Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143
Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
Freephone: 0800 499 700

s 9(2)(a)

19-D-02600

The New Zealand Herald
s 9(2)(a) @nzme.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 November 2019 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

> *The names of all companies currently operating in New Zealand that export items from New Zealand overseas for recycling.*
>
> *The locations where New Zealand's recycling is exported to, including names of the companies that export recycling to those locations and names of the companies that receive and process those recycling materials.*
>
> *Copies of any reports, documents, memoranda, briefings, correspondence, legal advice or emails, both internal and external regarding recycling products exported from New Zealand in the past 12 months.*
>
> *Any information held about containers of contaminated recycling returned to New Zealand from overseas in the past 12 months, including the origin, the number of containers, volume, the contents, details about the level of contamination, the name of the company implicated and any information about actions the ministry has taken against them.*
>
> *An account of all the actions the ministry has taken in the past 12 months to ensure New Zealand's actions are consistent with the Basel Convention.*

As communicated to you in our letter of 6 December, parts one and two of this request were transferred to the New Zealand Customs Service under section 14 of the Act.

Part three of this request was refined, to limit the scope of emails to:

> *Emails containing finalised advice directly sent to MfE* [Ministry] *managers and above on the matter of recycling products exported from New Zealand over the last 12 months.*

The Ministry for the Environment has identified 54 documents in scope of part three of your request, as listed in the attached table. The in-scope documents are an array of briefing documents, media releases, and emails. International issues are inherent across the Ministry's work, which means references to recycling exports is commonly found in an array of briefing material as captured by the request. Where reference to recycling exports forms a small part of the document, only the excerpt has been released.

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

The Ministry has made redactions to the requested documentation to protect commercial sensitivity, legal professional privilege, international relations (including working relationships with other jurisdictions and preserving New Zealand's international negotiating position), and officials' ability to provide free and frank advice on these matters.

Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

6 (a) [where the making available of that information would be likely] to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand

6 (b) (i) [where the making available of that information would be likely] to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government

9 (2) (a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

9 (2) (b) (ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

9 (2) (g) (i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty

9 (2) (h) to maintain legal professional privilege

9 (2) (j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

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.

Part four of your request is refused under section 18 (e) of the Act, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

The response to part five of your request is below.

An account of all the actions the ministry has taken in the past 12 months to ensure New Zealand's actions are consistent with the Basel Convention.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the Convention) was adopted by Parties to the Convention in 1989. New Zealand has been a Party to the Convention since 1995.

The Basel Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the dangers posed by hazardous waste and other waste specified in the Convention (Basel waste), and regulates the international movement of those wastes. It requires 'prior informed consent' (PIC) from importing countries and transit countries for imports and exports of Basel waste. The Convention uses annexes and a range of codes to describe different waste profiles.

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

We have put the main requirements, and how New Zealand undertakes these, below for your reference.

Implementing the Basel Convention in New Zealand

New Zealand implements its transboundary obligations under the Convention through the Imports and Exports Restrictions (Prohibitions) Order (No 2) 2004 (Imports and Exports Order). The Imports and Exports Order sits under the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Act 1998 (Imports and Exports Act).

Under the Imports and Exports Order, all imports and exports of hazardous wastes and household wastes are subject to PIC from the importing country and require a permit from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). A permit can currently be issued to a specific exporter sending one waste stream to a specific importer and/or facility. The permit could be issued for multiple shipments or a single shipment. As part of the permit application process the EPA seeks PIC from importing countries on behalf of the applicant. The EPA cannot issue a permit for more than a year (a requirement under the Convention), unless the waste is going to a 'pre-consented facility' in an OECD country[1]. Permits are issued for a specific amount of waste and exporters provide an estimated number of shipments they intend to export in the timeframe.

The EPA cannot issue permits unless the import or export is in line with New Zealand's obligations under the Convention. Imports and exports to or from a country that is not a Party to the Convention is not allowed. Permit requirements may differ for imports and exports between OECD counties, or countries that are Parties to the Waigani Convention[2].

For more information on permit applications for imports and exports of hazardous wastes and household wastes, visit the EPA website: https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/hazardous-substances/hazardous-waste/

Offences and enforcement

Under section 4 of the Imports and Exports Act it is an offence to import or export any hazardous waste or household waste in breach of the Imports and Exports Order or to fail to comply with the requirements of a permit granted under the Order. Offences are liable to a fine not exceeding $5,000 for individuals, $25,000 for corporates, or an amount equal to three times the value of the goods to which the offence relates, whichever is the greater. The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) enforces the Imports and Exports Order at the border.

Reporting

Parties to the Convention are required to submit their national reports to the Basel Secretariat annually. Reports include information such as:

- national definitions of hazardous waste
- decisions to limit or ban the import or export of hazardous wastes or other wastes
- an account of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes including
    - the amount of waste
    - the type of waste

[1] Under an OECD decision on transboundary movements of hazardous waste, the EPA can issue a permit for up to three years if the waste is going to a pre-consented facility in an OECD country.
[2] Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region.

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

- the destination of the waste

New Zealand is up-to-date with its reporting and submitted its annual report for 2018 to the Basel Secretariat in December 2019. National reports can be found on the Convention website: http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/NationalReports/BC2018Reports/tabid/8202/Default.aspx

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28 (3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our OIA responses page shortly after the response has been sent.

If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team.

Yours sincerely

Shaun Lewis
Director, Mana Honohono

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

List of documents

No.	Date	Content	Decision	OIA Section/s applied (if withholding information)
1.	12/03/2019	Briefing with talking points - Cabinet paper Update on waste and resource efficiency work programme (including plastic bags implementation)	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
2.	13/03/2019	Media document -NRR Project FAQ February 2019	Release in full	
3.	13/03/2019	Meeting Note - NRR Workshops	Release in part	s 9 (2)(a)
4.	27/03/2019	Briefing Note - New Zealand Government response to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment 2025: Plastics Action Plan	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
5.	5/05/2019	Briefing Note - National Resource Recovery Taskforce - updated work programme and funding options	Release in part	s 9 (2) (g) (i) s 9 (2) (h) s 9 (2) (j)
6.	6/05/2019	Press Release - National Sword 30 April 2019 Revised- NZ needs to improve recycling	Release in full	
7.	8/05/2019	Event note - Announcement of National Resource Recovery Taskforce recommendations and OJI Seaview Material Recovery Facility site tour	Release in part	s 9 (2) (a) s 9 (2) (b) (ii)
8.	12/05/2019	Email – Fwd Outcomes of the COP to Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 6 (b) (i) Only part of the document is within scope of the request

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

9.	20/05/2019	Email – FW Basel, Glenn's Key Messages + talking points for Minister's meeting	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
10	27/05/2019	Event note - Minister Sage meetings with Kate Meads The Nappy Lady and John Gibson CEO of Reclaim	Release in part	s 9 (2) (b) (ii) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
11	29/05/2019	Event note - WasteMINZ and RMLA member networking	Release in part	s 9 (2) (b) (ii) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
12	30/05/2019	Email – Malaysia – no containers being sent to NZ	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
13	5/06/2019	Event note: LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting for rural & provincial mayors and chief executives	Release in part	s 9 (2) (a) s 9 (2) (b) (ii) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
14	20/06/2019	Briefing note - Implementing key decisions adopted at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conferences of the Parties 2019	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
15	12/07/2019	Cabinet paper - Update on the resource efficiency and circular economy work programme	Refused	s 18 (d)
16	22/07/2019	Briefing with talking points – Cabinet papers: Update on the resource recovery and circular economy work programme and Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
17	30/07/2019	Event note – Meeting with the Waste Advisory Board	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

18	9/08/2019	Email – Re Approval request Basel and NRR update	Release in part	s 9 (2)(a) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
19	9/08/2019	Meeting Note - Meeting Note for Minister Sage's meeting with Oji Fibre Solutions 14 August	Release in part	s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 9 (2) (j)
20	14/08/2019	Email – FYI Aus plan to ban export of recyclables	Release in part	s 6 (a) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
21	23/08/2019	Meeting Note - Meeting note for Auckland Council meeting	Release in part	s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 9 (2) (j) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
22	23/08/2019	Email – DPMC Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme	Release in full	
23	23/08/2019	Briefing - DPMC waste update 23 August 2019 FINAL	Release in part	s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 9 (2) (g) (i)
24	28/08/2019	Email – RE: Australian export ban update	Release in part	s 6(a) s 6 (b) (i) s 9 (2) (g) (i)
25	30/08/2019	Email – FW: Discussion with Aus officials about SEM agenda item on circular economy	Release in part	s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
26	30/08/2019	Briefing Note - Circular Economy brief for SEM Ministerial 30 Aug2019	Release in part	s 6(a) s 6 (b) (i) Only part of the document is within scope of the request
27	30/08/2019	Email – RE: DPMC Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the	Release in part	s 6(a) s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

		Government work programme		Only part of the document is within scope of the request
28	30/08/2019	Briefing - DPMC Australia Export Ban Update	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 6 (b) (i)
29	06/09/2019	Briefing - DPMC - Plastics	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (b) (ii) s 9 (2) (g) (i)
30	17/09/2019	New Zealand Container Refund Scheme Update - September 2019	Refused	s 18 (d)
31	19/09/2019	Email – RE: URGENT: Rubbish on way back from Indonesia (10:14)	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
32	20/09/2019	Email – RE: Rubbish on way back from Indonesia (3:28)	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
33	24/09/2019	Media response – RE: Recycling being returned to NZ	Release in full	
34	24/09/2019	Email – FW: Recycling being returned to NZ (4.09)	Release in full	
35	02/10/2019	Email – RE: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Indonesia 2 Oct Stuff	Release in part	Only part of the document is within scope of the request
36	04/10/2019	Email - RE: Minister on Q&A	Release in full	
37	04/10/2019	Media briefing - QA briefing for Min Sage 4 October	Release in full	
38	07/10/2019	Email – RE: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (b) (ii) Only part of the document is in scope of the request
39	07/10/2019	Email – FAQs for the Minister FINAL (amended)	Release in part	s 9 (2) (g) (i)
40	07/10/2019	Media briefing -FAQs for the Minister (final draft)	Release in part	s 9 (2) (g) (i)
41	07/10/2019	Email - RE: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being	Release in part	S 6 (a)

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

		returned to NZ from Indonesia		Only part of the document is in scope of the request
42	11/10/2019	Meeting note - Talking points for 18 October Trans-Tasman Business Circle video conference	Release in full	
43	11/10/2019	Email – Re: Developments re: Indonesia? (8.32)	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i)
44	11/10/2019	Email – RE: Stuff media enquiry: Recycling sent back to NZ due Wed 2/10 – 2 pm	Release in part	Only part of the document is in scope of the request
45	11/10/2019	Event note – phone call with Graeme Barnes, Huhtamaki	Release in part	s 9 (2) (a) s 9 (2) (b)(ii) Only part of the document is in scope of the request
46	14/10/2019	Email – Re: Update on Indonesian containers + draft email to councils for review	Release in part	s 6 (b) (i) s 9 (2)(b)(ii) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is in scope of the request
47	14/10/2019	Email – Re: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia (12:06	Release in part	S 9 (2) (b)(ii) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is in scope of the request
48	14/10/2019	Media briefing - Indonesia shipments 14 October FAQs	Release in full	
49	18/10/2019	Email – RE: for approval: Indonesia (for today)	Release in full	
50	18/10/2019	Email – RE: Indonesia shipments	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is in scope of the request
51	30/10/2019	Email – RE: Global Waste Shell Game: "Returned" Illegal Waste Shipments from U.S., Diverted from	Release in part	s 6 (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i) Only part of the document is in scope of the request

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

		Indonesia to other Asian Countries		
52	04/11/2019	Email – Agenda paper on Australia Waste Export Ban	Release in full	
53	09/11/2019	Email – FW: MEM statement	Release in full	
54	21/11/2019	Email – RE: Media enquiry - Indonesia	Release in part	s 9 (2) (a) s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

Briefing with talking points – Cabinet paper *Update on waste and resource efficiency work programme (including plastic bags implementation)*

Date Submitted:	12 March 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05343	
Security Level	In confidence	MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent

	Action sought:	**Response by:**
To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	For noting ahead of Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee on Thursday 14 March	-

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	**Return** the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments	Nil
Note any feedback on the quality of the report	

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Miranda Grimmer	022 493 0545	
Responsible Manager	Hinemoa Awatere	022 076 4653	
Director	Shaun Lewis	021 101 2446	✓

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery project in response to China's National Sword policy

How will the investment approach align or influence with the response to the China's policy?

41. The investment approach will be informed by the outcomes of the National Resource Recovery work programme. The Circular Economy sectoral and regional analysis and Plastics Action Plan will also feed into the overall response to ensure a strategically integrated approach to any future investment.

Are circular economy principles applied in the response?

42. Circular economy principles are at the heart of the National Resource Recovery response. Examples include optimising recycling systems, and on-shore reprocessing. Circular economy principles will inform both investment decisions and future regulatory option investigations.

What are the next steps?

43. I have asked officials to work on how to resource and implement the recommendations. Officials have reconvened our council and industry working groups and they are helping determine the details of what will be necessary for implementing the recommendations.

How long will it take?

44. A thorough look at the resource recovery system has been taken; particularly, the effects of National Sword internationally and in New Zealand. Potential solutions have been evaluated in consultation with the resource recovery industry and councils. This has taken time, but will ensure the right actions to improve resource recovery in New Zealand are progressed.

45. Changes in international commodity prices can happen in any industry, and it was appropriate that the resource recovery industry responded to this situation in the short-term.

46. This issue has put the spotlight on underlying issues in New Zealand's resource recovery system – providing the opportunity to take a broad look at this system and how it can better align with circular economy principles.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery Project FAQ

When did China National Sword start?
Until this year, China was the world's largest importer of recyclable products. In February 2018 China enforced its 'National Sword' policy (announced in February 2017) aimed at restricting the importation of low quality recyclable materials.

What has happened since China announced its National Sword policy
The policy has resulted in an oversupply of some recyclable products to other overseas markets and a decline in international commodity prices – which is having significant and potentially adverse impacts on New Zealand's resource recovery industry.

When did you begin to respond to China National Sword and what have you done?
In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce to examine New Zealand's resource recovery sector and potential responses to the effects created by China's National Sword policy.

The Taskforce engaged external consultants to undertake a situational analysis and develop potential solutions, and tested these solutions with two working groups – a resource recovery sector professional group and a local council working group.

The Taskforce has presented eight recommendations (in three work streams) to me and I have agreed to these.

What are the recommendations?
In preparing its recommendations, the Taskforce has sought expertise from Australia and has run a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and local councils.

Its findings aim to:

- address immediate issues and impacts in the sector, including reviewing nationwide recycling infrastructure and services and the domestic and commercial collections currently in place
- build a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand in the medium turn, including investing in onshore infrastructure and service improvement
- enable long-term system change through regulations.

What are you going to do next?
I have asked officials to work on how to resource and implement the recommendations. Officials have reconvened our council and industry working groups and they are helping determine the details of what will be necessary for implementing the recommendations.

How long will it take? Have you acted fast enough?
We have deliberately taken a thorough look at the resource recovery system, the effects of National Sword internationally and in New Zealand, and evaluated potential solutions in consultation with the resource recovery industry and councils. This has all taken time, but will ensure we take the right actions to improve resource recovery in New Zealand. We have to work together on this one. It is not just up to Government.

Changes in international commodity prices can happen in any industry, and it was appropriate that the resource recovery industry responded to this situation in the short-term.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The effects of these problems may have long-term adverse impacts on resource recovery in New Zealand. They have put the spotlight on underlying issues in our resource recovery system – providing the opportunity to take a broad look at this system and how it can better align with circular economy principles.

Who is going to be involved from now?
It is really important that industry, councils and government work together to manage the issues facing the resource recovery sector. I am establishing the working groups to ensure we have a good representation from all parts of the sector.

Who were the technical experts used on the national resource recovery work and what did they contribute?
The Task force used Eunomia, a local consultancy to carry out an analysis of the resource recovery sector in New Zealand and impacts on the changes in recycling.

The taskforce also used international experts Mike Ritchie Consulting from Australia to examine what options were available for New Zealand in managing effects on our resource recovery sector. The effects are global – the effects are not just on New Zealand and internationally, everyone is dealing with the problems.

