

# LEAD POLLUTION CONTROL BILL

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill is designed to reduce the risks to the health of the community associated with the introduction of large quantities of lead and lead compounds into the environment.

The limitation imposed on the concentration of lead which may be incorporated in petrol and in paint will eventually result in a significant reduction in the levels of finely divided lead and lead compounds present in soil, dust and air near roads and in the general urban environment. Together with restrictions on the use of lead compounds in cosmetics this reduction has two long-term aims:

- A lessening of the effects of sub-clinical lead poisoning due to the presence of elevated, but not critical, levels of lead in the blood. Sub-clinical poisoning has a deleterious effect on intellectual and social performance without leading to obvious symptoms. It is suspected to be widespread among children living in certain urban situations.
- Ultimately, a reduced risk of clinical lead-poisoning, particularly in children, due to the ingestion of paint flakes, dust, soil or other material contaminated with lead.

*Clause 1* relates to the short title and commencement. The Bill will come into force on 1 January 1983 with the exception of the restriction on lead levels in petrol, which will come into force on 1 January 1986.

*Clause 2* defines certain terms used in the Bill.

*Clause 3* sets out the levels of lead permitted in paint, cosmetics and petrol. The permitted maximum of 0.15 grams of lead per litre of petrol is the level recently recommended by the New Zealand Clean Air Council. It is considered to be achievable with existing technology and the present vehicle fleet.

The permitted maximum of 0.5 percent lead content in paint is that level considered safe by the Government for paint to which children may be exposed. This clause acknowledges that children are exposed to a wider range of paints than currently covered by regulation.

The limitation on the lead content of cosmetic preparations follows the discovery recently of high levels of lead and lead compounds in some imported cosmetics and hair colouring agents in the U.K.

*Clause 4* exempts special purpose marine paints from the ambit of clause 3 provided they are contained in a clearly labelled container.

*Clause 5* requires cosmetic preparations containing permitted concentrations of lead in excess of 10 parts per million to carry on the container an indication of the lead content.

*Clause 6* makes it an offence to contravene sections 3 or 5 and stipulates maximum penalties of \$5,000 and \$500 respectively.

Mr Woollaston

## LEAD POLLUTION CONTROL

### ANALYSIS

Title	3. Prohibition of certain products contain-
Preamble	ing lead
1. Short Title and commencement	4. Marine paint exempted
2. Interpretation	5. Cosmetic preparations
	6. Offences

### A BILL INTITULED

#### **An Act to reduce the dangers to health arising from the presence in certain products of excessive quantities of lead and lead compounds**

5 WHEREAS recent research has demonstrated that certain disorders are linked to the presence in the human body of elevated lead levels: And whereas it is desirable to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of injury to the health of the public from products containing lead or lead compounds:

10 BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**1. Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Lead Pollution Control Act 1982.

15 (2) Except as provided in section 3 (2) of this Act, this Act shall come into force on 1 January 1983.

**2. Interpretation**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

20 “Cosmetic preparation” includes any preparation intended for use as a hair colouring agent:

“Lead content” of a product includes lead forming part of a compound contained in this product:

25 “Petrol” includes any liquid transport fuel intended for use in an internal combustion engine with spark ignition.

**3. Prohibition of certain products containing lead—**

(1) No person shall import, manufacture, offer for sale or sell any of the following products:

- (a) Paint which comprises more than 0.5 per cent of lead measured by weight when dry; 5
- (b) A cosmetic preparation which comprises more than 0.1 per cent of lead measured by weight;
- (c) Petrol which contains more than 0.15 grams of lead per litre.

(2) Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section shall come into force on 1 January 1986.

**4. Marine paint exempted—**Nothing in section 3 (1) (a) of this Act shall apply to paint which is specially manufactured for marine use, and which is held in a container which has prominently displayed on its outside a notice warning that it holds paint containing a high lead level and that that paint is intended to be used for marine purposes only.

**5. Cosmetic preparations—**No cosmetic preparation which contains more than 10 parts per million of lead shall be offered for sale or sold unless it is held in a container which has prominently displayed on its outside a notice stating the number of parts per million of lead which it contains.

**6. Offences—**Any person who contravenes section 3 or section 5 of this Act commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 in respect of section 3 and \$500 in respect of section 5.