

Rebecca Turner

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

I am very excited that the government is proposing to stop these from being sold. I used to buy products like this until I found out the "beads" were plastic - it's not usually clear at all from the packaging. The damage to the oceans is inexcusable, especially when alternative ingredients exist and achieve the same thing.

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 think it is important to widen the scope as much as is required to both capture products containing these "ingredients" and also avoid loopholes allowing their continued manufacture. The purpose of the ban is to stop bits of plastic getting into waterways, so the scope needs to be wide enough to achieve this or it's pointless.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

Not for a few years now; not since it was brought to my attention that the "microbeads" going down the drain were plastic - I had naively assumed they were bits of pumice or walnut shell or similar.

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. The products themselves may be essential but the inclusion of plastic microbeads in the product ingredients is not necessary. Salt, sugar, walnut shells, activated charcoal, etc. are all widely available, cheap, and have much the same effect - without introducing tonnes of plastic into the ocean.

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

St Ives Apricot Scrub, exfoliators with charcoal and sugar as the "scratchy" ingredient.

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 they are readily available, any supermarket has these types of alternatives available.

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

NA - I am a constituent not a stakeholder.

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

Communications around the purpose of the ban so the public understand the reason.

Clause

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

Notes

Very pleased, congratulations!