

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, and urge the Government to introduce the ban as quickly as possible. 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. I am concerned that 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 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, Valerie Clements