodity and thus isn't protected by the market. New Zealand needs to be honest with our clean green image and we need to take action to maintain it. There is essential value in the environment, but there will also be monetary benefits from a protected environment - eg

tourism.

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

Countdown sells, \$1 reusable bags. It is important to give this time to seep into the culture. Single-use plastic bags are convenient, but after a while, when the whole culture of New Zealand shifts towards reusable bags, hopefully the desire for single-use bags in general will drop off completely, and New Zealand will efficiently use 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

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

Targeting the individuals, and giving it time will be most effective.

Clause

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

Notes

cutting them off completely, if they are completely removed you are forced to adapt and remember to bring your reusable bags.

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

Unsure.

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.