

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

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 scope should be widened to ban all dangerous and harmful products.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

I have purchased products with microbeads accidentally, and then not know what the best thing to do with them was, as they are inherently harmful.

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, but I suppose as long as there were a safe method of disposal (i.e., not washing them down the drain) this would be okay.

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

There are plenty of perfectly good alternatives to personal care products containing microbeads, such as natural scrubs, loofahs, etc.

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

It would be nice if it were easier to find exfoliating products that did not contain microbeads.

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

The impact would be minimal (a bit more effort in personal care) and entirely worthwhile given the damage that microbeads cause (not to mention the irreversibility of their effects as they are very difficult to remove from the environment).

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

This is an easy policy area and the proposal is fine.

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

Microbeads should be banned as soon as possible. Other countries are ahead of us in this area.

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

1. Clear labelling of existing products would be good. 2. Public explanation of the damage microbeads do would be good.