

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

Clare Scott, **Clare Scott**

Reference no: 951

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

Yes very much so. There is just no other way around it--we are destroying our environment and who better than NZ to lead the way to change. There are so many other options.....fabric bags, kete, boxes!

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

All plastic bags should be banned.

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

There are no plastic bags that should be exempt--for example Countdown's new "reuseable" thicker plastic bag. This is just slightly delaying it going to landfill.

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

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

No

Notes

We don't need that much time. At the end of the day, people still need to go shopping, and they will find a way. They WILL bring bags. Or use the boxes provided.

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

two months

Notes

This gives ample to to put up warning signs about the end of bags.

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

Of course. We have to take action, even if it means spending some money to do it.

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

See above options.

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

As well as national information campaigns. I think that people who say we cannot cope with banning bags are not giving other people enough credit. If you need to go shopping, you will find a way to bring your purchases home!

Clause

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

Notes

Subsidized cloth bags for sale perhaps?

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

Make the campaign sexy. Make it cool to not use plastic. It has be the 'in' thing to do. I think it already going that way, at least in Nelson.

Clause

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

Notes

Please phase out plastic packaging next. Bags are only the very tip of the iceberg!