

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

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Reference no: 875

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

Yes, I agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of plastic shopping bags including those made of degradable plastic because these bags are very damaging to fish and other sea life which supply much protein to the world's peoples.

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

Yes, I agree with the mandatory phase out of single use plastic shopping bags under 70 microns in thickness because the thicker they are, the longer they take to decompose if they ever do.

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

There are some plastic bags that look like fibre but they will never decompose nonetheless.

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

I have nothing to do with their distribution

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 public can get cloth shopping bags easily in my town. There is no excuse for not using them.

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

Smaller retailers should not be exempt. We went for decades without using single use plastic bags and we can do it again.

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

Should be sooner.

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

The damage to fish which means we will be eating minute plastic if we eat fish is so greater that this justifies the cost.

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

Whanganui supermarkets like Count Down are already making the transition by supplying non plastic bags for customers that forgot to get a cloth bag.

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

Whanganui has just had a month of lectures, workshops and press coverage on a plastic free July and now the public is moving to get their own cloth bags.

Clause

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

Notes

Having cloth bags easily available.

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

Not sure. Would the government Environment Department have a budget for compiling such statistics.

Clause

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

Notes

I strongly support the government's decision to consider this phase out.