Who was on the National Resource Taskforce, apart from Ministry Officials?
Ministry staff made up the taskforce. The Ministry ran a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and local councils to ensure a good range of views were provided.

Is our recycling system broken?
Our recycling system is not broken. New Zealand has i vested well in collection services, materials recycling facilities to sort collected material and in s me onshore processing. Glass, metal, clean cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are all recovered and made into new products.

The difficulties we are facing are with mixed plastics and mixed paper and cardboard. The materials are not easy to process, can be contaminated and there is little end use for the materials at the moment.

Is more material going to landfill?

Material recycling facilities are not sending many recyclable materials to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

Some ope at rs have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

Plastics
What will happen with the plastics, grades 3 – 7 will they end up in landfill?
Some companies have chosen not to collect and process these grades of plastics at the moment. Unfortunately, the plastics will have to be sent to landfill.

How much plastic material is going to landfill?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The exact quantities of plastic material going to landfill is unknown due to the current impacts of the China National sword Policy. However analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic material is recycled of which 90% is exported.

Do we know how much plastic waste is produced in New Zealand per year and how much is recycled?

The Ministry's analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic is collected for recycling each year and of that 90% is exported offshore.

What efforts are being made to improve plastic recycling across New Zealand?
We have been working with the industry for some years to make sure we can process PET and HDPE (Plastics 1and 2) in New Zealand. There are successful businesses processing the plastic and making it into new products or material to sell.

When this is done, it is important for New Zealand companies to support those companies and buy the recycled products.

What does the Minister plan to do to address the issues of reducing plastic waste?
New Zealand recently joined an international pledge to cut plastic waste from our economy and environment. I signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment on 29 October, confirming New Zealand will join countries and organisations around the world at the forefront of the movement to address the root causes of plastic pollution and to create a new normal, where all plastics in our economy are designed to be reused, recycled or composted as part of a circular economy.

We are seeing businesses here really begin to step up to address single-use plastics. In June, we launched the New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration where so far 15 local and multi-national companies have pledged to move to 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025 or earlier.

Paper and Cardboard

How has National Sword policy affected paper and cardboard recycling?
The China National Sword policy resulted in a total ban on the importation of mixed paper grade material and this has led to an over-supply and a dramatic drop in global paper and cardboard prices. Some grades of newsprint and 'old corrugated cardboard' are still able to be imported into China but are limited to maximum of 0.5% contamination. New Zealand continues to export these paper and cardboard products, but in smaller volumes with new exports being found in Asian markets such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and India.

Is there more paper and cardboard being sent to landfills?
This is difficult to determine at this time with the shift in volumes away from China and attempts by processors to sell the displaced volumes into other Asian markets or alternately find other processing options. Some volume is being stockpiled in anticipation of a lift in global prices

What is the government doing to ensure that more fibre is being reprocessed and not sent to landfills?

I have asked officials to consider issues relating to the processing of paper and fibre products in New Zealand as part of the next phase of the Taskforces work and they are currently in discussions with Councils and Industry working groups on how this.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

How many recycling operators are experiencing financial difficulties and does the government propose to support them?
Material recycling facilities are not sending recyclables to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

At this point, some councils have renegotiated prices for sorting recyclable materials.

Is the government providing or intend to provide, financial support to the sector?
At this point in time, the sector has dealt with contractual arrangements (any variations) between themselves.

Does the government support or intend to support additional infrastructure in the resource sector to provide more certainty to the sector and to New Zealanders?
I established a taskforce to consider what needed to be done to address matters in the resource recovery sector. A council working group and an industry working group have assisted the taskforce. There are a number of recommendations from the taskforce which I have agreed to. A key recommendation is to identify what infrastructure and services are available in New Zealand and to consider where additional investment is required. Improving the quality and volume of materials available for recycling is important along with what to reprocess into materials that can be further used in new products or sold.

I hear the a growing number of councils are refusing to accept grades 3 – 7 plastics in their collection services
Currently there are limited markets for 3-7 plastics to be sent to. As a result, some businesses and councils are not prepared to bear the cost of stockpiling unrecyclable product and choosing not to collect it. The taskforce I established, supported by council and industry working groups are considering further options for how to manage 3-7 plastics.

If paper is being stockpiled is this causing more waste issues when stored?
Paper is not being stockpiled. Once paper is wet, it cannot be recycled. Paper is being sold and recycled, even though it is for a substantially less price.

Overseas destinations/markets for plastics in particular have been highlighted as potentially generating environmental harm/pollution. Should NZ be sending materials overseas?

Sending some of our recyclable materials overseas is not a long term solution to the problems of waste in New Zealand. The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process our recyclable materials in New Zealand. New Zealand has good manufacturing plants here for processing clean cardboard, glass, PET and HDPE plastics.

New Zealand now has a programme of work to determine how we can process more recyclable materials here. When it is possible to do so, we hope to process waste internally, removing the need for us to export materials for further processing.

New Zealand cannot dictate how other countries will handle recyclable materials they import. Fortunately, we do not send a lot of recyclable material to Malaysia, Indonesia or Vietnam currently.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The Malaysian Government has now put strict controls on the Malaysian companies importing materials into Malaysia, which New Zealand supports.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Event with National Resource Recovery Working Groups

6 March 2019 Council Working Group

7 March 2019 Industry Working Group

Purpose

To meet with the members of the working groups who suppo ted the work of your taskforce, thank them for their contribution and request their ongoing involvement as key stakeholders.

Runsheet

Date	6 March 2019 7 March 2019
Time	6 March – 10-10.30 7 March – 9 15-9.45
Location	Ministry for the Environment, Environment House 6 March: Meeting room 1B 7 March: Meeting room 1A
Order of events	1. Brief speech to the group 2. Discussion on recommendations and future involvement
Expected number of guests	Council Workshop 10 Industry Workshop 14
Media	None
Contacts	**Ministry for the Environment** Nigel Clarke s (9)(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Speaking points

1. It is a pleasure seeing you all back around the table here to work with my officials on the National Resource Recovery project.
2. As you all well know China's National Sword policy has had a major impact on global commodity prices for recyclables.
3. I was quickly made aware of the problems and how the changes placed pressure on our recycling and resource recovery sector. I know it has been financially difficult for you all and it has required some major work on your part to cope with the speed of the impacts.
4. The sheer volume of material from all around the world did have an effect on the markets most of you had built up in other countries outside of China as a result of the earlier Chinese policies. In one sense, it is good news that huge volume of materials collected does show a general willingness to recycle and the efforts made globally to recycle. However, there are huge investments in the sector in New Zealand and we need to ca eful y work to ensure its ongoing viability.
5. In establishing the Taskforce, I wanted to know how Government could work with you all to determine what would be required, both in the short term and the long term and how to manage any changes in the sector that may be needed
6. I also wanted to ensure we took the opportunity to look broadly at how our resource recovery system is functioning, and how well it aligns with our ambit on to support more onshore processing of recyclables and eventually a transition New Zealand to a circular economy.
7. I would like to say how much I appreciated your willingness to support my officials on the Taskforce. It is not often that busi ess and councils are willing to work so openly and easily with each other. What is clear is that we have a common problem and a commitment to working together to address t
8. I am pleased that we were able to get a clearer picture of the sector through the situational analysis. We definitely need more information on commercial recycling as it is evident it is a very significant part of the resource recovery sector and I look forward to developing our understanding of hat in the future
9. With Mike Ri chie you canvassed a good number of options for managing the effects of changes n commodity prices on the sector. I note that Mike said that compared to Australia the process here has been quick and effective and has meant that we arrived at some good thoughts for where to in the future. Well done.
10. My taskforce worked through all the information from you very carefully. As I see it, the recommendations aim to:
    - address immediate issues and impacts in the sector, including reviewing nationwide recycl ng infrastructure and services and the domestic and commercial collections currently in place
    - build a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand in the medium turn, including investing in onshore infrastructure and service improvement
    - enable long-term system change through regulations and other instruments.
11. I have agreed to the recommendations and have asked my officials to work through how to resource the work and provide detail on what the work will entail – which is the purpose of the workshop today.
12. I want to ensure we work very closely with you all as we start on the task ahead. The size of the projects and changes that may be required, and how quickly we can work on putting them in place, is not something Government can do alone. It is very clear to me that your support

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

and active involvement is vital. We need to be prepared to work together – from business to business and with councils.

13. There are many good small projects and business initiatives to process recyclable materials around the country which we could replicate to speed up our response to the problems with recycling markets. I know there are also ideas from business which we can fast track to drive quicker progress.
14. We need to capture the ideas, decide which are worth pursuing and then make them happen.
15. The Government does not hold all the ideas, funding and resources to make this happen as quickly as it is needed for New Zealand. Councils and businesses all have a major role to play. The Ministry and Government are only one part of this.
16. Today, I understand you are going to provide more detail on how we can all implement he recommendations to me that you provided.
17. You have all been bought together as you are at the core of deliver ng waste minimisat on in the sector. I am very keen to hear how we can continue to work together on speeding up our response. We need to have a firm view on where to from now. Who else do we need to also involve? Who do we talk to and get the right people given the magnitude of this work? What sort of resources are we going to need? Who is going to provide the r sources? Who is best placed to drive the work programme? What are he priorities now? No mean task, but I do want to hear how we engage widely and deliver wel
18. Whilst we have you all here as a working group, I want to get a real sense of how we all work together in the future. It may be that the Ministry isn't the only one to facilitate the work and if not, who?
19. Lastly, I announced a programme of work for my wa te portfolio last year. The work includes expanding the waste disposal levy to all landfills, improving our national data on waste and resource recovery, investing more strategi ally in infrastructure and innovation to support resource recovery and mandatory product stewardship for problem products like vehicle tyres and e-waste. We also need to look at longer term system change in waste minimisation, designing waste out and developing resource recovery – for which you all play a central role. The tasks we tart on with the nat onal resource recovery project are integral to my work programme
20. Thank you for your work to date and I am looking forward to seeing the result of your deliberations today.

Discussion points

1. We a e a few months on from the last workshop. Have there been any significant changes in the sector that I need to be aware of?
2. Ha ing looked at the recommendations my taskforce put to me, do they still reflect your views?
3. Are there other options, that with hindsight, we should also address?
4. What do you think are the priorities for this work?
5. How would you like to see government, businesses and councils working together on these projects?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Attendees

Council Working Group

s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)

Industry Working Group:

s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (	
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a)
s (9) (2) (a)	s (9) (2) (a

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

New Zealand Government response to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment 2025: Plastics Action Plan

Date Submitted:	27 March 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05267	
Security Level	In-confidence	MfE Priority:	High

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	**Approve** recommendations for Plastics Action Plan 2025	10 April 2019

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	**Return** the signed briefing note to MfE by 10 April 2019.
Number of appendices: 2	Titles of appendices: [redacted] Out of scope
Note any feedback on the quality of the report	

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Tanisha Vithal	s 9(2)(a)	
Responsible Manager	Hinemoa Awatere	022 076 4653	
Director	Shaun Lewis	022 099 7624	✓

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

New Zealand Government response to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment 2025: Plastics Action Plan

Supporting material

Context

1. Plastic waste is a growing concern across the globe. Resources for extraction are scarce and items are often disposed of after single use. Millions of tonnes of plastic enter aquatic and marine ecosystems annually, endangering wildlife and human health. In New Zealand we import over 250,000 tonnes of plastics annually, as our domestic production is limited. We also have limited onshore processing capability for recycling plastic at its end of life. China's importation ban on recycling international plastics has put additional pressure on countries to re-evaluate their current stance on plastics and to come up with innovative and proactive solutions to tackle the issue at its source.
2. In 2018, the Ministry focused on supporting the transition from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to transitioning towards a circular economy where waste is designed out of the system. Within the transition towards a circular economy, plastics is one area to be tackled.
3. On 29 October 2018, New Zealand signed up to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment (Global Commitment). The Global Commitment encourages Governments and businesses to focus on eliminating problematic and unnecessary plastics, design innovative packaging and infrastructure, and keeping materials circulating within the system. It presents an opportunity for businesses, NGOs and governments to address the root causes of plastic waste and pollution.
4. The packaging sector has a crucial part in the transition to a circular economy due to its role in product development and resource recovery. Therefore taking further action requires solid engagement with industry. Without this support, there will be resistance and ineffective update of short-to-long term actions. The transition to a circular economy can be achieved if a multidimensional approach is taken, in which all stakeholders contribute. There is a need to develop an action plan that unites both government-led actions and industry-led initiatives.

Analysis and Advice

Out of scope

[redacted]

Plastics Action Plan

6. The Plastics Action Plan Out of scope implements the targets of the Global Commitment. To achieve these targets, four focus areas have been identified that constitute the core of our work programme:

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

i. Product and material design. Out of scope

ii. Reuse models. Out of scope

iii. Infrastructure and investment. Out of scope

iv. Data and information. Out of scope

7. The four focus areas will complement research undertaken as part of the National Resource Recovery (NRR) project in response to China's restrictions on contaminated materials. The NRR project includes analysis of contractual requirements and resources for collection services and processing, infrastructure and service improvement, and long-term system change through procurement and product stewardship schemes.

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery Taskforce - updated work programme and funding options

Date Submitted:	5 May 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05412	
Security Level	IN CONFIDENCE	MfE Priority:	Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	Approve NRR changes and funding option	17 May 2018

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	**Return** the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices: 2	**Appendix 1:** Preliminary NRR Work programme (approved BN 2018-B-04894) **Appendix 2:** Stakeholder feedback summary **Appendix 3:** Revised NRR work programme – including stakeholder feedback (changes), action scope summaries and s (9) (2) (h)

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Roderick Boys	022 493 0561	
Responsible Manager	Meg Larken	027 447 348	
Director	Annabelle Ellis	022 009 7624	✓

National Resource Recovery Taskforce - updated work programme and funding options

Key Messages

1. The purpose of this briefing is to seek your approval of updated recommendations on the National Resource Recovery (NRR) Taskforce work programme. Your provisional approval of funding under section 38 of the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) is being sought, and the implications for the use of Crown funding is also outlined (ie, including new funding from Budget 2019).

Work programme

2. You have previously approved the initial recommendations and NRR work programme (BN 2018-B-04894). You asked us to investigate accelerating the delivery of the work programme and of utilising section 38 of the Waste Minimisation Act to fund projects.

3. The initial work programme included eight provisional recommendations set out in Appendix 1. Following your approval, we held workshops with council and industry stakeholders. Feedback is summarised in Appendix 2 and included wide support for the NRR work programme along with the following suggested additional actions:

   a. development of a NZ container deposit scheme (investigation of the options),

   b. inclusion of a review of the construction and demolition infrastructure across New Zealand and the potential opportunities for diversion and/or recycling,

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

c. amending actions on plastics to focus on low value and single use plastic packaging (ie, as opposed to only types 3-7 due to the potential for misinterpretation)

d. a targeted national education and communication campaign, and

e. faster delivery of interdependent actions (ie, packaging options should be considered at the same time as infrastructure analysis)

4. Also, stakeholders communicated the need for action remains with challenging markets, stockpiling, financial bail-outs and eight councils are now stopping collections for plastic types 3-7.

5. We have updated the recommended work programme, set out at Table 1, to now comprise 11 recommendations across four key themes: Infrastructure and Investment; Product Stewardship; System Issues and System Support

s 9 (2) g (i), s 9 (2) (h), s 9 (2) (j)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) g (i), s 9 (2) (h), s 9 (2) (j)

Recommendations

12. We recommend that you:

a. **Approve** the revised NRR work programme outlined in Table 1 (and provided in detail at Appendix 3).

Yes/No

s 9 (2) g (i), s 9 (2) (h), s 9 (2) (j)

Signature

Annabelle Ellis
Director Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships

Date 1/5/19

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery – updated work programme and funding options

Background

13. In response to China's National Sword (Feb 2018), you directed the establishment of a Ministry–led NRR Taskforce to examine New Zealand's resource recovery sector and develop potential responses.

14. Utilising the consultant's reports and initial feedback from the council and industry stakeholder groups, during 2018 the Ministry identified eight provisional recommendations (Appendix 1). These recommendations would enable the government and sector to address the effects of China's National Sword in New Zealand

15. Following your consideration and approval of the eight recommendations (BN 2018-B-04894 "*National Resource Recovery Taskforce: New Zealand's options in response to effects created by the implementation of the National Sword Policy*"), industry and council stakeholders were asked to provide detailed feedback on the approved preliminary recommendations and the NRR work programme. Their feedback is summarised in Appendix 2 and incorporated in the Appendix 3 project scope summaries.

