

3 July 2019

19-D-01082

s 9(2)(a)
TVNZ
s 9(2)(a) @tvnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe s 9(2)

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2019, and subsequent clarification, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

all documents regarding the issue of single use plastics that is held by the Ministry over the previous year

emails can be excluded but I would like formal advice. And I'm after single use plastic excluding plastic bags

We have identified six documents in scope of your request. These are listed in the attached table.

The first three documents in the table are available on the Ministry website at the following link, under the download file option and linked under related publications:

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/briefings-cabinet-papers-and-related-material-search/briefing-notes/national-resource-recovery>

The document *National Resource Recovery Taskforce – updated work programme and funding options* will also be available in the near future on the Ministry website. The Ministry publishes documents at the following link: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/briefings-search>

These four documents are refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as they are already publicly available or soon to be publicly available.

Some information within the document *Table of Analysis (summary of National Resource Recovery Taskforce responses)* has been withheld under section 9(2)(i) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

The document *Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines to achieve more effective product stewardship: Draft consultation document and draft Cabinet paper* relates to ongoing decision-making processes. Therefore this has been withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and Officials.



In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

Please note that advice around single-use plastics from the last year has been incorporated within the wider context of other documents, including those examining the national resource recovery system and the shift to a circular economy.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of this response, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details are available on the Office of the Ombudsman website at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact the Executive Relations team by email at ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Naku noa, nā



Shaun Lewis
Director, Mana Honohono

Released under the provisions of
the Official Information Act 1982

List of documents for OIA 19-D-01082

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	29 October 2018	Briefing note: National Resource Recovery Taskforce: New Zealand's options in response to effects created by the implementation of the National Sword Policy	Refuse	s18(d)
2	20 September 2019	Appendix 1: National Resource Recovery Situational Analysis, Eumonia Research and Consulting Ltd (NZ)	Refuse	s18(d)
3	11 October 2018	Appendix 2: Proposals for short to Medium Term Responses to National Sword, MRA Consulting Group	Refuse	s18(d)
4	29 October 2018	Table of Analysis (summary of National Resource Recovery Taskforce responses)	Partial Release	s9(2)(i)
5	5 May 2019	Briefing Note: 2019-B-05412 National Resource Recovery Taskforce – updated work programme and funding options	Refuse	s18(d)
6	9 May 2019	Briefing Note: Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines to achieve more effective product stewardship: Draft consultation document and draft Cabinet paper	Withheld in full	s92(f)(iv)

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National Resource Recovery Project
Analysis of Short - Medium Term Responses

