

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

Waste Wizards

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Reference no: 949

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

Phasing out disposable behaviours is long overdue. Plastic's best attribute is also its most harmful, it lasts forever so let's use plastic for things we plan to utilise for a long time.

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

We need to strongly divest away from plastic because of the behaviours associated with it. Phasing out all bags less than 70 microns in thickness would be a good start.

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

There are numerous other examples of single use plastics that are as disposable as shopping bags. Bin liners and glad wrap are a classic example.

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

Innovations are here to replace glad wrap in the form of wax wraps. Reusable bin bags need to become the norm because enormous amounts of single use plastic is consumed each day as bin liners that go straight to the dump.

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

Yes

Notes

The industries will mobilise to create a solution that wins on many levels.

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

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

This gives sufficient time for the industry to co create the solution.

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

It is far more cost effective for consumers and businesses to learn reusable behaviours. Savings are made in avoiding disposable items and the logistics of landfilling them. Consumers can avoid consuming and disposing packaging every time they acquire food stuffs with reusable tools and containers.

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

Boomerang bags. Waste Wizards bins. Tons of fabric going to landfill that could be utilised as bags with repair cafes and other growing initiatives that will suffice as a necessity to the changing items and disposable nature of society.

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

A voluntary incentive scheme by individual retailers would also be helpful but they key to encouraging someone to reuse something is to relate it to something one is fond of or attached to. Say the logo for a brand or a community group or a sick graphic of piece of art on the side of ones reusable bag or container.

Clause

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

Notes

Incentives and rewards for reusable behaviour

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

The governmental boosting of a waste minimisation publication.

Clause

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

Notes

I designed Waste Wizard Bins because after four years working and volunteering at events in waste minz, i felt let down by the utilitarianism of wheelie bins, bin liners and signage. Waste Wizard Bins are transparant, washable, reusable and avoid the need for single use plastic bin liners. I aim to provide services to events in the BoP region this summer and save 1000 single use bin liners from being used. I will do this by counting how many reusable bags i fill.

Supporting documents from your Submission

LANDFILL CARBON &
COMPOST

