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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

This is a fantastic step by the government to start tackling the issue of plastic pollution in our waters. The growing threat of plastic in our oceans is now a significant global issue. Preventing plastic waste and debris from getting into the ocean is the only way to prevent the formation and accumulation of microplastics. It makes sense to prohibit consumer products that contribute to this problem and I believe your average kiwi will agree.

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

I believe the current scope has been well thought out. Products containing microbeads that have essential uses, such as in medical purposes, should be regulated but made available where necessary.

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

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

Absolutely. A massive variety of products already use alternatives.

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**

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**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 believe we will find a plethora of products containing microbeads available in the online shopping space (such as Trademe). This may require some thought as to the best way to both educate and enforce the rules.

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 believe it is suitably timed given the incoming regulations imposed in other countries. This should ensure that suppliers have enough time to sell their product and understand the new rules.

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

I believe it will be very important to define exactly what microbeads are, and what will be banned. It may seem simple but there are a variety of consumer products containing plastic polymers in various forms that may not directly be identified as "beads".

Clause

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

Notes

There should not be any scenario where "biodegradable" microplastics are allowed in consumer products. This is not an answer to our marine litter problem.