#	Medium - Short Term Responses		Intervention Point	Cost & Benefit Estimates set by MRA		Impact (environmental, cultural, social, economic)	Risks	Does the Response Support Priority Work Programmes?	Analysis	Does this response require national approach/government intervention	MRA, Feedback Groups and Taskforce Recommended	MfE recommended Workstream 1, 2, 3
				Cost (\$)	Benefit							
#	Response Option Reference & Title	Response Details						Y/N		Y/N		Y/N
Response suggested by MRA & agreed to by Feedback Groups												
1	Short-Term Gate Fee Variations	A gate fee is the amount charged by a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) for processing recyclable commodities collected at the kerbside or in commercial collections. Short term gate fee variation - contract negotiations, to compensate for fall in commodity values.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)	High: A component of contract management with the intention to provide examples of how the process could operate. This response is achievable.	Is a cost to rate payers and commercial customers.	Commercial customers stop sending materials for recycling. Councils decide recycling costs are too high and cease kerbside recycling. Gate fee variations allow for Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) to continue operating. Without these, there is a possibility the operation becomes uneconomic and fail.	Yes: kerbside and commercial recycling support waste minimisation.	The option to negotiate short-term gate fee variations would result in a cost shift to the rate payer. Councils may require consultancy and legal assistance during negotiations should there be a decision to vary contracts allowing for gate fee changes. The benefits could be significant, potentially avoiding the disposal to landfill of recyclable material to the benefit of \$1.5M. In the short-term, this option may also prevent collapse of at least one MRF. This response, however, will not enable operators to address the impacts of future falls in commodity value. Also requires a sunset clause to ensure the price of uplift is not embedded for the life of the MRF contract.	Yes: requires nationally consistent policy for short term gate fee variations. Councils must decide/ agree to implement in accordance with their contracts.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - combined with responses 2,3,4
2	Model Contract Development.	Model contract development, to promote a consistent approach to tender preparation and reduce administration time requirement Will improve the quality of documents by effectively setting a benchmark standard and streamlining the tendering process.	Councils, through collections (Kerbside and Commercial). Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs).	s9(2)(i)	High: Material can be easily adapted from other jurisdictions.	Potentially significant cost savings to prepare and implement contracts	Existing council contracts are unable to be varied (for example, Councils can be locked into 30+ year contracts).	Yes: kerbside and commercial recycling support waste minimisation.	The option to introduce a nationally consistent model contract has several benefits, including: 1. Reduced negotiation complexity for Councils and reduced tender pricing due to certainty. 2. Enables a common legal arrangement across New Zealand, whilst allowing for region/ district modifications to take into account unique area-specific circumstances. 3. Can be adapted from contracts existing in other jurisdictions 4. Consistency in use of common legal arrangements 5. Can be modified for unique circumstances. May work for new contracts, but potentially requires variations for existing contracts.	Yes: requires national consistency. Councils must decide/ agree to implement in accordance with their contracts. Local Government New Zealand could potentially deliver this project for Territorial Authorities through LG Equip.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - combined with responses 1,3,4
3	Contamination Bands	Contamination rates and stepped penalties for exceeding limits will produce a cost-sharing arrangement between contract partners for the cost burden of disposing of non-recyclable material - providing incentives to reduce contamination.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)	Medium: Material can be adapted from other jurisdictions. There are added costs to monitor and audit contamination.	Potentially reduced contamination levels. Quality of commodities produced improved and higher prices received as a result. Potentially a cost to Councils and commercial customers for poor quality product delivered to MRFs. Higher costs for disposal of poor quality recyclables that fall outside of contamination bands.	Existing council contracts are unable to be varied (for example, Councils can be locked into 30+ year contracts). Commercial customers may be unwilling to vary costs according to contamination bands	Yes: supports waste minimisation and allows for good quality products to be utilised onshore or exported.	The option of implementing contamination bands with agreed stepped penalties for exceedances will: 1. provide Councils with a simple cost/benefit equation for investing in contamination reduction, 2. shares the cost burden of disposal of non-recyclable material therefore providing all parties with an incentive to reduce contamination. 3. Places contamination cost estimates on the MRF at the time of tender 4. Eliminates legal arguments on contamination levels between customers and MRF's. This option would need to be considered alongside other options to facilitate contamination reduction and therefore the costs should be considered holistically. May work for new contracts, but potentially requires variations for existing contracts.	Yes: requires national consistency. Councils must decide/ agree to implement in accordance with their contracts. Local Government New Zealand can potentially deliver this project for Territorial Authorities through LG Equip.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - combined with responses 1,2,4

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National Resource Recovery Project
Analysis of Short - Medium Term Responses

