

Subject: Submission on managing microbeads in personal care products

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Submitter type Business / industry

Subject Managing microbeads in personal care products

Message Question 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?
Yes, I support the Government's proposal prohibit the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing microbeads. Banning microbeads in personal care products is an easy step to take in reducing one source of microplastics entering our freshwater and marine environments, helping to make our environment healthier and our food safer.

Question 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?

The Government should also prohibit, at a minimum, the manufacture, importation and sale of household cleaning products containing microbeads.

Plastic microbeads are also used in many other products such as printing toners, textile printing, and other industrial uses such as oil and gas exploration. Use of all these microbeads should also be eliminated.

Question 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?

Yes agreed. Plastics microbeads can easily be eliminated from personal care and household cleaning products and replaced with natural ingredients like ground almonds and apricot shells, caster sugar, sea salt, ground rice and bamboo stem and dragon fruit extracts.

Question 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?

Yes, agree. Bring the regulations in as fast as possible and at least ensure they come into force in July 2018.