

Submitter Type:

Individual

Source: Web Form

Overall Position:

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

Micro plastics from these products ultimately end up in the ocean and are detrimental to aquatic life. They are unnecessary additions to personal care products and the harm caused by them far outweighs any benefits they might have, particularly when there are natural alternatives available.

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 consider it appropriate to extend the definition of products in scope to include all personal care products containing microbeads regardless of their size, function or use. NZ's prohibition of microbeads should go further than that of the US.

Clause

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

Position

No

Notes

I deliberately seek out personal care products that do not contain any plastics.

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.

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

I use the Ethique range of personal care products (manufactured in Christchurch) which use alternatives to microbeads such as sugar. I have also previously tried other brands that use apricot kernels and coffee grinds as natural alternatives. I also use the Frankie Apothecary sunscreen that does not contain any micro plastics.

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

The alternatives are just as effective as those containing microbeads and are often cheaper as they contain less ingredients overall and have simpler packaging and less big brand marketing.

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

No impact, if I could not afford or access the alternatives I would make my own or simply go without.

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

There is no point making a regulation unless it is enforced, so I do agree with the approach. However, I note that the EPA should be suitably resourced to carry out its new monitoring and enforcement functions. This will likely include recruiting more staff and ensuring they are appropriately trained and have the required capabilities for investigation and enforcement work. Staff based outside of Wellington may also be needed to cover monitoring and enforcement in the regions.

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

n/a

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

It is appropriate.

Clause

14. Are there any issues about the proposed timeframe for entry-into-force of the regulations that the Government should consider?

Notes

n/a

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

Perhaps by providing basic information to consumers about why the transition is needed. Govt could also encourage companies to increase their level of advertising over the next year to assist consumers with the transition.

Clause

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

Notes

I wholly support the proposal and the exercise of the Govt's powers under the Waste Minimisation Act.

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