

**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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**Date:** 28/01/2017 12:42 AM

I strongly support the proposal for a legislative ban on microbeads in New Zealand, and urge the Government to introduce the ban as quickly as possible. Breadth of products covered by the legislation I strongly agree with the intention to “define the scope of products as broadly as possible” and advocate for a comprehensive ban on personal care products containing microbeads. Specifically, I ask the Ministry to follow the below guidelines developed by Fauna & Flora International: - Any definition of ‘microbeads’ must include all solid plastic ingredients smaller than 1mm used for any purpose (not just for exfoliation). 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; - 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. Lead with a legislative ban and avoid voluntary self-regulation I strongly support the consultation document’s recommendation to introduce a legislative ban under the Waste Minimisation Act. Voluntary self-regulation by industry has proven ineffective in New Zealand to date. The organisation Plastic Diet exposed just a few months ago how companies who claimed to have largely phased out microbeads - such as Foodstuffs and Progressive - still had numerous microbead products for sale. For this reason, it is essential that the New Zealand Government introduce an outright legislative ban from 2018 at the latest.. Yours sincerely, Duncan Shand