Summary of updated national resource recovery work programme

16. We have analysed the feedback from the stakeholder workshops, and current situational analysis to produce an updated work programme to address national resource recovery issues. The themes, projects, estimated costs, timeframes and proposed funding mechanisms are set out in Table 1, page 5.

17. The four themes replace the 'workstreams' by clustering projects according to their overarching purpose.

    i. 'Infrastructure investment strategy' is made up of five investigations, which collectively provide a comprehensive sectoral analysis which will underpin significant government and business investment in the resource recovery sector.

    ii. 'Product stewardship' has two projects, delivering scheme designs for up to four packaging product types and including a proposed container deposit scheme for beverage containers.

    iii. 'System issues' has two different projects that both seek to address key issues within the sector, that of contamination (at source) and issues surrounding hard to recycle plastic packaging.

    iv. 'System support' also has two actions which are key to better outcomes for the sector, through model contracts and increased market pull for recycled products.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Table 1: Updated National Resource Recovery Taskforce recommended work programme

NRR Theme	NRR Project		Estimated timeframe (post deed)	Proposed process to identify provider
Infrastructure Investment Strategy	a) Review of domestic kerbside and commercial recycling collections	s (9) (2) (g) (i) s (9) (2) (j)	3-6 months	MIA via RFA
	b) Conduct a resource recovery infrastructure and services stocktake/database (includes domestic re-processors) to inform future waste minimisation investment approach.		9-12months	
	c) Investigate feasibility of increasing domestic fibre mill capacity		6-9 months	
	d) Investigate feasibility of increasing domestic plastic reprocessing capacity and capability.		6-9 months	
	e) Investigate feasibility of increasing construction and demolition diversion and the opportunities for processing/reprocessing infrastructure nationally.		6-9 months	
	s (9) (2) (g) (i), s (9) (2) (j)			
Product Stewardship	f) *Investigate and design a New Zealand Container Deposit Scheme and undertake cost benefit analysis on the proposal.		18-30 months **(FY 1-2)**	MIA via: RFA, or WMF round, or *co-design approach
	g) *Examine the role of product stewardship for packaging (up to 3 products).		9-12 months each **(FY 2-3)**	
System issues	h) Investigate the recyclability of plastic packaging and the opportunities to transition to more sustainable packaging materials.		9- 12 months **(FY 1)**	
	i) Education campaign with key messages for use by a range of organisations, to educate consumers about what is recyclable and reduce contamination (note: excludes and TV campaign or public billboard campaign)		6-12months **(FY 2)**	
System support	j) Develop MRF/council model contracts – a suite of model contracts, specification and supporting documents for waste management and resource recovery services.		6-9 months **(FY 1)**	MIA via RFA
	k) Develop a sustainable procurement plan that supports a NZ circular economy – local, central government and nationally		12- 18 months **(FY 2-3)**	
Financial Year 2019/20 subtotal (estimate)				
Financial Years 2020/21 - 21/22 subtotal (estimate)				
Estimated MIA total over three years				

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) g (i), s 9 (2) (j)

s 9 (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) (h)

[redacted]

Analysis and Advice

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

30. The development of a NZ CDS is a potentially "game changing" initiative which has wide support from local authorities (96% in favour, 2018 LGNZ remit[1]) and the NZ public (83% in favour, 2018 WasteMINZ survey[2]). Auckland Council's Sapere modelling report[3] estimated councils (rate payers) nationally, could save as much as $20.9 million per annum on kerbside services alone, largely through fewer collection vehicle kilometres travelled.

31. "The build-up of plastic in the environment" is now the number one concern for New Zealanders[4]. CDSs have been shown to reduce beverage container coastal litter by ~40%[5], and is estimated by Auckland Council's report to increases container recycling from an estimated ~50% to ~80% in NZ. If CDS is to be advanced, it is likely to be 'the action' the New Zealand public engages with in the proposed work programme.

32. While CDS has many potential benefits, it would also bring significant change to parts of New Zealand's recycling sector. There would be impacts on existing kerbside services, as well as significant investment required in the establishment of a managing organisation, in drop off sites/reverse vending machines and transportation of bulk materials for recycling. The total NZ societal benefit estimated by Auckland Council's report was between $184 million and $645 million over ten years. This was based on a system design with significant assumptions that need further exploration for NZ as a whole. Understanding the costs and

[1] https://www.lgnz.co.nz/news-and-media/2018-media-releases/local-government-debates-key-issues-at-annual-conference/

[2] https://www.nzpsc.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Container-Deposit-Scheme-Summary-Report-Final.pdf

[3] http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Container-Deposit-CBA-Report-Final.pdf

[4] https://www.colmarbrunton.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Colmar-Brunton-Better-Futures-2019-MASTER-FINAL-REPORT.pdf

[5] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X17305377 (Marine Policy *"Economic incentives reduce plastic inputs to the ocean"* Vol 96, Oct 2018).

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

benefits of any proposed scheme and the alternative options is a necessary part of the process if a design if a NZ CDS is to be advanced.

33. We recommend you include the investigation and development of a NZ CDS within the funded NRR work programme actions, on the understanding that it also includes review of the alternative options; analysis of the impacts NZ wide; and that the key beverage industry stakeholders are brought into the development process.

34. The process could potentially be further assisted by the declaration of beverage containers as priority products under Part 2 of the WMA.

Construction and demolition (C&D)

35. Given the size of the C&D waste stream and volume of materials potentially recoverable within it, the inclusion of C&D recovery infrastructure and opportunities within the scope of the work programme is both practical and recommended.

36. It is also necessary to include C&D from the perspective of the waste levy expansion to different landfill class types. This has the potential to change the economics of C&D material recovery across NZ and future investment strategies for C&D will be an important component of the wider waste levy investment approach.

Plastics 1-7

37. Stakeholders specifically requested the amendment of language within NRR plastics actions to focus on issues associated with 'low value' plastics and 'single use plastic packaging', as opposed to 'plastics 3-7' more generally, due to the potential for misunderstanding and lost opportunities.

38. The plastics material type numbering system (1-7) is useful for easy identification of single-use plastic packaging. The same system applies to plastic materials used elsewhere, such as clothing, automobile parts and construction. Products within these sectors typically have very different lifetimes (eg, Polypropylene or PP/5 clothing may last 2-10 years, building insulation may be installed for 50-100 years). Further, these building products can be made from recycled content (ie, formerly clothing or single use packaging which have decreasing useful lifetimes respectively). Through a circular economy lens, PP may have potential uses as a recycled commodity in New Zealand, yet PP packaging is currently caught in the low value plastic "3-7" designation. There is available markets for clear and natural colour types 1 and 2 (PET/HDPE)

National targeted education campaign

39. The council working group representatives suggested that a stand-alone national targeted education campaign on recycling and contamination was appropriate within the NRR work programme. This proposal is a wider scope than what was intended prior with the action limited to the "development of key messages, for use by a range of organisations, to reduce contamination."

40. Many countries have national scale consumer and business education and communication campaigns targeting recycling and contamination issues as recycling is a public good activity as well as resource efficiency one. One of the most recognisable is the UK "Recycle Now" campaign, developed by WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Plan), alongside Love Food Hate Waste. Both of which are over a decade old and still recognised as examples of best practice in waste sector communication and behaviour change.

41. There is a WMF project (commencing soon) to research and develop key messages in relation to kerbside recycling and contamination issues, and subsequently deliver the messaging (with limited by funding). The proposed NRR targeted national campaign would leverage this WMF project by increasing its reach.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Delivery timeframes

42. Both stakeholder groups suggested that "investigations that would support future regulatory intervention options" should be brought forward on grounds of interdependency and the impact these options could have on future investment strategy.

43. The NRR work programme has been reorganised according to theme (Table 1). Year one will include the actions necessary to inform the infrastructure strategy which is critical both to the NRR response and the waste levy expansion project. Investigation into a NZ CDS is also recommended to commence in year one and will take up to two years to complete.

44. The remaining actions will be spread across years 1-3 of the work programme. A flexible approach to timing delivery of the remaining NRR actions is recommended as it allows for greater engagement with the sector on these actions and prioritisation can be informed accordingly.

45. Councils and industry stakeholders recommended that 'waste to energy' be included within the NRR scope. However, waste to energy is not included as the Ministry has already commissioned an independent report and its findings will be communicated in due course. Any resulting action can therefore be considered independently of the NRR work programme.

Risks and mitigations

Risk	Mitigations
The issues facing the resource recovery sector are well publicised and a government response to the situation is overdue.	The NRR work programme has been developed by independent experts and further refined through council and industry stakeholder feedback so as to ensure a comprehensive response is put forward.
There is a risk stakeholders may view the NRR work programme as taking too long, further exacerbating the issues and undermining the public's confidence in the recycling sector.	Utilisation of your authority under section 38 of the Act to fund the work programme to support the sector is recommended to help mitigate this risk moving forward.
[redacted] s (9) (g) (i), s 9 (2) (j)	
Inability to secure historic and commercial data to inform investigations	Work with sector stakeholders closely to ensure buy-in to NRR implementation process
Lack of a nationally consistent approach to the implementation of model contracts, due to commercial requirements and legislative ability.	Include information on commercial law and contract variation processes.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s (9) (2) (h)

s (9) (2) (g) (i), s (9) (2) (j)

s (9) (2) (g) (i), s (9) (2) (j)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Next Steps

55 s (9) (2) (g) (i), s (9) (2) (h) [redacted] we will progress the plans and initiate the RFA process for year 1 (FY20219/20).

56. We will then provide you with recommended providers and costs for your consideration and approval.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Preliminary NRR Work programme, approved BN 2018-B-04894

Workstream One (short to medium term): Addressing immediate issues and impacts

1. This workstream aims to improve council collection services and processing, with a focus on existing and new contractual obligations. Building onshore capability through the improvement of infrastructure and services is also a focus. This will be delivered through improvements to collections (kerbside and commercial) and primary processing (MRF) to ensure quality and volume.
2. The following activity is recommended:
   a) Develop model contracts – a suite of model contract, specification and supporting documents for waste management and resource recovery services (eg, gate fee variations, introduction of contamination bands, commodity price risk-sharing).
   b) Conduct an infrastructure and services stocktake/database (includes domestic re-processors) to inform future waste minimisation investment approach.
   c) Review of domestic kerbside and commercial collections – types of collection and development of key messages, for use by a range of organisations, to reduce contamination.

Workstream Two (medium term): Building a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand

3. Investigate feasibility of secondary processing in New Zealand to support local tertiary manufacturing of recovered products or sale to overseas markets. The focus of this investigation should consider demand and material type to ensure economic sustainability. The Taskforce notes that Auckland Council has initiated a project on domestic paper and cardboard processing.
4. The following activity is recommended:
   d) Investigate feasibility of increasing domestic fibre mill capacity and plastic reprocessing.
   e) Investigate feasibility of low value plastics (types 3 – 7) transition to high value packaging.

Workstream Three (long-term): Enabling system change

5. Examining the need for regulatory intervention is important, including to determine the use of tools like mandatory product stewardship and other mechanisms aimed at preventing low value products production and introduction.
6. Procurement is a critical lever in determining the overall success of resource recovery in New Zealand. Nationwide adoption across the system is important (ie, not just by government). MBIE has initiated a programme of work at the direction of Minister Parker.
7. The following activity is recommended:
   f) Examine the role of product stewardship for packaging.
   g) Investigate feasibility of packaging content and recyclability regulations.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendix 2: Stakeholder feedback summary

1. Both the industry and council stakeholder groups were broadly supportive of:
    a. the NRR work programme and their continued involvement in it,
    b. the establishment of an NRR Technical Advisory Group (councils and industry), and project specific working groups with subject matter experts from across the sector, and
    c. bringing forward workstream 3 investigations (that would inform regulatory intervention options such as plastics, labelling, Container Deposit Scheme, etc.) to align with Workstreams 1 and 2 because of the interdependency (ie, if regulatory options are to be implemented, these would impact on any future NRR investment strategy).

    Note: the latter does not mean that all stakeholders are in favour of regulatory solutions. Simply that all recognised the need to undertake the investigations and "have the conversation" so all are clear on the future direction before significant investment decisions are made.
2. Both working groups also signalled that the need for urgent action remains and that there is the risk that the NRR work programme could take too long, further exacerbating the issues and undermining the public's confidence in the recycling sector.
3. The industry stakeholder group also provided the following feedback:
    a. recommend the government provides "clear signalling" and direction with "statements of intent" on any planned regulatory interventions,
    b. recommend that the NRR language associated with plastics be amended to focus on issues associated with single-use plastic packaging, as opposed to types 3-7s ; recognising that plastics 3-7 can have high utility/value (eg, Polyvinyl Chloride or PVC/3 pipe is used widely in construction and Polypropylene or PP/5 packaging may have higher value if separated out as a clean single stream material),
    c. request consideration of a "what's going on in our sector" web-page so that all can access the latest information and be informed about progress (potentially hosted by WasteMINZ),
    d. request that any regulatory change options such as mandatory product stewardship or plastic packaging restrictions be well researched and understood in terms of impacts on the existing resource recovery infrastructure, including kerbside services,
    e. note existing industry and government initiatives and research thereby ensuring the NRR work programme recognises and complements other initiatives, and
    f. note the risk that the supply of some hard to recycle packaging materials may continue unchanged in the absence of regulatory intervention.
4. The council stakeholder working group also provided the following recommendations:
    a. include a separate "Consumer education on recyclables" action in Workstream 1 (previously incorporated in kerbside/commercial collection review),
    b. introduce a new action "To introduce (design) a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for New Zealand" be included in Workstream 1,
    c. include "Construction and Demolition waste" diversion options in Workstream 2 investigations, and
    d. investigate "Waste to Energy" for problematic recyclables and other wastes be included in Workstream 2 investigations.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

5. Both the industry and council working groups also provided detailed feedback on the NRR actions. This feedback was a key focus of the workshops and has helped inform the revised NRR work programme (Appendix 3).
6. Both groups emphasised the need to understand the market dynamics within all of the actions, as failure to do so may present a significant risk for future investment approach.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendix 3: Revised NRR work programme – including stakeholder feedback (changes), action summaries and s 9 (2) (h)

*Indicates stakeholder recommended changes to the work programme

	NRR project and scope summary	s (9) (2) (h)

Infrastructure Investment Strategy	**a) Review of domestic kerbside and commercial collections – types of collection** *~~and development of key messages, for use by a range of organisations, to reduce contamination.~~
	
	The scope of this project includes:
	• Analysis of collection systems currently in place throughout New Zealand, including: methods of collection, quantity of materials, quality of materials, frequency of collection, collection rates, container/packaging contamination rates, health and safety issues, funding models, etc.
	• What opportunities are there for improvements and standardisation of services and what impacts would the options have?
	  ○ Review of recent Waste Assessments and LGA S17a reviews
	  ○ Inclusive of collection method, costs, health and safety, environmental outcomes, etc.
	• What opportunities exist for regionalisation or consolidation of services?
	• Investigate CBD and rural service levels and make recommendations for improvements.
	• Provide report on the current status and areas of improvement including other collection options that might be available.
	• Undertake international literature review on impacts of CDS on kerbside systems.	