#	Medium - Short Term Responses	Intervention Point	Cost & Benefit Estimates set by MRA		Achievability med-low high	Impact (environmental, cultural, social, economic)	Risks high-med-low	Does the Response Support Priority Work Programmes? Y/N	Analysis	Does this response require national approach/government intervention Y/N	MRA, Feedback Groups and Taskforce Recommended	MFE recommended Workstream 1, 2, 3 Y/N
			Cost (\$)	Benefit								
4	Commodity price risk-sharing arrangements	Commodity price risk-sharing arrangement, to share the costs and benefits associated with commodity price rise and falls between contract partners. Contracts are linked to an indexed commodity price. Price buffers can be established to reduce contract management requirements.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)	Medium: depends on quality commodity price indices being available at a reasonable cost for use by organisations. Requires additional contract management skills.	Price variations could have a huge effect on the viability of kerbside recycling operations in New Zealand.	Financial risks for Councils could be significant.	Yes: supports waste minimisation	The option to include commodity price risk-sharing arrangement within contracts ensures that the associated commodity price fluctuation costs and benefits are shared between contract partners. Reduce gate fee risk premium. The inclusion of buffers/price bands with such arrangement can reduce management effort. Share risks from MRF to Councils compared to current arrangements. Requires the development and maintenance of a relevant price index. Requires education of contract managers (Council and MRF). Could be seen to unfairly advantage MRF operators who have had reasonable profits over the last ten years, which have not been shared during that time. There may be some resistance from contract managers (Council) to put these arrangements in place as a result. Share risks but effective contract management required to ensure fair implementation. Commodity price index will have to be supported for organisations to use	Yes: requires national consistency. Councils must decide/ agree to implement in accordance with their contracts. As part of undertaking this project, ongoing support will have to be investigated.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - combined with responses 1,2,3
5	Improve quality of MRF output.	Feasibility required to better understand support needed to optimise MRF performance which, together with improved source separation, will reduce the contamination rate and improve the quality of exported material.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)	Medium: Technology is available to improve MRF operations.	Recyclable commodity quality is substantially improved and susceptibility to market commodity price fluctuations are reduced as a result.	Doesn't address other factors which influence profitability from the sale of products, such as distance from market and freight costs.	Yes: supports waste minimisation	There are several options available to improve source separation at MRF level and enhance MRF performance, which may vary between MRFs depending on capacity load. The benefits, determined on a case-by-case basis, include improved quality of material for export, which is relevant in terms of meeting the increased restrictions imposed by China's policy, improved market opportunities and lowered market risk. The financial costs will be to MRF operators and possibly the government could facilitate this process; the provincial growth fund. Additionally, it is anticipated that there would be a slight increase in the disposal of waste to landfill, however this is considered to be marginal. The financial benefits will be realised by MRF operators, however there may be national benefits passed through due to reduced market risk. There are 14 MRFs in New Zealand, and improvements in operation can be achieved.	Possible: National approach may be desirable to better understand what support is required for MRF operators and what level of investment is required to improve MRF outputs. May be eligible for PGF funding.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - linked to response 17 infrastructure and services stocktake
6	Develop database of domestic re-processors.	Database of onshore secondary and tertiary processors	Secondary Reprocessing Level	s9(2)(i)	High: build on situational analysis and link to infrastructure stocktake.	A good understanding of domestic processing, processors and material flows will help inform investment decisions.	Without this information, informed market development is unlikely to take place.	Yes: supports waste minimisation and contributes to the investment approach.	These options consider investigation only, and therefore provide no financial benefits. The incentive for this option is that it would help determine leverage points for future government action, identify/ create potential new markets for MRF operators, provide additional jobs, potentially increase domestic processing of fibre and plastic, and provide a growth in MRF revenue. The option to investigate domestic growth would also provide information as to the sustainability of this industry in the longer-term, to ensure preparedness should any future similar situations occur. The benefits of these investigations significantly outweigh the costs, and this option should therefore be accepted. A short-medium term solution regarding the investigation into the growth of fibre mill capacity and plastic reprocessing domestically has been identified. The outcome of these investigations may lead to the collection of data and knowledge required to grow these markets in the longer-term. Gathered information is a snapshot in time that can be used to inform an investment approach. It will be important to maintain adequate information as the sector changes quickly. The project outcomes will enable the ability to increase domestic reprocessing in New Zealand to be accurately assessed.	Yes: this information will help inform strategic investment	Recommended	Y - Workstream 2 - included into response 17 infrastructure and services stocktake

