

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

Reference no: 88

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

No

Notes

The fact the bags are seen as single use is odd to me, as all the shopping bags we obtain are used as rubbish bags & are very fit for this purpose. If these bags get phased out there will be a rubbish bag maker rubbing there hands together thinking of profits as we will now need to buy something that we have never needed to before.

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

Although I do not agree with there been no plastic bags available from Supermarkets, the empty bags you see in water will obviously hang easier mimicking jellyfish more so than heavy bags so would think the lighter bag is more of concern. You see pictures of bags like this in the ocean, and this seems the only thing that has prompted all of this plastic bag issue. I can't believe there are that many out in the ocean, and actually get used and then disposed of in land fills and are no worse than some of the non recyclable packaging that is out there now. I think making a soft plastics recyclable area at convenience stores a good thing to introduce.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Not sure

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

Not sure

Notes

It is sometimes hard not to have a bag if you have many small items or want to actually protect something just purchased. You would not always have a bag available with you either.

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

Maybe around 6 to 12 people

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?

Notes

It should give enough time for discussion (that's if peoples views are actually listened to, and that the decision isn't actually already set to go ahead anyway), and then time to come up with alternatives and for people to figure out what they are actually going to do to carry their purchased items.

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

No

Notes

No, as there is then going to be another cost come about buying bags for shopping & using for rubbish bags and many other uses that they have (e.g. put wet sports shoes in, carry library books, put togs and towels & snacks in when going to the beach etc.).

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

No. The bags the supermarkets put out now are not very compactable, and I'd have to be walking in with more than a dozen a time to do my weekly shopping. I think that they'd fit in less than the normal plastic bags used now, so think I'd be lugging in something like 15 of them.

Clause

9a. If no, what do you think is missing currently that would need to be available?

Notes

There is no news that I've heard of about paper bags, which I would have thought would be most environmentally friendly.

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

The bags that are getting used now could be used multiple times! Maybe make them a bit heavier in weight & maybe someone can come up with a design that the bag could break down in such a way to lose its bag shape...

Clause

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

Notes

Not much. It works very well as it is. I trust that there will still be an option to by the plastic bags if desired, and if you forget your bags etc.

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

Sorry, not sure.

Clause

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

Notes

Through the earlier questions here, you will see that I'm not a fan of the change away from the shopping bags that are supplied presently. I spend something like \$250 to \$300 in a weekly shop, & what bag I have is not something I want to fuss about when spending so much money at that point in time. Carrying in an arm full of recyclable bags is not what I want to have to prepare myself for every time I wish to venture to a supermarket either. I don't see them as single use, and am annoyed that because of this I'll need to start buying rubbish bags and spending more money on top of many other increasing costs I have in running a family. There are a lot more goods out there that are very badly packaged, and would think focus could have been around those sorts of items than something that everyone is using all the time and is a huge convenience that is to be taken away from us.

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