

Ronan Whyte**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

Microbeads serve little purpose and come with a significant environmental cost. Alternatives to plastic microbeads are also readily available. There are legitimate concerns about the risk to marine and human health if there is a continued increase in microbeads. Given that there is little to no benefit to this product and reasonable concerns, it would be in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders, as well as the environmentally conscious image we wish to project, to prohibit the sale of products containing microbeads.

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

Whilst I am unaware of any prescription medications containing microbeads, it is both reasonable and wise to have provisions for exceptions for those products. It would be ideal to prohibit consumers from importing these products but, as stated in the consultation document, this is likely a minority of consumers and likely not worth the cost of enforcement.

Clause

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

Position

Yes

Notes

Limited choices in supermarkets has mean that for certain types of products, microbeads are unavoidable. A ban would eliminate this issue as supermarkets would be forced to stock alternatives.

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

None for which microbeads are essential. While medically useful products exist with microbeads in them, it is not the microbeads that make them useful, these could be removed with no impact on the efficacy of the product.

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

Natural alternatives to microbeads exist, including ground pumice stone or ground walnut, almond etc. These would be highly preferable to plastic.

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

Microbeads are an unnecessary component that could easily be eliminated or substituted for biodegradable or natural alternatives. Products without microbeads are, as far as I'm aware, similarly priced if not cheaper than those containing 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

None. Alternatives for most products already exist at similar prices.

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**

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 would urge timely action on this issue, delay worsens the environmental impact of these products.

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

Allowing retailers to sell existing stocks for a limited period of time while prohibiting further imports would be a reasonable compromise.

Clause

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

Notes

I strongly support this proposal as a way to help New Zealand live up to its clean, green image.

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