

Lindsay Anne Twiname

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

These beads are petrochemical plastics which pollute fresh/sea water, do not break down, and are consumed by aquatic animals. We are unnecessarily polluting and poisoning. Plastic beads in cosmetics/household items are utterly unnecessary (there are natural and biodegradable alternatives readily available). Other countries have rightly banned their use in personal/household items; so should NZ.

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

The definition should be as wide as possible to reduce the use of plastic microbeads where they are not truly essential. Perhaps they could be restricted to biomedical and medical research.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

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

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. There are natural and biodegradable alternatives.

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

No

Notes

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

Human beings have happily lived for many, many years without plastic microbeads! I cannot imagine anyone having a genuine need for a personal care product which must contain polyethylene (or other petrochemical plastic) microbeads as an ingredient. For years, manufacturers of personal care products have used other, natural ingredients as exfoliants etc. I would assume these natural ingredients are still readily available. If natural ingredients cost more, to the manufacturer, than plastic microbeads, then so be it. Purchase price should not be a reason to pollute waterways/oceans and poison aquatic life.

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

I would be happy that microbead-containing products were not available in NZ. I would continue to purchase environmentally-friendly personal care and household products - and assume a ban on microbeads would have no impact on such products.

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

Will the EPA have sufficient resources and be the appropriate agency to enforce the WMA re beads? How will manufacturers/retailers be monitored? How would the EPA know the contents of all available personal care/household products? Will labelling laws be changed so customers as well as EPA can see full disclosure of the contents/ingredients of various products?

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

Government is proposing regulations come into effect "some time in 2018". I appreciate a lead-up time is needed, I am not in a position to judge this, but sincerely hope that it is early 2018 and not late 2018.

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