

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

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Reference no: 914

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

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

Prefer to include more bags in the mandatory phase out to prevent people simply shifting to thicker plastic bags which will just end up in landfill or the environment.

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

If all retailers are included there will be no disadvantage to small retailers or large retailers. And it will quickly become the norm for no one to stock single use plastic bags.

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

It would be good to shorten the time frame, but so long as it is no longer than 6 months it should be okay.

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

Whatever the costs are in implementing the phase out it can't be more than the costs environmentally and health wise of the

continued discarding of plastic bags into landfill and the environment. While those costs are further downstream, someone still ends up paying them so we should act now to prevent further damage.

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

There are lots of different options for reusable bags, and lots of resources available online to show people how to access them/make their own.

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

Not sure what the mobile phone app would do, but national information campaign would be good

Clause

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

Notes

Options like Boomerang Bags where you can grab a bag if you've forgotten yours and then just bring it back.

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

Clause

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

Notes

I support the ban and hope it's just the first step to NZ making really dramatic change to how we view, use and dispose of single use plastics or all types.