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Infrastructure Investment Strategy	**b) Conduct an infrastructure and services stocktake/database (includes domestic re-processors) to inform future waste minimisation investment approach.** The scope of this project includes: • Development of a cross sector stakeholder engagement plan. Regional scale: • Mapping the location of all resource recovery and re/processing infrastructure (municipal and commercial), for all key material types including: fibre, plastics, glass, metals (including ewaste), organics, construction and demolition waste, etc. • Identify each facilities processing capability, current capacity and potential growth capacity. • Mapping all disposal infrastructure including landfills, managed fills, C&D (all sites), organic waste facilities, clean fills, quarries, etc. • Investigations and data gathering on consented status of all recovery and disposal sites. • Investigation into material flows (recovered/not recovered/diverted) and the market demand (marketable volumes and product types) for those materials (both onshore demand and export opportunities) National scale: • Undertake a gap analysis – where does it make sense to invest in capacity for different material types, given consideration of NZ's existing waste management and resource recovery/processing infrastructure, national transport geography and our ability to aggregate materials cost effectively? • Provide a formal report and GIS outputs on the infrastructure and services stocktake, with recommendations on national and regional scale investment opportunities ie, a national infrastructure investment plan, ensuring alignment with the overall investment approach strategy.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Infrastructure Investment Strategy	**c) Investigate the feasibility of increasing domestic fibre mill capacity** **d) Investigate the feasibility of increasing plastic reprocessing capacity and capability.** The scope of these projects includes: • Separate RFAs for fibre and plastics – different expertise and context. • Development and roll out of key stakeholder engagement plan. • Updated and improved (data) situational analyses for fibre and plastics processing/reprocessing, including onshore capability, location of material and volumes in NZ (2018/19 and forecast out years) • Investigate on-shore and off shore processing options for fibre and plastics, both large and small scale (ie, incorporating infrastructure and services stocktake data). Including a breakdown of possible commodity types and products to determine the best value for money opportunities, including a cost benefit analysis of future processing, storage and transport options. • Analysis of local and international markets for plastic and paper commodities, including review of changes (forecast) in global processing capacity and demand following the downturn in recent world prices. • Investigate fibre and plastics exports, materials value, destinations and externalities and financial impacts/returns. • Consider local manufacture of fibre and plastic products – what is the demand and where are the materials coming from and how is this impacted by geographical location and economies of scale? • Undertake a risk and impact assessment on both fibre and plastics. Prepare and present reports with recommended investment options for increasing domestic fibre mill capacity and plastic reprocessing together with: identification of site location, risks, opportunities, threats, financial implications, time to market, funding mechanisms and market opportunities.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Infrastructure Investment Strategy	e) ***Investigate feasibility of increasing construction and demolition diversion and processing infrastructure nationally.** • Develop and roll-out a stakeholder engagement plan. • Situational analyses for C&D waste disposal and processing/reprocessing in NZ, both prior years and future expectations, analysis to be both regionally and nationally focussed. • Analysis of the components of C&D waste -material types and volumes. • Investigate on-shore and off-shore processing options for C&D waste (included within the infrastructure and services stocktake), including: a breakdown of possible commodity processing types; potential aggregated volumes (regional); existing and potential new C&D product streams to determine the best value for money and likely return on investment; cost benefit analysis of the options • Analysis of local markets and forecast demand (growth rates and product types) for C&D commodities. • Identification of barriers to C&D recovery, processing and diversion potential (regionally/nationally). • Develop and present report on current and future investment options and opportunities for increasing domestic C&D recovery together with a risk and impact assessment.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Product Stewardship	f) **Investigate and design a New Zealand Container Deposit Scheme and undertake cost benefit analysis on the proposal:**
	• Undertake broad stakeholder engagement, including engagement with voluntary product stewardship scheme managers.
	• Identify what products the scheme will/could include.
	• Develop options for a NZ CDS scheme or similar to address the impacts of beverage and other in scope containers with input from all key stakeholders.
	• Undertake comprehensive economic and cost benefit analysis on the proposed options, sufficient to understand the impacts on:
	  ○ The container material flows (regional and national logistics).
	  ○ Council and commercial kerbside/recycling schemes across all of NZ.
	  ○ Existing MRF infrastructure and how this may be impacted.
	  ○ Impacts on products with changes/improvements in contamination rate and likely effects on diversion from waste streams.
	  ○ Local and international commodity markets impacted by the introduction of a product stewardship scheme(s).
	• Where required undertake further analysis, investigations and modelling of alternative scheme design parameters.
	• Prepare and present report on a proposed CDS design for NZ, with recommendations for changes to the design, whether to implement a NZ CDS, and expected costs/benefits/risks/impacts if implemented.
		s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Product Stewardship	**g) Examine the role of product stewardship for packaging (up to 3 products).**
	
	The scope of this initiative includes:
	• Analysis of the various working group investigations and identification of what is being advanced nationally in the absence of mandatory product stewardship schemes
	• Investigations that answer key questions for priority product, product stewardship proposals, such as:
	  ○ What is the state of the packaging industry/infrastructure?
	  ○ What is the readiness to proceed with product stewardship initiatives?
	  ○ Is there a market for the materials?
	  ○ What will it cost to implement?
	  ○ What are the benefits, risks and impacts of implementing a product stewardship scheme?
	
	Note: this action will be undertaken with consideration of the following:
	• The Minister's Product Stewardship work programme.
	• "Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa" PMO investigation.
	• The Government's Plastics Action Plan.
	• Industry led initiatives - New Plastics Econ Global Commitment.
	• And any future established working groups.
		s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

System issue	**h) Investigate the recyclability of plastic packaging ~~(types 3 – 7)~~ and the opportunities to transition to more sustainable packaging materials.** The scope of this work includes: • National and international market analysis for plastic types 1-7 as both single stream and various mixed plastic commodities (both regional analysis and national scale). • Analysis of low value plastic packaging stream that could be shifted to higher value packaging, or alternative products including home (fibre based) compostable products; including the barriers to transition. • Assessment of market demand for higher value packaging growth scenarios and other possible products such as genuinely compostable alternatives. • Assessment of collection and processing infrastructure needs for high value packaging high volume scenarios. • Assessment of collection and processing infrastructure together with financial impacts for low value packaging streams (assuming market demand is there for single or multiple stream material types). • Analysis of other activities being advanced/implemented nationally (in the absence of regulation) . • Gap analysis to determine where investment is needed, what costs might be required and level of benefits, and/or whether regulatory intervention is necessary. • Develop and present a report with recommendations on the investment and marketing approach and/or alternative responses to this issue. Note: this action will be influenced by and undertaken with consideration of the following: • The NRR infrastructure and services stocktake; and the NRR review of domestic kerbside and commercial collections.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	• The "Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa" DPMC investigation. • The Ministry's "Plastics Action Plan". • Any significant industry led initiatives – such as those stemming from the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment. • And any future established sector/project specific working groups that flow out of these initiatives. • Any priority product declarations and associated product stewardship programmes.	
System issue	i) ***Development and delivery of key messages to educate consumers about what is recyclable and reduce contamination.** This work will build on the research and key messaging developed by the "Rethinking Rubbish" WMF project (commencing 2019) The scope of this project includes: • Undertaking cross-sector stakeholder engagement. • Short term: Boosting key messages identified in the "Rethinking Rubbish" project to channels that ensure wider national coverage and longer/enduring impact necessary to embed a new (improved) "reduce, reuse, recycle culture" • Development of a comprehensive database (web portal access) of products and their recyclability in New Zealand – accessible to all. • Media and communications consultancy: Investigation, reporting on, development and delivery of a national mainstream "reduce, reuse, recycle" campaign, including identification of target audiences, messaging, and channels (print and online). • Additional focus on 'hard to reach' audiences, alternative communication channels, and delivery of education messaging to these groups.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

System support	**j) Develop MRF/council model contracts – a suite of model contracts, specifications and supporting documents for waste management and resource recovery services.** Scope includes: • Developing a collection and processing facility template (ie, option of one base contract with separate schedules for collections and processing). • Template content including: contract types, governance, roles and responsibilities, ownership of assets and materials. The templates will be structured towards delivering more nationally consistent services and outcomes. • The templates will introduce standard benchmarks, clauses and methodologies for a wide range of negotiable contract variables. These will include: processing fees, risk sharing, gate fee variations, contamination bands, pricing schedules, sorting quality (MRF), quality control, service delivery (collection and vehicle types), health and safety, price escalations (eg, fuel and labour), data gathering and reporting, sustainability and equity clauses (carbon footprint, living wage, etc.). Note: this workstream should also assist the sector with future proofing for any future regulatory changes.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

System support	**k) Progress a sustainable procurement plan – for business, local government and central government (working with MBIE).** Scope: • Identification of sustainable procurement opportunities (waste minimisation focus). • Identification of barriers to sustainable procurement. • Identify opportunities to barrier removal and optimal uptake of sustainable procurement. • Cost benefit analysis of the impact of change resulting from a positive procurement policy across government, regionally and nationally. • Prepare and present a report with recommendations on how to advance sustainable procurement with a fully costed implementation plan.	s (9) (2) (h)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Hon Eugenie Sage

Associate Minister for the Environment
Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiao

Friday 10 May 2019

PĀNUI PĀPĀHO

MEDIA STATEMENT

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

NZ needs to improve recycling

The Government is considering recommendations to improve New Zealand's recycling and reduce the volume that cannot be processed because of contamination, Associate Environment Minister Eugenie Sage announced today

Those changes are among recommendations following work done by a taskforce set up to deal with the impact of the Chinese Government's ban on the import of many recycling materials.

"The Government used the response to the ban as an opportunity to look more broadly at how our resource recovery system is functioning, how we can work with the sector to support more onshore processing of recyclables and help New Zealand shift to a circular economy approach with improved product design and more materials recovery and re-use," Eugenie Sage said.

"While it's good that many people do recycle, as a nation we have been sending the problem off-shore. It is time for New Zealanders to really address our issues with waste, and take stock."

Recommendations included:

1. Conduct an analysis across national services and infrastructure to identify where investment is needed.
2. Review collections and processing to increase quality of products and ensure more materials are able to be recycled instead of going to landfill.
3. Conduct feasibility studies for increasing domestic fibre mill and plastic reprocessing capacity.
4. Examine the role of product stewardship for packaging which would mean producers need to consider what happens to packaging once a product is used by the consumer.
5. Assess the options for a transitioning away from difficult to recycle plastics including setting requirements for recycled packaging content and recyclability regulations.
6. Run an education campaign to help New Zealanders recycle right and reduce the amount of material going to landfill instead of being recycled because of contamination.

7. Develop model contracts for the sector to reduce contamination, increase transparency and to better accommodate market price fluctuations in the future..

In the medium and longer term:

- Undertake a feasibility study to assess options for a transition away from difficult to recycle plastics including

Work across government to progress a positive procurement policy.

- Develop a sustainable procurement plan/guideline that enables procurement of recycled products

The government has sought feedback from the industry and council stakeholder groups that supported the taskforce, and the Minister is considering that feedback.

Eugenie Sage said they want to see greater action and faster and we are currently considering their feedback and our funding options.

“New Zealanders and industry want to see more consistent kerbside recycling for households and improved recycling by businesses.

“Developing model contracts for councils and the kerbside recycling operators and processors to use will improve the quality and volume of ma erials collected for processing.

“Recycling needs to be clean and the right materials need to be put out for collection before they go to be recycled so it’s important that dirty products aren’t included and education will help with this problem. Check with your local Council or service provider if you want to know more about your local scheme.

“New Zealand is still one of the highest producers of household waste in the developed world, per capita despite research commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment that demonstrates that waste is the second most pressing issue for New Zealanders.”

Industry and local government are working closely with the taskforce, who have also sought expertise from Australia.

Policy work on previously announced initiatives to expand the Waste Disposal Levy to all landfills and use mandatory product stewardship for problem products like vehicle tyres and e-waste is underway.

Links to both reports.

Media contact: Maggie Tait 0273-469-570

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

2019-B-05589

Event note – Announcement of National Resource Recovery Taskforce recommendations and OJI Seaview Material Recovery Facility site tour

Date submitted: 8 May 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Date of event: Friday 10 May 2019

Name of the event: Announcement of National Resource Recovery Taskforce recommendations at the LGNZ Metro Sector meeting, preceded by tour of the OJI MRF.

Purpose

This event note provides background information for your National Resource Recovery Taskforce announcement at the LGNZ Metro Sector meeting.

Run sheet

Date	**Friday 10 May 2019**
Time	**11:00am** OJI Seaview Materials Recovery Facility **1.50pm** arrive for LGNZ NRR announcement **2.35pm** NRR media announcement
Locations	**11:00am** OJI Seaview Materials Recovery Facility, 8 Barnes St, Seaview, Lower Hutt 5010 (there are two visitor parking places in front of the building, these will be coned off so the minister can park, other visitors (press) will need to park on the road. **1.50pm** LGNZ Boardroom, Level 1, 117 Lambton Quay, Wellington
Activity	**OJI Seaview Materials Recovery Facility:** **11am** arrival: Introductions, Minister and staff meet Phillip Millichamp, OJI External Relations Manager and Brendan Walker, Site Contractor. **11.05 – 11.15:** H&S induction (10 min) **11.15 – 11.25:** short tour of the plant (10 min) **11.25:** Photographs/social media filming

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	11:30 or later: Minister departs **LGNZ Metro Sector meeting** **1:50pm** arrival and introductions (facilitated by Malcolm Alexander, Chief Executive, LGNZ) **2.00pm** LGNZ NRR announcement **2.10pm to 2.30pm** Q&A with meeting attendees (no media present to this point) **2.30 – 2.35pm Break, prepare room for media** **2.35 – 2.50pm** NRR Announcement - Hon Eugene Sage, followed by comment from Greg Brownless, Mayor, Tauranga City Council, and Justin Lester, Mayor, Wellington City Council **2.50- 3.00pm** Q&A
Attendees	s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	[redacted]
Key attendees	s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]
Media	TV, radio and print media invited
Key contact on the day	s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]
Equipment needed	Lectern/podium If the media is in the room recording, will a PA system be required?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Event – Announcement of National Resource Recovery Taskforce, initial recommendations

1. This event is to announce the National Resource Recovery Taskforce initial recommendations.
2. Following your announcement there will be a media stand-up with Q&A

Talking points

1. China's National Sword has significantly impacted the New Zealand recycling sector. Eight Councils representing 9.3% of New Zealand's population have, or are about to, stop kerbside collections for plastics 3-7. Some Materials Recovery Facilities have received significant financial bail outs, and cost pressures on both industry and Councils continue to grow.
2. Some operators have also been stockpiling low value materials and one of these stockpiles has recently been involved in a fire
3. As a country we have been sending our waste issues offshore China's National Sword initiative has been a wake-up call that we need to deal with waste here in New Zealand.
4. New Zealanders care deeply about reducing waste MfE's 2018 attitudinal research indicates that reducing waste is rated by New Zealanders as the second (equal) most important challenge facing our country New Zealand over the next 20 years behind reducing child poverty. That's why I'm pleased to announce today the next steps we're taking to improve kerbside and commercial recycling, reduce contamination of recyclables so more materials can be recovered, and increase onshore processing of plastics and other materia s
5. In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce.
6. In establishing the Taskforce, I wanted to understand the impacts and identify any changes that may be needed. I also wanted to ensure we took the opportunity to look more broadly at how our resource recovery system is functioning, and how well it aligns wi h our ambition to support more onshore processing of recyclables and eventually transition New Zealand to a circular economy. Our recycling sector is much bigger than kerbside services and it's important to consider the whole system.
7. In order to get that overview, we commissioned two reports. The first is a situational analysis and the second a response options report.
8. I am pleased that we were able to get a clearer picture of the sector through the situational analysis, which will be useful to both government and industry. Yet it is clear

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

there is still much more work to do as one of the issues the reports is that data on our waste and resources sector is limited.

9. The options report by Australian industry experts, helped define the pathway forwards. The taskforce worked through the options and made the following recommendations:
    i. Identify gaps in the materials recovery and waste infrastructure where investment is needed.
    ii. Review kerbside collection and processing systems to identify how to increase the quality of recyclables ensure more materials can be recovered and recycled instead of going to landfill.
    iii. Undertake feasibility studies around how to increase New Zealand's fibre (paper and cardboard) processing and plastic reprocessing capacity.
    iv. Examine how product stewardship for packaging can be used to ensure manufacturers consider what happens to packaging once a product is used by the consumer.
    v. Assess the options for shifting away from low value and difficult to recycle plastics, such as single use plas ic bags and other low volume and/or mixed materials. This could include regulations around ensuring plastic packaging is able to be recycled and/or to require a po tion of recycled content in packaging.
    vi. Run an education campaign to help New Zealanders "recycle right", and reduce the amount of recyclable materials going to landfill because of contamination.
    vii. Develop model contracts for the sector to reduce contamination, increase transparency and to bet er accommodate fluctuations in market prices for recyclable materials.
    viii. Develop a sustainable procurement plan and guidelines to encourage purchase of products made of recovered and recycled materials.

