

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

Plastic Free Kaitiāia 2020 (Waikarere Gregory)

Reference no: 890

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

These are all damaging to our environment if they are sent to landfill or are littered

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 thicknesses should be banned. In finding a solution or solutions, we need to be looking at reusable bags that reduce waste in other areas, ie made using materials destined for landfill, curtain samples for example. Or are home compostable or have a reuse purpose, say could be used safely as weedmat or mulch with no toxic residue.

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

All retailers should be on board for the benefit of our environment and our tamariki mokopuna. This is really not a difficult thing to do, let's get our no 8 wire thinking caps on, maybe a creative competition?!

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

Should not be exempted. Don't understand why they should, cost I believe doesn't need to factor in this, upcycled t-shirt bags made from op shop t-shirts destined for landfill = no cost. There is potential for local social enterprise initiatives, weaving kete....

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

At least 6 months but no longer than a year

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

How can we truly measure this? Or be comparative here? Any benefit outweighs the cost. The full effects of plastic on ourselves and the environment are not fully known yet, there are new revelations constantly, only the future will reveal more and then we may know what we have saved ourselves from. Or not as the case maybe

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

Because we are already using them

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

voluntary incentive schemes by individual retailers

Notes

And national info campaign. Keep reminding them with graphic imagery of why we are doing this. Have regular not for sale national bag days, if you don't come with a bag you can't buy one on these advertised days randomly selected. Be bound to start remembering then

Clause

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

Notes

We already have. But gentle reminders, posters depicting why we're doing what we're doing, adverts doing the same with quirky ways to remember our bags. It's about creating new habits. Incentives such as discounts or freebies for initial use

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

Aroha Mai, not sure

Clause

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

Notes

This could be perfect opportunity for local council's and stores like Farmers, Warehouse, Amcal chemists etc to support local Boomerang bag type initiatives of which there are many in various forms around the country, who are struggling to keep up with demand. Put the challenge out to NZers competitive nature.

Supporting documents from your Submission

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