

Subject: Submission to the consultation on banning the sale and manufacture of plastic microbeads in personal care products in New Zealand

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I strongly support the proposal for a legislative ban on microbeads in New Zealand as quickly as possible. - Any definition of 'microbeads' must include all solid plastic ingredients smaller than 5mm used for any purpose There should be no lower size limit included in the definition; - The legislation should cover all products that are washed down the drain. This includes a wide range of cosmetic and personal care products as well as cleaning products, make-up, and other product categories; - Legislation should not allow so-called 'biodegradable' plastics to be used as alternatives, as these materials do not degrade in the marine environment and therefore are not a solution to the problem; - There should be a clear and prompt timeline for phasing out these ingredients, and a date after which products containing microplastics must not be sold. This should be within two years of the ban. The New Zealand Government introduce an outright legislative ban from 2018 at the latest. I am concerned that microbead products could still enter New Zealand via Australia, despite the ban. I would strongly encourage the Government to explore all options (i.e. exemptions allowed for health, safety and environmental reasons) to ensure that products containing microbeads do not enter New Zealand shops via Australia, until such a time that Australia introduce a comprehensive legislative ban. I strongly support the proposal for a legislative ban on microbeads in New Zealand. Yours sincerely, Alis Russell