10. I have agreed to these initial recommendations and these National Resource Recovery actions will be included in the Ministry's priority work programme effective July 1, 2019.
11. We have also undertaken feedback workshops with the industry and council stakeholders and they have provided suggestions for changes and further options for improving the work programme. I am currently considering this feedback and further announcements will be made soon.
12. I want to ensure we work very closely with you all as we start on the task ahead. The size of the projects and changes that may be required, and how quickly we can work on putting them in place, is not something Government can do alone. It is very clear

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

to me that the support and active involvement of the sector is vital. We need to be prepared to work together – from business to business and with councils.

13. There are many good small projects and business initiatives to process recyclable materials around the country which we could replicate to speed up our response to the problems with recycling markets. I know there are also ideas from business which we can fast track to drive quicker progress.
14. We need to capture the ideas, decide which are worth pursuing and then make them happen.
15. The Government does not hold all the ideas, funding and resources to make this happen as quickly as it is needed for New Zealand. Councils and businesses all have a major role to play. The Ministry and Government are only one part of this.
16. Today, I am pleased to announce the initial recommendations from the taskforce and release the associated background reports.
17. In addition, I announced a programme of work for my waste portfolio last year. The work includes expanding the waste disposal levy to all landfills, improving our national data on waste and resource recovery, investing more strategically in infrastructure and innovation to support resource recovery and mandatory product stewardship for problem products like vehicle tyres and e-waste. We also need to look at longer term system change in waste minimisation, designing waste out and developing resource recovery. The tasks we start on with the national resource recovery project are integral to collective action that needs to be taken to transition New Zealand to a truly circular economy.

National Resource Recovery Project FAQ

When did China National Sword start?

Until last year, China was the world's largest importer of recyclable products. In February 2018 China enforced its 'National Sword' policy (originally announced in February 2017) aimed at restricting the importation of low quality recyclable materials.

What has happened since China announced its National Sword policy

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The policy has resulted in an oversupply of some recyclable products to other overseas markets and a decline in international commodity prices – which is having significant and potentially adverse impacts on New Zealand's resource recovery industry.

When did you begin to respond to China National Sword and what have you done?

In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce to examine New Zealand's resource recovery sector and potential responses to the effects created by China's National Sword policy.

The Taskforce engaged external consultants to undertake a situational analysis and develop potential solutions, and tested these solutions with two working groups – a resource recovery sector professional group and a local council working group.

The Taskforce has presented eight recommendations to me and I agreed to these.

What are the recommendations?

In preparing its recommendations, the Taskforce has sought expertise from Australia and has run a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and local councils.

The initial recommendations aim to:

- address immed ate issues and impacts in the sector, including reviewing nationwide recycling infrastructure and services and the domestic and commercial collections currently in place
- build a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand in the medium turn, including investing in onshore infrastructure and service improvement
- enable long-term system change through regulations.

What are you going to do next?

I have asked officials to work on how to resource and implement the recommendations. Officials have reconvened our council and industry working groups and they have helped determine the details of what will be necessary for implementing the recommendations.

They (councils and industry) have also made further suggestions for enhancing the NRR work programme and I am considering these currently.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

How long will it take? Have you acted fast enough?

We have deliberately taken a thorough look at the resource recovery system, the effects of National Sword internationally and in New Zealand, and evaluated potential solutions in consultation with the resource recovery industry and councils. This has all taken time, but will ensure we take the right actions to improve resource recovery in New Zealand. We have to work together on this one. It is not just up to Government.

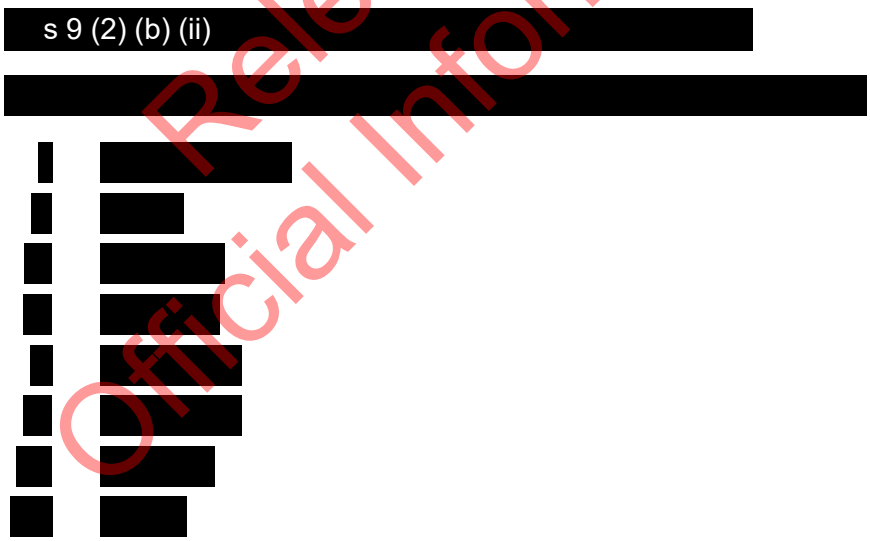
Changes in international commodity prices can happen in any industry, and it was appropriate that the resource recovery industry responded to this situation in the sho t-term.

The effects of these problems may have long-term adverse impacts on resource recovery in New Zealand. They have put the spotlight on underlying issues in our resource recovery system – providing the opportunity to take a broad look at this system and how it can better align with circular economy principles.

Who is going to be involved from now?

It is really important that industry, councils and government work together to manage the issues facing the resource recovery sector. I am establishing the working groups to ensure we have a good representation from all parts of the sector.

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)



There may well be others actively considering the option.

Who were the technical experts used on the national resource recovery work and what did they contribute?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The Task force used Eunomia Research and Consulting, a local branch of an international consultancy to carry out an analysis of the resource recovery sector in New Zealand and impacts on the changes in recycling.

The taskforce also used international experts Mike Ritchie Consulting from Australia to examine what options were available for New Zealand in managing effects on our resource recovery sector. The effects are global – the effects are not just on New Zealand and internationally, everyone is dealing with the problems.

Who was on the National Resource Taskforce, apart from Ministry Officials?

Ministry staff made up the taskforce. The Ministry ran a collabo ative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and metro councils from across NZ to ensure a good range of views were provided.

For the LGNZ attendees, Council stakeholders included:

- George Fietje, Auckland Council
- Charlotte Catmur and Trent Fowles, Hamilton City Council
- Kimberley Hope, New Plymouth District Council
- Martin Jarvis, Hastings Distric Council
- Cathryn Taylor and Amy Brasch, Tauranga City Council
- Emily Taylor-Hall, Wellington City Council
- Alec McNeil, Marlborough District Council
- Ross Trotter, Christchurch D stric Council
- Catherine Irvine, Dunedin City Council

Is our recycling system broken?

Our recycling system has been facing some real challenges, but it is not broken. New Zealand has inves ed well in collection services, materials recycling facilities to sort collected material and in some onshore processing. Glass, metal, clean cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are all recovered and made into new products. We could be doing more of all of these and that is part of the work programme as well.

The difficulties we are facing are with mixed plastics and mixed paper and cardboard. The materials are not easy to process, can be contaminated and there is little end use for the materials at the moment.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Is more material going to landfill?

Material recycling facilities are not sending many recyclable materials to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

Which Councils have bailed out their recyclers?

Auckland and Christchurch Materials Recovery Facilities have or are in the process of negotiating agreements with their respective Councils

Where/when did the fire occur?

Thames, Coromandel, in March this year. The fire was reported as possibly being started by a lithium ion battery. Another issue we are looking to address through product stewardship.

Plastics:

What will happen with the plastics, grades 3 – 7 will they end up in landfill?

Some companies have chosen not to collect and process these grades of plastics at the moment. Unfortunately, the plastics will have to be sent to landfill.

How much plastic material is going to landfill?

The exact quantities of plastic material going to landfill is unknown due to the current impacts of the China National sword Policy. However analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic material is recycled of which 90% is exported.

Do we know how much plastic waste is produced in New Zealand per year and how much is recycled?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

The Ministry's analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic is collected for recycling each year and of that 90% is exported offshore.

What efforts are being made to improve plastic recycling across New Zealand?

We have been working with the industry for some years to make sure we can process PET and HDPE (Plastics 1and 2) in New Zealand. There are successful businesses processing the plastic and making it into new products or material to sell.

When this is done, it is important for New Zealand companies to support those compan es and buy the recycled products.

What does the Minister plan to do to address the issues of reducing plastic waste?

New Zealand recently joined an international pledge to cut plastic waste from our economy and environment. I signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment on 29 October, confirming New Zealand will join countries and organisations around the world at the forefront of the movement to address the root causes of plastic pollution and to create a new normal, where all plastics in our economy are designed to be reused, recycled or composted as part of a circular economy.

We are seeing businesses here really begin to step up to address single-use plastics. In June, we launched the New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration where so far 15 local and multi-national companies have pledged to move to 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025 or earlier.

Paper and Cardboard:

How has National Sword policy affected paper and cardboard recycling?

The China National Sword policy resulted in a total ban on the importation of mixed paper grade material and this has led to an over-supply and a dramatic drop in global paper and cardboard prices. Some grades of newsprint and 'old corrugated cardboard' are still able to be imported into China but are limited to maximum of 0.5% contamination. New Zealand continues to export these paper and cardboard products, but in smaller volumes with new

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

exports being found in Asian markets such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and India.

Is there more paper and cardboard being sent to landfills?

This is difficult to determine at this time with the shift in volumes away from China and attempts by processors to sell the displaced volumes into other Asian markets or alternately find other processing options. Some volume is being stockpiled in anticipation of a lift in global prices

What is the government doing to ensure that more fibre is being reprocessed and not sent to landfills?

I have asked officials to consider issues relating to the processing of pape and fibre products in New Zealand as part of the next phase of the Taskforces work and they a e currently in discussions with Councils and Industry working groups on this.

How many recycling operators are experiencing financial difficulties and does the government propose to support them?

Material recycling facilities will usually try to avoid sending recyclables to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

Some operators have main ained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and so ting recyclables.

At this point, some councils have renegotiated prices for sorting recyclable materials.

Does the government support or intend to support additional infrastructure in the resource sector to provide more certainty to the sector and to New Zealanders?

I established a taskforce to consider what needed to be done to address matters in the resource recovery sector. A council working group and an industry working group have assisted the taskforce. There are a number of recommendations from the taskforce which I have agreed to. A key recommendation is to identify what infrastructure and services are available in New Zealand and to consider where additional investment is required. Improving the quality and volume of materials available for recycling is important along with what to reprocess into value-added materials that can be further used in new products or sold.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

I hear the a growing number of councils are refusing to accept grades 3 – 7 plastics in their collection services

Currently there are limited markets for low value plastics. As a result, some businesses and councils are not prepared to bear the cost of stockpiling unrecyclable product and choosing not to collect it. The taskforce I established, supported by council and industry working groups are considering further options for how to manage low value and hard to recycle plastics.

If paper is being stockpiled is this causing more waste issues when stored?

To our knowledge, paper is not being stockpiled. Once paper is wet, it cannot be recycled. Paper is being sold and recycled, even though it is for a substantially less price.

Overseas destinations

Sending some of our recyclable materials overseas is not a long term solution to the problems of waste in New Zealand. The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process our recyclable materials in New Zealand. New Zealand has good manufacturing plants here for processing clean cardboard, glass, PET and HDPE plastics.

New Zealand now has a programme of work to determine how we can process more recyclable materials here. When it is possible to do so, we hope to process waste internally, removing the need for us to export materials for further processing.

New Zealand cannot dictate how other countries will handle recyclable materials they import. Fortunately, we do no send a lot of recyclable material to Malaysia, Indonesia or Vietnam currently. The Malaysian Government has now put strict controls on the Malaysian companies importing materials into Malaysia, which New Zealand supports.

Press release

Will be sent separately to your office.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Contact details

For organisational issues around the Minister's attendance	[redacted] s (9) (2) (a) [redacted]
Who will meet the Minister at the venue (mobile number, and land-line number for the venue if possible)	[redacted] s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]
Often photographs are taken during the Minister's visit. If the organisation takes any photos, we would be grateful to receive copies. Often a staff member accompanying the Minister will take photos. In order for us to use/publish any photos taken or obtained from you, we need to obtain consent from the people in the photos. Please supply the Minister's office	[redacted] s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

with an appropriate person to contact, following the visit, to arrange consent	s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Released under the
Official Information Act (1982)

From: Hinemoa Awatere
To: Team - Hono Tataki – Resource Efficiency and Innovation
Subject: Fwd: Outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Triple COP)
Date: Sunday, 12 May 2019 11:20:11 AM

[redacted]

Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Date: 11 May 2019 at 4:31:59 AM NZST
To: Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>, Hinemoa Awatere <Hinemoa.Awatere@mfe.govt.nz>, "Penny Race (Parliament)" <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Triple COP)

Hi Amanda

We are just finishing up here, so thought I would send through a few of the highlights, as the outcomes of the COP have far exceeded expectations prior to arriving.

s 6 (a), s 6 (b) (i) [redacted] In essence, the amendment to the Basel Convention, that was approved this afternoon, will provide a strong mechanism and incentive for the better management of the global trade of plastic waste.

It should/will prevent the export of plastic wastes to countries that can't manage the mixture of high and low value plastic waste streams. It is anticipated that this will reduce the amount of plastics burnt or dumped in countries as a consequence of these developing countries receiving plastic waste shipments that they are unable to process adequately.

We anticipate that this will be a global driver that will flow into incentives to improve domestic recycling schemes – and aligns well with the Governments initiatives announced earlier today. It will also enable NZ to be transparent and confident that the plastic wastes that they export are able to be appropriately recycled.

The changes will take effect globally from 1 January 2021. This will mean we will need to do quite a bit of work to go through the process of assessing the impact nationally – this will involve joint work with waste/international chemical and EPA

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

staff. s 6 (a)

out of scope

s 6 (b) (ii)

We think it would be good for the team to brief Minister Sage when we get back on this – both what it means, and what we will need to do in preparation. Mariska will be leading a formal delegation report.

out of scope

out of scope

Looking forward to a couple of days cycling in France starting tomorrow before I head back.

Glenn

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Out of scope [redacted]

From: Roderick Boys
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2019 12:32 PM
To: Hinemoa Awatere <Hinemoa.Awatere@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Marianna Tyler <Marianna.Tyler@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Basel, Glenn's key messages + talking points for Minister's meeting

Key Messages (from Glen, with minor additions)

Overview

- Over the last two weeks during the biennial Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Triple COP 2019), a New Zealand delegation (made up of officials from the Ministry for the Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority) negotiated issues relating to chemicals and waste.
- A key issue discussed at the Triple COP 2019 was plastic waste and marine plastic litter under the Basel Convention.
- On Friday evening, all Parties to the Basel Convention adopted by consensus decisions aimed at better managing international shipments of hard-to-recycle plastic waste. This will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and environmentally sound, preventing exports of waste that could ultimately end up being buried, burned or littered.
- The amendments will require exporters to obtain consent from the Governments of receiving countries before shipping the most contaminated, mixed or unrecyclable plastic waste. High quality plastic recyclables can continue to be exported without needing a consent (permit). The amendments will not prevent the trade of plastic waste but will incentivise trade in high-quality, sorted, clean plastic waste for recycling.
- These amendments will indirectly contribute to a shift towards a circular economy. We expect that these amendments will also help provide consistency about what can be recycled domestically.

Next steps

- The amendments to the Basel Convention will come into force on 1 January 2021.
- Officials will provide further advice on these amendments when the delegation returns, including on the Parliamentary Treaty Examination process.
- When the delegation returns we will also discuss stakeholder consultation.

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

[redacted]

s 6 (a) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (g) (i)

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

[redacted]

s (9) (2) (g) (i)

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

[redacted]

s (6) (a)

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Roderick Boys – Senior Investment Manager, Hono Tataki – Resource Efficiency and Innovation
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Mobile: [redacted] Email: **roderick.boys@mfe.govt.nz** Website: **www.mfe.govt.nz**
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6143

Please note: my normal working hours are 7.00am-3.30pm.

http://intranet/sites/all/files/Lockup-8pt.png

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Event note – Minister Sage's meetings with:

1. **Kate Meads, The Nappy Lady (in person), and**
2. **John Gibson, CEO of Reclaim (telephone call)**

Date submitted: 27 May 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Time of event: Tuesday 28 May 2019

Name of the event: Separate meeting requests from Kate Meads and John Gibson.