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	Response Option Reference & Title	Response Details		Cost (\$)	Benefit								
7	Investigate Growth of On-Shore Fibre Processing	Investigate growth in fibre mill capacity (the largest waste stream collected and exported)	Secondary Reprocessing Level	s9(2)(i)		High: Requires investigation only, and therefore a contract to undertake a project can be easily achieved. Requires careful early engagement with domestic processors.	Mixed paper and cardboard have been identified as a major contributor to financial losses in this sector. Our ability to manage these products effectively will enable the financial viability of services to be maintained, particularly kerbside services. Improved infrastructure and services in this part of the sector has the potential to realise good employment and economic growth.	Investigation only, however care must be given to avoid raising expectations that this product can be successfully managed onshore.	Yes: supports waste minimisation and contributes to the investment approach and CE work.	Cost of developing capacity are high. Provides employment opportunities. Improves MRF revenue opportunity. Increased domestic processing of fibre (10,000 tonnes) Any project should also focus on whether there is sustainable demand for any processed product. Gathered information is a snapshot in time that can be used to inform an investment approach. It will be important to maintain adequate information as the sector changes quickly. The project outcomes will enable the ability to increase domestic reprocessing in New Zealand to be accurately assessed.	Yes: this information will help inform strategic investment	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 - potentially combine with response 8
8	Investigate Growth of On-Shore Plastic processing	Investigate growth of onshore plastic reprocessing, to reduce New Zealand's market exposure risks associated with exporting.	Secondary Reprocessing Level	s9(2)(i)		High: Requires investigation only, and therefore a contract to undertake a project can be easily achieved. Requires careful early engagement with domestic processors.		Investigation only, however care must be given to avoid raising expectations that these products can be successfully managed onshore.	Yes: supports waste minimisation and contributes to the investment approach and CE work.	Cost of developing capacity are high. Provides employment opportunities. Improves MRF revenue opportunity. Increased domestic processing of fibre (10,000 tonnes) Any project should also focus on whether there is sustainable demand for any processed product. Gathered information is a snapshot in time that can be used to inform an investment approach. It will be important to maintain adequate information as the sector changes quickly. The project outcomes will enable the ability to increase domestic reprocessing in New Zealand to be accurately assessed.	Yes: this information will help inform strategic investment	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 potentially combine with response 7
9	National waste data recording system.	Develop a national platform for reporting and recording waste and resource recovery data to provide greater visibility and understanding of materials flows, allowing for improved decision-making and benchmarking of performance.	Government	s9(2)(i)		Medium: A major project that will require significant resource but is key to ensuring the success of other recommended projects and to support the resource recovery sector.	Data is central to achieving waste minimisation and informing progress towards a circular economy.	May require regulation to obtain commercial data. Initial development and ongoing maintenance will require significant capital and operational costs.	Yes: contributes to our waste and recycling data project	The implementation of this option would enable New Zealand government, and industry by association and other data contributors, to more accurately assess the impacts of situations similar to those as a result of China's National Sword policy, and to provide policy and operational advice from a significantly more informed position. Allows for benchmarking and performance measurement. The waste sector is data poor; data is essential to progressing the resource recovery sector and achieving the purpose of the Waste Minimisation Act, 2008.	Yes: In conjunction with Stats NZ, a national approach to this initiative is required	Recommended	N - Pending outcomes of national infrastructure and services initiative #17
10	Positive procurement policy.	Develop and institutionalise 'positive procurement' policies with MBIE, to develop viable domestic secondary markets for all recovered products. Can include minimum percentage usage, specifications, accreditation certificates, and increase by national and local government and business procurement use of recycled products in New Zealand.	Government and business.	s9(2)(i)		Medium: Require an effective stakeholder engagement programme to ensure any programme results can be embedded across government and business.	Potentially an effective policy lever to change behaviour.	Difficult to change entrenched buying behaviours. Business does not buy-in to the policy. Risk that this gets directed to government level only and also to small scale, largely-insignificant opportunities, and imposing high compliance costs.	Yes: procurement is a key lever to achieving circular economy.	There are existing markets for recovered materials, and therefore opportunities for national and local government and business procurement to increase the use of recycled products in New Zealand. Positive procurement policies would need to be developed and successfully implemented. The successful implementation of this option would reduce the risk of kerbside recycling, and facilitate a nationally consistent circular economy model approach to construction and development activity. The cost of this option does not reflect compliance activity related to the implementation of the procurement policy. The quality of the material procured is not always guaranteed. This measure has been implemented in a number of European countries, and should be seen as a key tool in a broader circular economy model approach in New Zealand. Facilitates the move into an effective circular economy, however there are significant difficulties in actual implementation of the project.	Yes: MBIE has taken the lead on this subject area to date, and it is anticipated that they will lead this project.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 3

