2019

The Parliament of the

Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Microbeads Annihilation Bill 2019**

**No. 1212, 2019**

*Written by imnofox MP*

*Drafted by Tobycool2001\_1*

**A Bill for an Act to prohibit the sale and manufacture of wash-off products containing microbeads, and for related purposes.**

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**A Bill for an Act to prohibit the sale and manufacture of wash-off products containing microbeads, and for related purposes.**

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

**Part 1—Preliminary**

**1 Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Microbeads Annihilation Act 2019.*

**2 Commencement**

1. Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Commencement information** | | |
| **Column 1** | **Column 2** | **Column 3** |
| **Provision(s)** | **Commencement** | **Date/Details** |
| 1. The whole of this Act | The day the Act receives Royal Assent |  |

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this Act.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

**3 Crown to be bound**

This Act binds the Crown in all its capacities.

**4 Definitions**

In this Act:

***microbead*** means a water-insoluble plastic particle that is less than 5 mm at its widest point

***prohibited wash-off product*** means a wash-off product that contains microbeads used for the purpose of:

* 1. exfoliating a person’s body;
  2. cleaning of a person’s body;
  3. abrasive cleaning of any area, surface, or thing; or
  4. enhancing of the visual appearance of the product;

but does not include a medical device or medication

***wash-off product*** means a product that is intended to be rinsed off during or after use.

**Part 2—Provisions**

**5 Person must not sell or manufacture prohibited wash-off products**

A person must not sell or manufacture a prohibited wash-off product.

Penalty: 6 penalty units

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**Explanatory Memorandum**

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use of microbeads in wash-off cosmetic or personal care products.

**Human Rights Impact**

This bill has no human rights impact.

**Second Reading Speech**

Mr Speaker,

Microbeads are an insidious but classic form of pollution: the convenience or the luxury of these microplastics in various products we enjoy may not be insignificant, but it’s perhaps one of the more obvious ways harmful microplastics enter our waterways and harm our ocean life and by extension human food chains.

It is time to ban the sale and manufacture of these products in Australia, and stop undue and unnecessary harm to our natural and supposedly pristine environment.