Purpose

1. This event note is to provide you with information about your upcoming Tuesday 28 May afternoon meetings with Kate Meads, The Nappy Lady followed by John Gibson, CEO of Reclaim.

Run sheet

Date	Tuesday 28 May 2019
Time	Kate Meads, The Nappy Lady 4:15pm – 4.45pm (in-person) John Gibson, CEO of Reclaim 4:45pm – 5.15pm (phone call)
Location	Minister Sage's office. Bowen House, 70/84 Lambton Quay, Wellington, 6011
Contact	**The Nappy Lady:** Kate Meads 027 22 11 242 info@katemeads.co.nz **Reclaim:** John Gibson, CEO 09 5510242 or 021 464 400 **Ministry for the Environment:** Roderick Boys, Senior Investment Analyst/Senior Analyst Email: Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Your meeting with John Gibson, CEO Reclaim: (phone call)

6. Established in 1975, Reclaim is the largest business-to-business recycling company in New Zealand with processing plants in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Reclaim collects cardboard and paper, glass, plastic film, and aluminium and steel cans. The company operates 30 trucks and employs over 100 staff.

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Talking points that may apply in either meeting

Introduction

10. New Zealanders are deeply concerned about waste. Research indicates that reducing waste is viewed by the public as the second most important challenge facing New Zealand in the next 20 years.[1]

11. Expectations about the responsibility for waste are changing. New Zealand has a unique opportunity to take new approaches; it is not only about mitigating the environmental impacts of waste but also creating an economic shift. The world has finite resources, and these need to be kept in circulation.

Circular economy

12. The long-term goal is to transition New Zealand to a low emissions circular economy. This means moving away from our current 'take, make and dispose' economy to an economy where natural and human-made materials are re-used and recycled indefinitely. This approach benefits the economy through job creation, innovation, and more efficient use of our valuable and finite resources.

13. The transition towards a circular economy allows New Zealand to build onshore capability and capacity to tackle the current trend of an increase in waste to landfill. This is particularly noticeable with the international pressures placed on New Zealand's resource recovery sector and local government following China's National Sword policy and similar policies in other countries.

[redacted]

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[1] Ministry for the Environment. 2018. Environmental Attitudes. http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/About/Environmental_Attitudes_SEP_2018.pdf

products away from the wider community and environment to product designers, producers and product users.

National Resource Recovery

18. In response to China's National Sword policy I directed the establishment of the National Resource Recovery Taskforce which was led by the Ministry for the Environment.

19. The taskforce looked at how our resource recovery system is functioning, how we can support more onshore processing of recyclables, and help New Zealand shift to a circular economy approach where products are better designed so that more materials can be recovered and re-used.

20. Taskforce recommendations which will now be part of the Ministry for the Environment's work programme include:

    - Identifying the gaps in materials recovery and waste infrastructure where investment is needed. This is a key action as New Zealand needs to build onshore processing and manufacturing capacity in the right areas. We need an informed strategy to guide both government and industry investment which will be enabled by the waste disposal levy expansion and the resulting increase in levy funding.

    - Reviewing kerbside collection and processing systems to identify how to increase the quality of recyclables and to ensure more materials can be recovered and recycled instead of going to landfill.

    - Undertaking feasibility studies around how to increase New Zealand's fibre (paper and cardboard) processing and plastic reprocessing capacity.

    - Examining how product stewardship for packaging can be used to ensure manufacturers consider what happens to packaging once a product is used by the consumer.

    - Assessing the options for shifting away from low value and difficult to recycle plastics, such as single-use plastic bags and other low volume and/or mixed materials. This could include regulations around ensuring plastic packaging is able to be recycled and/or to require a portion of recycled content in packaging.

    - Running an education campaign to help New Zealanders 'recycle right', and reduce the amount of recyclable materials going to landfill because of contamination.

    - Out of scope

    - Developing model contracts for the sector to reduce contamination, increase transparency and to better accommodate fluctuations in market prices for recyclable materials.

    - Developing a sustainable procurement plan and guidelines to encourage purchase of products made of recovered and recycled materials.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

21. The taskforce also worked with industry and council representatives who provided feedback on the work programme I have just outlined. They wanted more and faster and I look forward to announcing more on this soon.

Basel Convention

22. Along with about 180 countries, New Zealand has agreed via consensus to amend the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

23. This means that exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require a consent from the Governments of the countries importing the waste before shipping.[2] The amendment to the Basel Convention will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated; while also ensuring its management is safer for human health and the environment.[3]

24. Basel will be effective from 1 January 2021.

[redacted]

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[2] https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/news-and-communications/latest-news/news/nz-agrees-to-basel-convention-plastic-waste-amendment

[3] http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8005

Released under the
Official Information Act (1982)

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

19-B-05607

Event note – Minister Sage networking with WasteMINZ and Resource Management Association (RMLA) members

Date submitted: 29 May 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Time of event: Thursday 6 June 2019

Name of the event: WasteMINZ and RMLA member networking

Purpose

1. This event note is to provide you with information and talking points for a WasteMINZ and Resource Management Law Association (RMLA) members networking event.

2. You have been asked to provide WasteMINZ and RMLA members with an update on waste management initiatives.

Run sheet

Date	Thursday 6 June 2019	
Time	5:30pm – 7pm	
Location	Wellesley Boutique Hotel 2-8 Maginnity Street Wellington 6011	
Order of events	5:30pm – 6pm	Networking
	6pm – 7pm	• Janine Brinsdon (WasteMINZ) welcomes guests, provides a brief update on WasteMINZ programmes (if appropriate), and introduces you • Your speech and Q&As (30-35 minutes and 10 minutes Q&A)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery Project FAQ

When did China National Sword start?

1. Until last year, China was the world's largest importer of recyclable products. In February 2018 China enforced its 'National Sword' policy (originally announced in February 2017) aimed at restricting the importation of low quality recyclable materials.

What has happened since China announced its National Sword policy

2. The policy has resulted in an oversupply of some recyclable products to other overseas markets and a decline in international commodity prices – which is having significant and potentially adverse impacts on New Zealand's resource recovery industry.

When did you begin to respond to China National Sword and what have you done?

3. In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce to examine New Zealand's resource recovery sector and potential responses to the effects created by China's National Sword policy.

4. The Taskforce engaged external consultants to unde take a situational analysis and develop potential solutions, and tested these solutions with two working groups – a resource recovery sector professional group and a local council working group.

5. The Taskforce has presented eight recommendations to me and I agreed to these.

What are the recommendations?

6. In preparing its recommendations, the Taskforce has sought expertise from Australia and has run a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and local councils.

7. The initial recommendations aim to:

    - address immediate issues and impacts in the sector, including reviewing nationwide recycling infrastructure and services and the domestic and commercial collections currently in place

    - build a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand in the medium turn, including investing in onshore infrastructure and service improvement

    - enable long-term system change through regulations.

What are you going to do next?

8. I have asked officials to work on how to resource and implement the recommendations. Officials have reconvened our council and industry working groups and they have helped determine the details of what will be necessary for implementing the recommendations.

9. They (councils and industry) have also made further suggestions for enhancing the NRR work programme and I am considering these currently.

How long will it take? Have you acted fast enough?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

10. We have deliberately taken a thorough look at the resource recovery system, the effects of National Sword internationally and in New Zealand, and evaluated potential solutions in consultation with the resource recovery industry and councils. This has all taken time, but will ensure we take the right actions to improve resource recovery in New Zealand. We have to work together on this one. It is not just up to Government.

11. Changes in international commodity prices can happen in any industry, and it was appropriate that the resource recovery industry responded to this situation in the short-term.

12. The effects of these problems may have long-term adverse impacts on resource recovery in New Zealand. They have put the spotlight on underlying issues in our resource recovery system – providing the opportunity to take a broad look at this system and how it can better align with circular economy principles.

Who is going to be involved from now?

13. It is really important that industry, councils and government work together to manage the issues facing the resource recovery sector. I am establishing the working groups to ensure we have a good representation from all parts of the sector.

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)



Who were the technical experts used on the national resource recovery work and what did they contribute?

16. The Task force used Eunomia Research and Consulting, a local branch of an international consultancy to carry out an analysis of the resource recovery sector in New Zealand and impacts on the changes in recycling.

17. The taskforce also used international experts Mike Ritchie Consulting from Australia to examine what options were available for New Zealand in managing effects on our resource recovery sector. The effects are global – the effects are not just on New Zealand and internationally, everyone is dealing with the problems.

Who was on the National Resource Taskforce, apart from Ministry Officials?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

18. Ministry staff made up the taskforce. The Ministry ran a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and metro councils from across NZ to ensure a good range of views were provided.

For the LGNZ attendees, Council stakeholders included:

- George Fietje, Auckland Council
- Charlotte Catmur and Trent Fowles, Hamilton City Council
- Kimberley Hope, New Plymouth District Council
- Martin Jarvis, Hastings District Council
- Cathryn Taylor and Amy Brasch, Tauranga City Council
- Emily Taylor-Hall, Wellington City Council
- Alec McNeil, Marlborough District Council
- Ross Trotter, Christchurch District Council
- Catherine Irvine, Dunedin City Council

Is our recycling system broken?

19. Our recycling system has been facing some real challenges, but it is not broken. New Zealand has invested well in collection services, materials recycling facilities to sort collected material and in some onshore processing. Glass, metal, clean cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are all recovered and made into new products. We could be doing more of all of these and that is part of the work programme as well.

20. The difficulties we are facing are with mixed plastics and mixed paper and cardboard. The materials are not easy to process, can be contaminated and there is little end use for the materials at the moment.

Is more material going to landfill?

21. Material recycling facilities are not sending many recyclable materials to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

22. Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

23. Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

Plastics

What will happen with the plastics, grades 3 – 7 will they end up in landfill?

24. Some companies have chosen not to collect and process these grades of plastics at the moment. Unfortunately, the plastics will have to be sent to landfill.

How much plastic material is going to landfill?

25. The exact quantities of plastic material going to landfill is unknown due to the current impacts of the China National sword Policy. However analysis in 2018 showed that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic material is recycled of which 90% is exported.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Do we know how much plastic waste is produced in New Zealand per year and how much is recycled?

26. The Ministry's analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic is collected for recycling each year and of that 90% is exported offshore. This may be changing as local authorities stop collecting 3-7s.

What efforts are being made to improve plastic recycling across New Zealand?

27. We have been working with the industry for some years to make sure we can process PET and HDPE (Plastics 1and 2) in New Zealand. There are successful businesses processing the plastic and making it into new products or material to sell.

28. When this is done, it is important for New Zealand companies to support those companies and buy the recycled products.

What does the Minister plan to do to address the issues of reducing plastic waste?

29. New Zealand recently joined an international pledge to cut plastic waste from our economy and environment. I signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment on 29 October, confirming New Zealand will join countries and organisations around the world at the forefront of the movement to address the root causes of plastic pollution and to create a new normal, where all plastics in our economy are designed to be reused, recycled or composted as part of a circular economy.

30. We are seeing businesses here rea ly begin to step up to address single-use plastics. In June, we launched the New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration where so far 15 local and multi-national companies have pledged to move to 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025 or earlier.

Paper and Cardboard

How has National Sword policy affected paper and cardboard recycling?

31. The China Na ional Sword policy resulted in a total ban on the importation of mixed paper grade material and this has led to an over-supply and a dramatic drop in global paper and cardboard prices. Some grades of newsprint and 'old corrugated cardboard' are still able to be imported into China but are limited to maximum of 0.5% contamination. New Zealand continues to export these paper and cardboard products, but in smaller volumes with new exports being found n Asian markets such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and India

Is there more paper and cardboard being sent to landfills?

32. This is difficult to determine at this time with the shift in volumes away from China and attemp s by processors to sell the displaced volumes into other Asian markets or alternately find other processing options. Some volume is being stockpiled in anticipation of a lift in global prices

What is the government doing to ensure that more fibre is being reprocessed and not sent to landfills?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

33. I have asked officials to consider issues relating to the processing of paper and fibre products in New Zealand as part of the next phase of the Taskforces work and they are currently in discussions with Councils and Industry working groups on this.

How many recycling operators are experiencing financial difficulties and does the government propose to support them?

34. Material recycling facilities will usually try to avoid sending recyclables to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

35. Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

36. Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

37. At this point, some councils have renegotiated prices for sorting recyclable materials.

Which Councils have bailed out their recyclers?

38. Auckland and Christchurch Materials Recovery Facilities have or are in the process of negotiating agreements with their respective Councils.

Where/when did the fire occur?

39. Thames, Coromandel, in March th s year. The fire was reported as possibly being started by a lithium ion battery. Another issue we are looking to address through product stewardship.

Does the government suppo t or intend to support additional infrastructure in the resource sector to provide more ce tainty to the sector and to New Zealanders?

40. I established a taskforce to consider what needed to be done to address matters in the resource recovery sector. A council working group and an industry working group have assisted the taskforce. There are a number of recommendations from the taskforce which I have agreed to. A key recommendation is to identify what infrastructure and services are available in New Zealand and to consider where additional investment is required. Improving the quality and volume of materials available for recycling is important along with what to reprocess into value-added materials that can be further used in new products or sold.

I hear the a growing number of councils are refusing to accept grades 3 – 7 plastics in their collection services

41. Currently there are limited markets for low value plastics. As a result, some businesses and councils are not prepared to bear the cost of stockpiling unrecyclable product and choosing not to collect it. The taskforce I established, supported by council and industry working groups are considering further options for how to manage low value and hard to recycle plastics.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

If paper is being stockpiled is this causing more waste issues when stored?

42. To our knowledge, paper is not being stockpiled. Once paper is wet, it cannot be recycled. Paper is being sold and recycled, even though it is for a substantially less price.

Overseas destinations

43. Sending some of our recyclable materials overseas is not a long term solution to the problems of waste in New Zealand. The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process our recyclable materials in New Zealand. New Zealand has good manufacturing plants here for processing clean cardboard, glass, PET and HDPE plastics.

44. New Zealand now has a programme of work to determine how we can process more recyclable materials here. When it is possible to do so, we hope to process waste internally, removing the need for us to export materials for further processing.

45. New Zealand cannot dictate how other countries will handle recyclable materials they import. Fortunately, we do not send a lot of recyclable material to Malaysia, Indonesia or Vietnam currently. The Malaysian Government has now put strict controls on the Malaysian companies importing materials into Malaysia, which New Zealand supports.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Sarah Helm
To:	Penny Race (Parliament); Rick Zwaan
Cc:	Hinemoa Awatere; Roderick Boys; Meg Larken; Laurie Edwards; Arrun Soma
Subject:	Malaysia - no containers being sent to NZ
Date:	Thursday, 30 May 2019 9:11:45 AM
Attachments:	image001.jpg

For any further communications/enquiries on this:

Our High Commission has today confirmed there are no shipments being sent back to New Zealand. [see below email]

Since January, Malaysia has been issuing permits to legitimate Malaysian importers to bring in recyclable plastic waste under HS Code 3915 (which includes plastic scraps), provided that exports of plastic waste and the Malaysian importers both strictly adhere to Malaysian standards and requirements. There are no country-specific restrictions on imports f om New Zealand provided that the imports meet these standards and requirements.

How concerned are you that some waste could be sent back o New Zealand?

For too long New Zealand has been sending our waste issues off-shore.

The Malaysian Government is acting on the illegal smuggling of plastic waste arriving on its shores and I absolutely support this action. The environmental pollution issues associated with the illegal processing of low value plastics in countries like Malaysia are well documented and are of global concern. The recent commitment by over 180 countries to increase transparency and reduce harm from the trade in waste plastics through negotiations and agreement under the Basel Convention is welcome

Where New Zealand compan es are exporting materials to Malaysia, I expect that they will comply with the export/import requirements imposed by the Malaysian government. It would be disappointing if this were not the cas , and a return shipment to New Zealand would certainly highlight who is abiding by the rules and who is not.

New Zealand now has a programme of work under to recharge our recycling systems. Plastics, paper and cardboard, glass, construction and demolition waste, food waste, e-waste are all materials we could be recovering, processing and recycling more of in our transition to a circular economy. Where materials cannot be recycled, we need to transition towards materials that can be reused and recyc ed.