Response Developed by MRA and Feedback Group agreed further work was required

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	Response Option Reference & Title	Response Details		Cost (\$)	Benefit								
11	Education to provide consistent information for householders and the commercial sector.	Provide consistent national messaging aimed at the common recycling behaviours desired across New Zealand, supported by local education campaigns.	Household Level	s9(2)(i)		High: Key messages can be developed. Implementing programmes will require resourcing by local government and industry potentially out of existing funding streams.	The educational programme can be used to reassure New Zealanders that the resource recovery sector is not broken, but individuals need to ensure that they comply with the collection requirements. The messaging can also remind people as consumers to take responsibility for their purchases.	Inadequate funding is available evenly across the country. Agreement form councils and industry required to ensure consistent national messaging.	Yes: Consistent messaging required to support priority work programme.	Requires a national approach to developing the key messages and government can have a role in facilitating the process. Education components can be introduced relatively easily once key messages developed by industry groups and local government have been agreed. The costs associated with this option may well be covered through existing educational programmes carried out by local government. There would be ongoing costs in order to achieve a maintained outcome of reduced contamination and general awareness of resource recovery in New Zealand. The figures referred to in the cost-benefit estimates column are for a new programme of work which we do not feel is required.	Yes: National consistency required.	More work required	Y - Workstream 1 - linked to review of domestic kerbside and commercial collections initiative
12	Stop collection of plastic grades 3-7	Cessation of collection of plastic grades 3-7 due to the limited market opportunities and lower value.	Household Level	s9(2)(i)		High: Councils and commercial collection operators control this and can implement this response if they consider it appropriate.	Public perception that the recycling system is ineffective. Organisations who produce the material may reconsider using these grades of material.	If this response is implemented, a market is identified in the medium - long term, there will be changes in reimbursement of collection of this material nationally. There may be international trade implications (Free Trade Agreements). Food safety is a factor that requires consideration. Risk that some of the products may be replaced with other unsuitable materials.	Yes: This response would be incorporated into a wider Circular Economy response approach.	Stopping collection of these materials would result in reduced sorting requirements and lower costs at MRFs. This response may drive alternative packaging solutions, ideally led by the producers of packaging. Some education investment may be required and extra compliance could be necessary to reduce contamination in collections.	No: however messaging should be consistent. Territorial Authorities and commercial operators have control over this action.	More work required	N - Pending outcomes of initiative 18
13	National facility licence limits.	Develop consistent facility licence limits to improve data received by capturing more facilities within the reporting requirement framework.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)		Limited. This response would need to be implemented, if appropriate, by Territorial Authorities, however the benefit to this programme could be negligible.	Significant administrative burden on Councils and operators.	Similar outcome will be obtained through developing the national waste data programme - duplication of this would increase compliance costs. Councils would be required to increase resourcing to ensure this was effectively implemented.	No: This response mechanism is not considered to meet the priority work programme. The data component of this aligns with the work programme, however this can be achieved through other recommended responses.	This option would provide improved national data capture, as well ongoing revenue through, e.g. annual, licence fees. The burden would be on operators to comply with reporting requirements and to pay the cost of the licence fee. The provision to licence waste facilities is a function of the bylaws/ Local Government Act, and may therefore vary from region to region. To ensure a nationally consistent approach, it would be necessary to conduct this option under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 - a reporting requirement provision is available under the Act, but this would not allow for fees to be applied as it would not be a licence process. A new regulation under the Act would have to be developed (an amendment to the Act would not be suitable) to enable a national licencing approach, but this could take some considerable time before it is enacted. Resource would be required by the central government to develop any new legislation, and additional ongoing resource would be required by the regulators to administer the licences and/ or ensure reporting is complied with. If a nationally consistent approach is desired, then this option cannot be considered a short-term solution.	Yes: a national approach would support consistency developing policy and model licencing, to be implemented by Territorial Authorities.	More work required	N
14	Regulate recyclability of packaging.	Develop requirements for packaging to be recyclable or reuseable by a certain period.	Government	s9(2)(i)		Would require extensive consultation and business involvement. Increasing public demand for this response (or similar).	Increased onshore opportunities as a result. Enhances market demands and reduces reliance on virgin materials.	Enforcability of new legislation would need to be carefully considered. Impacts on other agencies, such as Customs, would need to be considered.	Yes: Has the potential to increase waste minimisation in the longer term, and supports the circular economy.	Having a smaller range of materials used for packaging could reduce the costs to the resource recover sector. For example, using PET only would streamline infrastructure and service requirement for recycling. The project will allow for clear definitions of the scope of materials in kerbside recycling, preferred collection methodologies and potentially restrictions on non-conventional plastics.	Yes: Government would be required to follow the standard legislative development process, which would include consultation.	More work required	Y - Workstream 3 - combined with response 15

