

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

- (Tara Roberts)

Reference no: 948

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

All plastic is harmful to the environment. Plastic doesn't degrade, it just breaks up into smaller pieces which animals and fish mistake for food. Starting by banning single use plastic bags is a great way to start phasing out all plastic. However, people need to be educated on what alternatives to use, and that is not "scary" or an "inconvenience" to them.

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 phased out, no matter the thickness. As stated in the comment above, plastic is harmful to the environment, period. There are so many alternatives available, and people need to be educated on these alternatives, and have an open mind.

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

They can offer paper (compostable) bags as an alternative, or encourage people to bring their own material/jute/reusable bag along when they shop. They could also offer to sell material/reusable bags at cost price.

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

They should not be exempt at all.

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

Gives time for government to educate citizens on the alternatives

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

Yes. You can find reusable or material bags in most shops and markets. Waste-free stores (which are becoming more prevalent) are selling reusable fresh produce bags. and its very easy to make your own with an old t-shirt too!

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

Show people how to remind themselves to bring reusable bags wherever they go. For example, I always keep at least one Tote bag in my car, and the rest are always in my entrance hall ready to go on the next shop. I only have 3 large ones, and they are big enough for the amount of shopping I do. Ive had the same tote bags for almost 4 years now and they are still perfectly fine.

Clause

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

Notes

I already am trying to live a waste free lifestyle, so don't use mush plastic at all. A map of various cities showing where all the waste-free stores are would be good.

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

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Clause

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

Notes

In South Africa, one of the stores in the Lowveld had a campaign where customers could bring in 30 single use plastic bags and they would get one reusable fabric bag for free. They also had people in-store educating customers on the benefits of using resolvable bags, and the detriments of using single use plastic. The store then recycled the plastic bags and the people of the town were inspired to use only the reusable bags. They had this campaign for one a few weeks I believe, but it was inspiring. Just an idea to think over :)