

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

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Reference no: 889

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

Definitely! I've been using the reusable Countdown shopping bags for 10 years as well as reusable produce bags for the last year. In my handbag I always carry at least one bag from Envirosax (I bought these in Australia 10 years ago and they're still great!) and I use them when I do other shopping like clothes. Plastic bags are bad, full stop. If I've been able to stay away from them for the last 10 years, so can the rest of the country.

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

ALL single use plastic bags should be banned, doesn't matter what thickness. Don't let companies get away with getting thicker bags!!

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

Because every single person in this country can always have a reusable bag with them. Keep it in your handbag/backpack/car. It's just a matter of changing your mindset and always be prepared. If not, tough luck, carry it in your hand!

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

Not sure

Notes

The quicker the better.

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

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

Clause

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

Notes

Already doing it and have been for 10 years.

Clause

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

Notes

It needs to go further. The supermarkets are so bad. What about the fresh produce single use bags? They need to go. Lots of good alternatives are available. In the deli we should be able to bring our own containers and not have to pay for that additional weight (tare the scale). The companies making the food need to stop putting them in plastic packaging. MILK BOTTLES, my gosh...what happened to the milk man? Glass bottles that can be returned, sterilized and used again, how hard can it be?! More supermarkets should do what Bin Inn does. BYO container and refill. It's not just about the plastic, it's about the waste. People need to get educated. Start in the schools. The book "Zero waste home" by Bea Johnson could be added to the curriculum for the school kids and then there should be work shops and info evenings for us adults. Personally I think that what can't be recycled in NZ shouldn't be allowed in NZ, but that's a BIG ask. We have to be able to look after ourselves a bit more and not have to ship waste overseas. The green bin that they have in Christchurch should be available in the whole country! There should be proper composting facilities that can compost all those "compostable" plastic and cardboard items. The list goes on and on. I'm glad we finally got to this stage, it's a start! Thank you Jacinda and everyone else who made this happen!!