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	Response Option Reference & Title	Response Details		Cost (\$)	Benefit								
15	Regulate recycled content of packaging.	Government mandate for packaging to be made from a percentage recycled content by a certain period.	Secondary Reprocessing Level	s9(2)(i)		Would require extensive consultation and business involvement. Increasing public demand for this response (or similar).	Increased onshore opportunities as a result. Enhances market demands and reduces reliance on virgin materials.	Enforcability of new legislation would need to be carefully considered. Impacts on other agencies, such as Customs, would need to be considered.	Yes: Has the potential to increase waste minimisation in the longer term, and supports the circular economy.	This option could not be implemented in the short-term and therefore would not assist with mitigating against the negative impacts of the National Sword policy. However, this option would assist the circular economy model due to the higher demand for recycled materials created, and help to offset future negative impacts from similar policies like National Sword. The option to introduce voluntary approaches could be considered, however the success of such an approach has not been quantified. This option may be difficult to implement for imported goods.	Yes: Government would be required to follow the standard legislative development process, which would include consultation.	More work required	Y - Workstream 3 - combined with response 14
5	Review stockpile approval limits.	Relaxation of stockpile limits will increase time available to MRF operators to find markets.	Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Level	s9(2)(i)					No: doesn't align with the priority work programme.	Assessment on a case-by-case basis, which may require considerable administrative time. Operators stockpile to create a time period within which commodity prices may improve but this is not guaranteed and cannot be predicted. Increased stockpile limit requires additional space and may increase environmental risk e.g. fire. This is not considered a suitable or sustainable option.	No: local government intervention	More work required	N
Additional Taskforce Responses agreed to by Feedback Groups													
16	Product Stewardship for Packaging.	Responsibilities for products are shared.	Government	s9(2)(i)		A variety of initiatives are underway nationally to progress product stewardship.	Producers take responsibility for the products, particularly the end of life stages.	Voluntary schemes have mixed success due to the number of organisations unwilling to participate (free-riders). A huge range of product stewardship schemes could potentially require large numbers of collection systems and processing facilities at large costs to the country, rather than integrated systems. Producers are unwilling to meet the costs associated with product stewardship. End markets are still required for any commodities collected and processed.	Yes	Investigations into priority products for product stewardship has been undertaken in recent years. Results of consultation provided clear direction on where the community suggested product stewardship would be appropriate. Currently, four mandatory product stewardship schemes are being explored. An advisory group for product stewardship policy is likely to be a useful method to encourage business uptake of product stewardship. The group can also determine where there is market failure and encourage efforts.	Yes: Government is responsible for mandatory product stewardship.	More work required	Y - Workstream 3
17	National Infrastructure and Services Stocktake, GAP Analysis and National Plan.	A comprehensive stocktake of resource recovery infrastructure and services in New Zealand. A GAP analysis will be carried out, and opportunities identified to develop infrastructure and services. An agreed national plan for investment will be prepared.	Government	s9(2)(i)		A contract to undertake a project	Improvements to collection systems, and primary and secondary processing as a result of investment. An outcome will be improved product quality and volume of material available for further processing. There are likely to be employment and economic benefits.		Yes: aligns with our investment approach	This response incorporates a holistic approach to improvements within the New Zealand resource recovery sector as a whole, including plastics, fibre, metals, glass, organics. Understanding the gaps and potential opportunities will enable government and private sector investment into resource recovery infrastructure in the future.	Yes: National approach required.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 1 links to response 9

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				Cost (\$)	Benefit								
18	Undertake feasibility on transition of low value plastics (3-7 plastics) to high value packaging.	Undertake a feasibility to assess the transition from plastic grades 1-7 to 1,2 and 5, glass, aluminium and fibre - an assessment of the most suitable materials to ensure an effective circular economy approach.	Government	s9(2)(i)		A contract to undertake a project.	May have a large bearing on types of packaging in New Zealand, collection systems, processing and end market value.	To be investigated.	Yes: has a major bearing on the direction of New Zealand's sustainability approach to waste minimisation.	Current lack of available data does not facilitate business transition into this area. Government direction is required to ensure an accurate national transition is successfully implemented. Evidence is required to fully inform a future waste minimisation activity. A close working relationship with the packaging resource recovery sector is integral to the success of any transition.	Yes: Government approach with support from industry.	Recommended	Y - Workstream 2

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