

Subject: To the consultation on banning plastic microbeads in personal care products in New Zealand

Recipient: microbeads@submissions.mfe.govt.nz

Sender: Microbeads.submissions@mfe.govt.nz

Date: 21/02/2017 03:00 PM

- Any definition of 'microbeads' must include all solid plastic ingredients smaller than 5mm used for any purpose (not just for exfoliation). There should be no lower size limit included in the definition; - 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. . Voluntary self-regulation by industry has proven ineffective in New Zealand to date. The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act means that microbead products could still enter New Zealand via Australia, despite the ban. Given that nearly a quarter of our cosmetic products enter New Zealand via Australia, I would strongly encourage the Government 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, Ken McAllister