- Are new waste guidelines for councils going to prevent councils sending waste to Malaysia?
No, the template contract guidelines for Councils and businesses are about providing the opportunity for standardisation, consistency and fairness within the sector. Councils and businesses can choose to use them or not.
I directed the Ministry for the Environment to establish National Resource Recovery Taskforce last year to review nationwide recycling infrastructure and services. The taskforce looked at how New Zealand's Resource Recovery sector is functioning, how we can support more onshore processing of recyclables, and how we can shift to a circular economy approach where products are better and more thoughtfully designed and manufactured so that more materials can be recovered and reused.

Released Under the Official Information Act (1982)

- Do you support the councils who've stopped collecting 3-7 plastics and are sending them to landfill instead?

Currently there are limited markets for low value plastics. As a result, some recycling businesses and councils are not prepared to bear the cost of stockpiling unrecyclable product and choosing not to collect it. The taskforce I established, supported by council and industry working groups are considering further options for how to manage low value and hard to recycle plastics. This could include regulations under the Waste Minimisation Act which restricts the materials used in packaging to materials that can be recovered, reused and recycled.

- Do you support the councils that have stopped sending waste to Malaysia?

The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process more of our recyclable materials in New Zealand. Fortunately, we do not send a lo of recyclable material to Malaysia currently. Yes, sending some of our recyclable materials overseas s no a long term solution to the problems of waste in New Zealand.

- Do you expect more councils to make that choice?

Information from MfE shows eight councils representing 9 3% of New Zea and s population have now stopped, or are about to stop collecting plastics 3-7 and there may well be others who are actively exploring this option.

- How will the Government assist the phase out of those low-value plastics - or is it up to the manufacturers to do it themselves?

One of the recommendations mad by the National Re ource Recovery Taskforce was to assess the options for shifting away f om low value and difficult to recycle plastics. This is happening already with single use plastic shopping bags Future changes could include regulations around ensuring plastic packag ng is able to be recycled and/or to require a portion of recycled content in packaging. I have agreed to this recommendation and it will be included in the Ministry for the Environment's work programme, effective from 1 July 2019.

It is really important that industry, councils and government work together to manage the issues facing the resource recovery sector. I am establishing technical working groups to ensure we have a good representation from all parts of the sector on these issues.

New Zealand recent y joined an international pledge to cut plastic waste from our economy and environment I signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment on 29 October, confirming New Zealand will join countries and organisations around the world at the forefront of the movement to address the root causes of plastic pollution and to create a new normal, where all plastics in our economy are designed to be reused, recycled or composted as part of a circular economy.

- **Should more councils stop sending waste to Malaysia and other South East Asian countries?**

The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process our

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

recyclable materials in New Zealand where appropriate.

New Zealand has invested well in collection services, materials recycling facilities to sort collected material and in some onshore processing. Glass, metal, clean cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are all recovered and made into new products. We could be doing more of all of these and that is part of the work programme as well.

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

2019-B-05676

Event note – LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting for Rural & Provincial Mayors and Chief Executives.

Date submitted: 5 June 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Date of event: Friday 7 June 2019

Name of the event: **LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting for Rural & Provincial Mayors and Chief Executives.**

Purpose

1. This event note provides background information and talking points for a Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Rural & Provincial Sector meeting for Rural & Provincial Mayors and Chief Executives.
2. You have requested the provision of information you delivered to the LGNZ Metro Sector meeting on Friday 10 May (2019 B-05589) for this event including changes or additions specific to the Rural and Provincial sector, and key messages on local government responsibility for managing closed (and operating) landfills following a weather event that triggered the exposure of the Fox landfill, a closed landfill, in Westland District.
3. You will be presenting on the Friday 7 June 2019. This is the second day of the Rural & Provincial Sector meeting. A two day agenda is provided for you information at appendix 4.

Run sheet

Date	**Friday 7 June 2019**	
Time	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	
Order of events	Your speech	10:35 – 11:05
	Complete agenda provided at Appendix 4	
Locations	Harbourside Venue 4 Taranaki Street, Wellington	
Attendees	**LGNZ Provincial Group Sector Meeting attendees** Ashburton District Council, Far North District Council, Gisborne District Council, Hastings District Council, Horowhenua District Council, Invercargill City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Manawatu District Council, Marlborough District Council, Masterton District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Napier City Council, Nelson City	

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	Council, New Plymouth District Council, Queenstown-Lakes District Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Selwyn District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Southland District Council, Tasman District Council, Taupo District Council, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Timaru District Council, Waikato District Council, Waimakariri District Council, Waipa District Council, Waitaki District Council, Wanganui District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Whangarei District Council, Whakatane District Council **LGNZ Rural Group Sector Meeting attendees** Buller District Council, Carterton District Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Central Otago District Council, Chatham Islands Council, Clutha District Council, Gore District Council, Grey District Council, Hauraki District Council, Hurunui District Council, Kaikoura District Council, Kaipara District Council, Kawerau District Council, Mackenzie District Council, Opotiki District Council, Otorohanga District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Ruapehu District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, South Waikato District Council, Stratford District Council, Tararua District Council, Waimate District Council, Wairoa District Council, Waitomo District Council, Westland District Council.
Key attendees	s 9 (2) (a) **Other presenters on Friday 7 June 2019** s 9 (2) (a)
Media	Advised that no media will be in attendance.
Contact	s 9 (2) (a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	Ministry for the Environment: Name: Roderick Boys, Senior Investment Analyst/Senior Analyst Mob: 022 493 0561 Email: Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz

Context

4. You are attending the LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting for Rural & Provincial Mayors and Chief Executives to present information that was delivered to the LGNZ Metro Sector meeting on Friday 10 May (2019-B-05589) including changes or additions specific to the Rural and Provincial sector, and key messages on local government responsib lity for managing closed (and operating) landfills following the Fox Landfill event.
5. The meeting will be attended by Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executives of Rural & Provincial Councils.
6. You will be discussing recent initiatives of your Associate Environment portfolio and we have provided the following to assist you in this discussion:
    6.1. talking points delivered by you to the LGNZ Metro Sector meeting on Friday 10 May (2019-B-05589) (Appendix 1),
    6.2. possible questions and answers on the National Resource Recovery Project (Appendix 2),
    6.3. possible questions and answers on the Fox Landf ll event (Appendix 3).
    6.4. Complete agenda and presenters for the LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting (Appendix 4).

About the LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector

7. LGNZ represent the national interests of councils in New Zealand and lead best practice in the local government sector. LGNZ provide advocacy and policy services, business support, advice and training to members. Each council is a member of one of four sector groups - metropolitan, regional, provincial, or rural. Each sector is also represented on LGNZ's Nat onal Council.
8. Each sector group develops their own set of priority issues which are addressed, with assistance from LGNZ, with the objective of simultaneously pursuing the particular interests of each sector and the general interests of local government. The Provincial Sector Group represents populations between 20,000 and 90,000. The Rural Sector Group represents populations below 20,000.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendix 1: Background and talking points for LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting on Friday 7 June 2019.

National Resource Recovery Taskforce initial recommendations

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

2. Some operators have also been stockpiling low value materials and one of these stockpiles has recently been involved in a fire.

3. As a country we have been sending our waste issues offshore. China's National Sword initiative has been a wake-up call that we need to deal with waste here in New Zealand.

4. New Zealanders care deeply about reducing waste. MfE's 2018 attitudinal research indicates that reducing waste is rated by New Zealanders as the second (equal) most important challenge facing our country New Zealand over the next 20 years behind reducing child poverty. That's why I'm pleased to be able to tell you about the next steps we're taking to improve kerbside and commercial recycling, reduce contamination of recyclables so more materials can be recovered, and increase onshore processing of plastics and other materials.

5. In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce.

6. In establishing the Taskforce, I wanted to understand the impacts and identify any changes that may be needed. I also wanted to ensure we took the opportunity to look more broadly at how our resource recovery system is functioning, and how well it aligns with our ambition to support more onshore processing of recyclables and eventually transition New Zealand to a circular economy. Our recycling sector is much bigger than kerbside services and it's important to consider the whole system.

7. In order to get that overview, we commissioned two reports. The first is a situational analysis and the second a response options report.

8. I am pleased that we were able to get a clearer picture of the sector through the situational analysis, which will be useful to both government and industry. Yet it is clear there is still much more work to do as one of the issues the reports is that data on our waste and resources sector is limited.

9. The options report by Australian industry experts, helped define the pathway forwards. The taskforce worked through the options and made the following recommendations:

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

i. Identify gaps in the materials recovery and waste infrastructure where investment is needed.

ii. Review kerbside collection and processing systems to identify how to increase the quality of recyclables ensure more materials can be recovered and recycled instead of going to landfill.

iii. Undertake feasibility studies around how to increase New Zealand's fibre (paper and cardboard) processing and plastic reprocessing capacity.

iv. Examine how product stewardship for packaging can be used to ensure manufacturers consider what happens to packaging once a product is used by the consumer.

v. Assess the options for shifting away from low value and difficult to recyc e plastics, such as single use plastic bags and other low volume and/or mixed materials. This could include regulations around ensuring plastic packaging is able to be recycled and/or to require a portion of recycled content in packaging.

vi. Run an education campaign to help New Zealanders "recycle right", and reduce the amount of recyclable materials going to landfill because of contamination.

vii. Develop model contracts for the sector to reduce contamination, increase transparency and to better accommodate fluctuations in market prices for recyclable materials.

viii. Develop a sustainable procurement plan and guidelines to encourage purchase of products made of recovered and recycled materials.

10. I have agreed to these initial recommendations and these National Resource Recovery actions will be ncluded in the Ministry's priority work programme effective July 1, 2019. I have been pleased to announce the initial recommendations from the taskforce

11. I want to ensure we work very closely with you all as we start on the task ahead. The size of the projects and changes that may be required, and how quickly we can work on putting them in place, is not something Government can do alone. It is very clear to me that the support and active involvement of the sector is vital. We need to be prepared to work together – from business to business and with councils.

12. There are many good small projects and business initiatives to process recyclable materials around the country which we could replicate to speed up our response to the problems with recycling markets. I know there are also ideas from business which we can fast track to drive quicker progress.

13. We need to capture the ideas, decide which are worth pursuing and then make them happen.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

14. The Government does not hold all the ideas, funding and resources to make this happen as quickly as it is needed for New Zealand. Councils and businesses all have a major role to play. The Ministry and Government are only one part of this.

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendix 2: Possible questions and answers on the National Resource Recovery Project.

When did China National Sword start?

1. Until last year, China was the world's largest importer of recyclable products. In February 2018 China enforced its 'National Sword' policy (originally announced in February 2017) aimed at restricting the importation of low quality recyclable materials.

What has happened since China announced its National Sword policy

2. The policy has resulted in an oversupply of some recyclable products to other overseas markets and a decline in international commodity prices – which is having significant and potentially adverse impacts on New Zealand's resource recovery industry.

When did you begin to respond to China National Sword and what have you done?

3. In June 2018, I directed the Ministry to establish a National Resource Recovery Taskforce to examine New Zealand's resource recovery sector and potential responses to the effects created by China's National Sword policy.

4. The Taskforce engaged external consultants to undertake a situational analysis and develop potential solutions, and tested these solutions with two working groups – aresource recovery sector professional group and a local council working group.

5. The Taskforce has presented eight recommendations to me and I agreed to these.

What are the recommendations?

6. In preparing its recommendations, the Taskforce has sought expertise from Australia and has run a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and local councils.

7. The initial recommendations aim to:

   - address immedi te issues and impacts in the sector, including reviewing nationwide recycling infrastructure and services and the domestic and commercial collections currently in place
   - build a more resilient resource recovery sector in New Zealand in the medium turn, including investing in onshore infrastructure and service improvement enable long-term system change through regulations.

What are you going to do next?

8. I have asked officials to work on how to resource and implement the recommendations. Officials have reconvened our council and industry working groups and they have helped determine the details of what will be necessary for implementing the recommendations.

9. They (councils and industry) have also made further suggestions for enhancing the NRR work programme and I am considering these currently.

How long will it take? Have you acted fast enough?

10. We have deliberately taken a thorough look at the resource recovery system, the effects of National Sword internationally and in New Zealand, and evaluated potential solutions in consultation with the resource recovery industry and councils. This has all taken time, but

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

will ensure we take the right actions to improve resource recovery in New Zealand. We have to work together on this one. It is not just up to Government.

11. Changes in international commodity prices can happen in any industry, and it was appropriate that the resource recovery industry responded to this situation in the short term.

12. The effects of these problems may have long-term adverse impacts on resource recovery in New Zealand. They have put the spotlight on underlying issues in our resource recovery system – providing the opportunity to take a broad look at this system and how it can better align with circular economy principles.

Who is going to be involved from now?

13. It is really important that industry, councils and government work together to manage the issues facing the resource recovery sector. I am establishing the working groups to ensure we have a good representation from all parts of the sector.

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

[redacted]

Who were the technical experts used on the national resource recovery work and what did they contribute?

16. The Task force used Eunomia Research and Consulting, a local branch of an international consultancy to carry out an analysis of the resource recovery sector in New Zealand and impacts on the changes in recycling.

17. The taskforce also used international experts Mike Ritchie Consulting from Australia to examine what options were available for New Zealand in managing effects on our resource recovery sector. The effects are global – the effects are not just on New Zealand and internationally, everyone is dealing with the problems.

Who was on the National Resource Taskforce, apart from Ministry Officials?

18. Ministry staff made up the taskforce. The Ministry ran a collaborative process with working groups from both the resource recovery industry and metro councils from across NZ to ensure a good range of views were provided.

Council stakeholders included:

- George Fietje, Auckland Council
- Charlotte Catmur and Trent Fowles, Hamilton City Council
- Kimberley Hope, New Plymouth District Council
- Martin Jarvis, Hastings District Council

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- Cathryn Taylor and Amy Brasch, Tauranga City Council
- Emily Taylor-Hall, Wellington City Council
- Alec McNeil, Marlborough District Council
- Ross Trotter, Christchurch District Council
- Catherine Irvine, Dunedin City Council

Is our recycling system broken?

19. Our recycling system has been facing some real challenges, but it is not broken. New Zealand has invested well in collection services, materials recycling facilities to sort collected material and in some onshore processing. Glass, metal, clean cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are all recovered and made into new products. We could be doing more of all of these and that is part of the work programme as well.

20. The difficulties we are facing are with mixed plastics and mixed paper and cardboard. The materials are not easy to process, can be contaminated and there is little end use for the materials at the moment.

Is more material going to landfill?

21. Material recycling facilities are not sending many recyclable materials to landfill. A small number have stockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve.

22. Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

23. Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

Plastics

What will happen with the plastics, grades 3 – 7 will they end up in landfill?

24. Some companies have chosen not to collect and process these grades of plastics at the moment. Unfortunately, the plastics will have to be sent to landfill.

How much plastic material is going to landfill?

25. The exact quantities of plastic material going to landfill is unknown due to the current impacts of the China National sword Policy. However analysis in 2018 showed that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic material is recycled of which 90% is exported.

Do we know how much plastic waste is produced in New Zealand per year and how much is recycled?

26. The Ministry's analysis shows that approximately 45,000 tonnes of plastic is collected for recycling each year and of that 90% is exported offshore. This may be changing as local authorities stop collecting 3-7s.

What efforts are being made to improve plastic recycling across New Zealand?

27. We have been working with the industry for some years to make sure we can process PET and HDPE (Plastics 1and 2) in New Zealand. There are successful businesses processing the plastic and making it into new products or material to sell.

28. When this is done, it is important for New Zealand companies to support those companies and buy the recycled products.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

What does the Minister plan to do to address the issues of reducing plastic waste?

29. New Zealand recently joined an international pledge to cut plastic waste from our economy and environment. I signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment on 29 October, confirming New Zealand will join countries and organisations around the world at the forefront of the movement to address the root causes of plastic pollution and to create a new normal, where all plastics in our economy are designed to be reused, recycled or composted as part of a circular economy.

30. We are seeing businesses here really begin to step up to address single-use plastics. In June, we launched the New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration where so far 15 local and multi-national companies have pledged to move to 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in their New Zealand operations by 2025 or earlier.

Paper and Cardboard

How has National Sword policy affected paper and cardboard recycling?

