

Jessica
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

Yes, I agree with this proposal. It is considered that a wide variety of natural exfoliants could be utilised with the same efficiency as micro-beads, yet with far fewer environmental and human health risks.

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

My opinion is that all products containing micro-beads should be banned from manufacture and sale, unless these are essential for human health (i.e. life-saving medical supplies).

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

No, after becoming aware of the detrimental impacts on human and environmental health I choose not to purchase anything containing micro-beads.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

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

No, I would not feel comfortable importing products containing micro-beads.

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, as far as I understand the majority of micro-beads are found within non-essential products such as face washes, shower gels, and hand washes.

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.

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, I use an almond facial exfoliant with ground almond skins, and another facial exfoliant with rice granules which effectively exfoliate my skin. From my experience as a consumer there are many available micro-bead free alternatives.

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?

Position

Yes

Notes

Yes, the cost of exfoliants (facial exfoliants, hand, and body) is comparable with products containing micro-beads and are readily available. For example, a natural sea sponge costs about \$5 and can be used as a body exfoliant for a number of months with soap.

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

Natural exfoliants are readily available and in many instances, cheaper than microbeads. For instance, ground rice granules, fine sugar, oats, and bamboo are readily available and can be manufactured cheaply.

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

As I do not use or buy products with micro-beads this would not impact me. However, natural exfoliant alternatives are available cheaply (i.e. ground rice granules, almond skins, coffee grinds, salt, sugar, ground bamboo) and from my understanding manufacturing with natural alternatives would be not be significantly more expensive than using micro-beads. Furthermore, enabling an activity with the potential to harm environmental and human health as this will result in cheaper production costs for the companies manufacturing products with micro-beads is not considered good stewardship for public and environmental health.

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

Yes, enforcement is supported as this may be required for compliance.

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

I consider this to be reasonable to enable companies manufacturing micro-beads to phase this out.

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

Yes - through social awareness campaigns. The Government could provide articles and market these on social media platforms, or create videos to educate the public.

Clause

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

Notes

I would like to thank the Government for this opportunity to provide feedback on the issue of micro-beads in NZ. It is an issue that many people around me are aware of and have voiced concerns about, and it is much appreciated to have the opportunity to provide feedback. My sincere hope is that micro-beads are phased out of NZ and that this is underpinned with education, so that consumers and manufacturers understand the importance of this decision.

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.