

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

Ceres, CBEC EcoSolutions (Ceres Sharp)

Reference no: 880

Submitter Type: Other

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

single use plastic bags - whether they are plant based or not are still a waste of natural resources. It is far preferable to reuse a shopping bag multiple times rather than filling landfills and wasting resources. Compostable single use plastic bags contribute to methane production in a land fill situation. Disposable and single use items do not by their very nature nurture behavior change towards a circular economy society nor do they benefit the environment in any way.

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

Other (please specify)

Notes

a complete ban on single use plastic bags should mean a complete and total ban. Single use plastic is still single use plastic - no matter the thickness. It will still litter the land and pollute the waterways for years and years, while contributing to a throwaway society.

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

any form of exemption should come with a realistic cost which includes disposal and mitigation

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

there should be no exemptions - single use plastic bags are a relatively new phenomenon - society coped well before they were invented and will carry on once they are no longer used

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

A phase out period is a fairer way to introduce behavior change.

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 benefits of getting rid of single use plastics far out way the short term inconvenience a limited number of people will feel. The long term costs of cleaning up years and years of plastic waste not to mention the negative health consequences to the environment and society are monumental. Society is better off without them.

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

Absolutely Bags made of recycled paper can be used and then safely composted through a home composting system. Alternatively carrier bags made of cotton, Flax, leather, or any other material that has long lasting and strong attributes that can then be easily composted and returned to nature are a better option.

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

firstly - humanity is an adaptable species - removing single use plastic bags is not a matter of life or death. Rather it is a case of common sense and necessity. You only have to have the hassle of forgetting your own bag once or twice and it wont happen again. There are a number of ways to motivate people into using a reusable bag - education is key as well as making sure there are negative consequences to forgetting to bring your own bag - such as a high fee for purchasing a bag or having to go without a bag and put all your shopping straight from the trolley into your car instead. Single use shopping bags should not be an entitlement. Normalising the use of reusable bags is key to ensuring long term behavior change. The more people that use reusable bags will ensure that a negative stigma becomes attached to those that those that still use single use bags

Clause

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

Notes

We have adjusted - it took about 2 months and it is so nice not to have a cupboard full of useless plastic bags. It has become normal

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

1. Place a safe waste disposable tax on all plastic - this way consumers are paying for the real price of plastic. 2.Ensure that purchase and sales data for plastic is available and track the reductions over time. 3. analyse data from community clean up groups to measure improvements

Clause

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

Notes

Please ban all single use plastics and increase waste levys to bring them into line with international standards