

Christine Ellen Henderson

Submitter Type:

Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Position: Support

Overall Notes:

Clause

1. Do you agree with the Government's proposal to prohibit the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing microbeads (eg, body scrubs, facial cleaners, toothpastes) to reduce their impacts on New Zealand's environment and human health? Why/why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

They are plastic, there are natural alternatives and they are a pollutant in waterways and our oceans.

Clause

2. What are your views on the Government narrowing or widening the definition of the scope of personal care products containing microbeads to be prohibited from manufacture and sale in New Zealand?

Notes

They should be eliminated altogether...sooner rather than later.

Clause

3. Do you currently manufacture, sell or use any personal care products containing microbeads? Please specify.

Notes

I don't know which products contain micro-beads, and if I did know I wouldn't use them on principle. Not knowing must violate some part of the Consumer Protection Act .

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell or use any personal care products containing microbeads for medically prescribed uses or purposes? Please specify.

Notes

I don't know...see above.

Clause

5. Do you currently import any personal care products containing microbeads into New Zealand, either for sale or personal use? Please specify.

Position

No

Notes

Clause

6. Are you aware of any personal care products containing microbeads for any purpose that could be considered an essential or critical use?

Notes

No...and ignorance is not bliss!

Clause

7. Do you currently manufacture, sell or use any alternatives to personal care products containing microbeads (or components therein), which are designed and used for the same purpose(s)? Please specify.

Notes

I don't know.

Clause

8. Do you consider the alternatives to personal care products containing microbeads (or components therein) to be reasonably practicable, readily available, and similarly priced for existing personal, business or other uses? Why/why not?

Notes

I don't know.

Clause

9. Is there any reason why the alternatives would not be reasonably practicable, readily available, or similarly priced for personal, business or other uses? If so, would you consider operating against the policy intent and importing personal care products containing microbeads from overseas?

Position

No

Notes**Clause**

10. What would be the impact on you or your business if personal care products containing microbeads were prohibited for manufacture and sale in New Zealand and the alternatives were not reasonably practicable, readily available, or similarly priced?

Notes

N/A

Clause

11. Do you support the Government's approach to administration and enforcement of the proposed regulations under the Waste Minimisation Act? Why/why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

Given the environmental impact of micro-beads, the Government's enforcement is imperative, and supported.

Clause

12. Are there any other considerations for administration and enforcement of the proposed regulations that have not been outlined in the Administration and enforcement section in the Managing microbeads in personal care products consultation document?

Notes

I have not read the document but would support the non-importation of any Australian products containing micro-beads .

Clause

13. What are your views on the Government's proposed timeframe for entry-into-force of the regulations under the Waste Minimisation Act to prohibit the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing microbeads?

Notes

Grandfather the products presently on the shelves, let no further products into the retail sector after August of this year and require any products still in the pipe-line during the interim to be clearly labeled "Contains Micro-beads".

Clause

14. Are there any issues about the proposed timeframe for entry-into-force of the regulations that the Government should consider?

Notes

No, if it happens this year. Delay is not an option.

Clause

15. Are there any ways the Government could help industry or consumers transition away from personal care products containing microbeads ahead of the regulations' entry-into-force?

Notes

Consumers need to know the alternatives through a public education campaign highlighting the reasons for shifting away from micro-bead containing products. Industry needs positive reinforcement to make the change by labeling their alternative products Environmentally Friendly, and the alternative products need to cost the same to encourage consumers to change.

Clause

16. Do you have any further comments you wish to make about the Government's proposal?

Notes

This is an excellent start, but needs to be widened to incorporate micro-plastics from synthetic textiles, synthetic rubber tyres , and other contaminants highlighted in a recent ICUN report which featured in a Times article from Britain printed in the Southland Times on 23/2/17. The findings mentioned in the article are horrifying but there are ways to remedy the problem which I urge this Government to adopt without delay. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this important process.