

# PROTECT ANIMALS FROM TESTING FOR COSMETICS

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Labour will:

- ensure that no cosmetics sold in New Zealand have been tested on animals

## THE ISSUE

Labour has a strong record on animal welfare. Earlier this year, Labour forced the current government to remove untested psychoactive substances from sale, then forced a backdown on plans to allow testing of those products on animals.

At present, no animal testing for cosmetics occurs in New Zealand because it fails to meet the benefit/harm test under the Animal Welfare Act. But there is no restriction on the importation of cosmetics that have been tested on animals.

The European Union has not allowed animal testing for cosmetics for ten years, and last year prohibited the sale of any cosmetics, including imports, that have been tested on animals.

Australia (which, like New Zealand, has a de facto ban on domestic animal testing for cosmetics), the United States, and several other countries are looking at requiring all imported cosmetics to be free from animal testing.

## LABOUR'S PLAN

Labour will protect animals from being harmed for the sake of cosmetic testing, because it is the right thing to do.

Labour will ensure that no cosmetics sold in New Zealand have been tested on animals by formally prohibiting testing on animals for cosmetics in New Zealand and prohibiting the sale of imported cosmetics that have been tested on animals.

As in the EU, this will apply both to finished products and ingredients or combinations of ingredients that are tested on animals.

The Cosmetics, Toiletries and Fragrance Association has stated that most cosmetics sold in New Zealand are made in the EU and, since animal testing is not allowed there, this move will not affect most of the brands that Kiwis use. It will, however, give New Zealanders peace of mind that all the brands they have to choose from are free of animal testing.

This legislation will not affect medicines. It is restricted to cosmetics.

*For this policy, Labour will adopt the definition of cosmetics in Mojo Mathers' SOP to the Animal Welfare Bill: cosmetic-- "means any substance, mixture of substances, or article, used or represented for use for the purpose of cleansing, protecting, beautifying, improving the attractiveness of, changing the appearance of, perfuming, or deodorising the skin, hair, nails, or other external parts of the human body, teeth, or the mucous membranes of the mouth."*