31. The China National Sword policy resulted in a total ban on the importation of mixed paper grade material and this has led to an over-supply and a dramatic drop in global paper and cardboard prices. Some grades of newsprint and 'old corrugated cardboard' are still able to be imported into China but are limited to maximum of 0.5% contamination. New Zealand continues to export these paper and cardboard products, but in smaller volumes with new exports being found in Asian markets such as Vietnam, Thailand Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and India.

Is there more paper and cardboard being sent to landfills?

32. This is difficult to determine at this time with the shift in volumes away from China and attempts by processors to sell the displaced volumes into other Asian markets or alternately find other processing options. Some volume is being stockpiled in anticipation of a lift in global prices

What is the government doing to ensure that more fibre is being reprocessed and not sent to landfills?

33. I have asked officials to consider issues relating to the processing of paper and fibre products in New Zealand as part of the next phase of the Taskforces work and they are current y in discussions with Councils and Industry working groups on this.

How many recycling operators are experiencing financial difficulties and does the government propose to support them?

34. Material recycling facilities will usually try to avoid sending recyclables to landfill. A small number have s ockpiled plastic recyclables in the hope that international prices will improve

35. Many of the larger operators have absorbed financial losses in the short term and continued to export recyclables at the lower commodity prices.

36. Some operators have maintained higher prices for their exports through a focus on low contamination rates and sorting recyclables.

37. At this point, some councils have renegotiated prices for sorting recyclable materials.

Which Councils have bailed out their recyclers?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

38. Auckland and Christchurch Materials Recovery Facilities have or are in the process of negotiating agreements with their respective Councils.

Where/when did the fire occur?

39. Thames, Coromandel, in March this year. The fire was reported as possibly being started by a lithium ion battery. Another issue we are looking to address through product stewardship.

Does the government support or intend to support additional infrastructure in the resource sector to provide more certainty to the sector and to New Zealanders?

40. I established a taskforce to consider what needed to be done to address matters in the resource recovery sector. A council working group and an industry working group have assisted the taskforce. There are a number of recommendations from the taskforce which I have agreed to. A key recommendation is to identify what infrastructure and services are available in New Zealand and to consider where additional investment is required. Improving the quality and volume of materials available for recycling is importan along with what to reprocess into value-added materials that can be further used in new products or sold.

I hear the a growing number of councils are refusing to accept grades 3 – 7 plastics in their collection services

41. Currently there are limited markets for low value plastics. As a result some businesses and councils are not prepared to bear the cost of stockpiling unrecyclable product and choosing not to collect it. The taskforce I established, supported by council and industry working groups are considering further options for how to manage low value and hard to recycle plastics.

If paper is being stockpiled is this causing more waste issues when stored?

42. To our knowledge, paper is not being stockpiled. Once paper is wet, it cannot be recycled. Paper is being sold and recycled, even though it is for a substantially less price.

Overseas destinations

43. Sending some of our recyclable materials overseas is not a long term solution to the problems o waste in New Zealand. The goal for our government is to continue to establish onshore infrastructure to process our recyclable materials in New Zealand. New Zealand has good manufacturing plants here for processing clean cardboard, glass, PET and HDPE plastics.

44. New Zealand now has a programme of work to determine how we can process more recyclable mater als here. When it is possible to do so, we hope to process waste internally, removing the need for us to export materials for further processing.

45. New Zealand cannot dictate how other countries will handle recyclable materials they import. Fortunately, we do not send a lot of recyclable material to Malaysia, Indonesia or Vietnam currently. The Malaysian Government has now put strict controls on the Malaysian companies importing materials into Malaysia, which New Zealand supports.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Implementing key decisions adopted at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conferences of the Parties 2019

Date Submitted:	19 June 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05655	
Security Level	In confidence	MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment	For approval	30 June 2019
CC Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	For noting	
CC Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Associate Minister for the Environment	For noting	
CC Hon Kris Faafoi, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs	For noting	
CC Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs	For noting	

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	**Return** the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices: 2	s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]
Note any feedback on the quality of the report	

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Mariska Wouters	021 401 448	
Responsible Manager			
Director	Glenn Wigley	027 4917 806	✓

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Implementing key decisions adopted at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conferences of the Parties 2019

Key Messages

1. The purpose of this briefing is to summarise the outcomes of the biennial Basel[1], Rotterdam[2] and Stockholm[3] conventions' Conferences of Parties (Triple-COP) held from 29 April to 10 May 2019. These three conventions operate together to create international rules for the transboundary movement and safe management and disposal of hazardous wastes and chemicals.

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

3. Parties agreed two notable outcomes. Parties adopted amendments to annexes of the Basel Convention to regulate certain plastic wastes to address global plastic pollution.

s 6 (a)

Out of scope

5. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) will commence policy analysis for your consideration on the domestic implementation of the amendments to the Basel Convention relating to international shipments of mixed and/or contaminated plastics, which will require consent from the receiving country from 1 January 2021.

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[1] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

[2] Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

[3] Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)

10. The Basel Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the dangers posed by hazardous waste and household wastes, and regulates the international movement of those wastes. It requires PIC for imports and exports of listed wastes.

11. Parties adopted, by consensus, amendments to Annexes II, VIII, and IX of the Basel Convention. These amendments require exporting countries or exporters to obtain consent from receiving countries before shipping most mixed, and/or contaminated plastic waste. The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2021. Parties can opt out, but if New Zealand opts out, New Zealand exporters will still be required to obtain consent from receiving countries that have accepted the amendments.

12. Sorted, uncontaminated[4] plastic waste for recycling can continue to be exported without needing consent.

13. The objective of the amendments is to better manage international shipments of plastic waste, especially plastic waste leading to marine plastic litter. The amendments do this by incentivising the trade of high value plastic waste for recycling, while dis-incentivising the trade of mixed, and/or contaminated plastic waste as these exports tend to lead to more residual waste, which results in worse environmental outcomes.

14. The amendments are intended to make the global trade of plastic waste more transparent and environmentally sound. Currently, plastic waste for recycling can be traded freely[5], as long as they are not mixed with other wastes, and are prepared to a specification. Generally, bales of mixed value plastic waste are sent from developed countries to developing countries (particularly in Asia) for recycling. However, while the high value plastic waste is extracted for recycling, low value plastic waste is often dumped in landfills, or burned.

15. The amendments are in line with the Government's objectives to improve domestic recycling systems and reduce plastic waste as part of moving towards a circular economy. They also reflect changes that are already occurring in our domestic recycling sector, in particular as a result of China's National Sword approach.

16. We will undertake policy analysis on the operational, regulatory and financial implications of these amendments to the Basel Convention. This includes considering:

    - what domestic regulatory changes are required to meet our international obligations relating to the amendments
    - what the financial impact may be of any additional permitting activity on the EPA, and of any additional inspection on New Zealand Customs Service (Customs)
    - what the operational impact will be on New Zealand's plastics recycling sector, taking into account what other drivers and changes are already happening within the sector in response to China's National Sword
    - whether broader policy issues need to be considered to ensure that any domestic changes are fit for purpose, and achieve the objective of the amendments to better manage the trade of plastic waste. Such wider changes might include ways to improve the regulatory settings for transits, introducing cost recovery, 'takeback'

[4] On the definition of 'uncontaminated', the amendments include guidance only.

[5] Exceptions include plastic waste that is currently classified as hazardous wastes. For example, plastics that have been used as packaging for products such as pesticides, and plastic waste containing POPs. Or in cases where an importing country has set national standards for imports of plastic waste eg Malaysia.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

and liability, and enforcement (appendix 3).

17. We will provide you with a briefing on policy options by early September. This briefing will also outline next steps including any required Cabinet approvals and Parliamentary processes.

s 6 (a)

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Recommendations

37. We recommend that you:

Basel Convention

a. **Note** that Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision to amend annexes II, VIII and IX of the Convention, to better manage the transboundary movement of plastic waste

b. **Note** that the decision will require exporting countries or exporters to obtain consent from receiving countries before shipping most mixed, and/or contaminated plastic waste, from 1 January 2021

c. **Note** that officials will provide you with advice on policy options to implement the decision domestically by mid-September 2019

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Briefing with talking points – Cabinet papers: *Update on the resource recovery and circular economy work programme* and *Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship*

Date Submitted:	22 July 2019	Tracking #: 2019-B-05795	
Security Level	In confidence	MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent

	Action sought:	Response by:
To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment	For noting ahead of Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 24 July	No response required

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	**Return** the signed report to MfE.
Number of appendices and attachments Nil	The Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Transition work programme A3
Note any feedback on the quality of the report	

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
Principal Author	Miranda Grimmer	022 493 0545	
Responsible Manager	Hinemoa Awatere	022 076 4653	
Director	Shaun Lewis	021 101 2446	✓

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Briefing with talking points – Cabinet papers: *Update on the resource recovery and circular economy work programme* and *Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship*

Purpose

1. This briefing provides talking points for your presentation of the Cabinet paper *Update on the resource recovery and circular economy work programme* and the Cabinet paper *Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship* to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV).
2. The DEV meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 24 July.

Talking points

3. New Zealanders are deeply concerned about waste and ready for change, as shown by widespread public and industry support for the phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.
4. The impacts of our take, make, dispose economy have been highlighted recently by:
   - The decision of several overseas markets (beginning with China) to no longer accept large streams of imported waste; and
   - The wash-out of the closed Fox River landfill in March.
5. It is time for New Zealand to transition away from our 'take, make, dispose' economy towards a circular economy, which keeps resources in circulation instead of disposing of them.
6. Moving towards a circular economy will reduce environmental impacts (including greenhouse gas emissions), improve economic efficiency, and create jobs.
7. I aim to progress six priority projects over the next twelve months:

[redacted]
Out of scope
[redacted]
Out of scope
[redacted]
Out of scope
[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

a. **Refer** to this briefing for information during your presentation of the Cabinet papers *Update on the resource recovery and circular economy work programme* and *Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship*.

Signature

Shaun Lewis
Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships **Date**

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment **Date**

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

National Resource Recovery project

What are the priorities?

22. There are 11 recommendations which are now part of the Ministry's work programme and many of them will start in year one:

- design and New Zealand container refund scheme (three year project)
- investigate plastic packaging including recycled content regulations and other options (once commissioned, 12 months)
- resource recovery infrastructure stocktake (once commissioned, 12 month project)
- investigate kerbside and commercial collections (once commissioned, six month project)
- processing feasibility investigations for fibre, plastics and construction and demolition waste (three projects, once commissioned, nine months)

23. While there is good reason for a focus on plastics, fibre (paper and cardboard) is the most pressing cost issue for local government and the sector, and resultantly rate payers.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

19-B-05828

Event note – Meeting with the Waste Advisory Board

Date submitted: 29 July 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Time of event: Monday 5 August 2019

Name of the event: Meeting with the Waste Advisory Board

Purpose

1. This event note provides you with information and talking points for your meeting with the Waste Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) on Monday 5 August.

2. [redacted]

   - [redacted]
   - Out of scope [redacted]

Run sheet

Date	Monday 5 August
Time	12:30pm – 1:15pm
Location	Your office Level 6 Bowen House Wellington
Expected number of guests	10

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Out of scope

Work programme on National Resource Recovery

40. Changes in the global market for recyclables has accentuated the need to lift our resource recovery performance as a country.

41. In response to this I set up a taskforce to engage with stakeholders and come up with recommendations. I have agreed to the taskforce's recommendations for action, including:

    a. Undertaking a complete assessment of our resource recovery infrastructure and recycling systems

    b. Assessing the options to shift away from low-value and difficult-to-recycle plastics (for instance by requiring a portion of packaging to be recycled content); and

    c. Designing a New Zealand container refund scheme.

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted] out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2019 7:25 AM
To: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Approval request: Basel and NRR update - email to stakeholders

Morning, updated version for your approval today – thank you!

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

Kia ora koutou NRR stakeholders, [redacted] s 9 (2) (a) [redacted].

Decision to amend annexes to the Basel Convention

Earlier this year we asked for your feedback on a proposal by the Norwegian Government to amend annexes to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal (Basel Convention).

In May, at the biennial Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, all Parties to the Convention (including New Zealand) agreed by consensus a decision aimed at better managing international shipments of hard-to-recycle plastic waste. This will make the trade in plastic waste more transparent and environmentally sound, preventing exports of waste that could ultimately end up being buried, burned or littered.

At a high level the amendments will require exporters to obtain consent from the Governments of importing countries before exporting mixed and/or contaminated plastic waste. Pre-sorted, clean plastic waste can be exported without needing consent. The amendments will not prevent the trade of plastic waste but aim to incentivise the trade in high-quality, sorted, clean plastic waste for recycling. The amendments come into effect on 1 January 2021. Parties to the Basel Convention are now looking at how to implement the decision domestically.

The Ministry for the Environment is currently considering how the Basel decision will affect New Zealand and is preparing advice for Ministers. As part of this, we would like to have some early conversations with you about the decision. Please note that the Ministry for the Environment is not undertaking formal consultation on the decision at this stage. Pending a Cabinet decision, consultation is likely later this year.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

My colleagues Hannah Singer and Mariska Wouters (cc'd) are leading this work and will be in touch shortly with more information about the decision and ways to get involved in some early discussions.

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

In the meantime, Basel is the immediate priority for engagement in August and it has the potential to be a significant driver for the rest of the NRR work programme over the next three years. I encourage you to engage with Hannah and Mariska in the pre-consultation feedback.

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Meeting Note 19-B-05898

Time & Date: **4:30pm – 5:00pm, Wednesday 14 August 2019**

Subject of meeting: Meeting with Oji Fibre Solutions

Purpose

1. This meeting note provides you with information ahead of you meeting with Oji ibre Solutions

Meeting information

Date and time	Wednesday 14 August 2019, 4:30pm – 5:00pm
Location	289 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland
Guests	Oji Fibre Solutions representatives
MfE Contact	Jacob Uden, Investment Manager, Hono Tātaki Jacob.uden@mfe.govt.nz, 022 493 0597

Key messages

2. Paper and fibre recycling is increasingly becoming an issue in New Zealand, particularly following China's decision to no longer import most waste products.

3. Oji Fibre Solutions is the fifth largest producer of market pulp, paper and fibre based packaging solutions in the world. The majority of their operations are based in New Zea and although their parent company is based in Tokyo.

s 9 (2) (j)

5. You may wish to find out more about Oji Fibre Solutions' work, their role in New Zealand's fibre and paper industry, and their waste minimisation fund application.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Background information

Paper and Fibre Recycling in New Zealand

6. Paper and fibre recycling has recently received increased media attention following China's decision to place stricter restrictions on the waste they import.

7. More fibre processing solutions are required for New Zealand to increase its capacity to process stockpiled fibre and paper waste onshore.

8. The recommendations from the National Resource Recovery Taskforce, which you endorsed, recommend that New Zealand improves its kerbside recycling systems and explores the feasibility of new onshore processing plants.

Oji Fibre Solutions

9. Oji Fibre Solutions (Oji) is the fifth largest producer of market pulp, paper and fibre based packaging products in the world.

10. The majority of Oji's operations are based in New Zealand, and they have significant operations in Australia and 158 consolidated subsidiaries in 17 countries.

11. Oji's business focuses on four key areas:

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

s (9) (2) (b) (ii)

s 9 (2) (j)

s 9 (2) (j)

s 9 (2) (j)

s 9 (2) (j)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Talking points

17. You may wish to find out more about Oji's work, including their current operations in New Zealand and their plans for future development.

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

s 9 (2) (j)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Mariska Wouters
To: Glenn Wigley; Shaun Lewis
Cc: Meg Larken; Hannah Singer; Roderick Boys; Amanda Baldwin
Subject: FW: FYI Aus plan to ban export of recyclables
Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2019 6:35:20 PM

[redacted] out of scope

Glenn / Shaun, last week the Council of Australian Governments agreed to work on a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, to improve Australia's recycling capacity. [redacted] s 6 (a) .

[redacted] s 6 (a)

[redacted] s 6 (a)

Also refer: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/09/australia-to-ban-export-of-recyclable-waste-as-soon-as-practicable-pm-vows

Cheers
Mariska

[redacted]

[redacted] s 6 (a)

[redacted]

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

2019-B-05942

Meeting Note

Time & Date: 26 August 2019 1.00-1.45pm

Subject of meeting: Meeting with Parul Sood, Auckland Council to discuss Recycling.

Purpose

1. This meeting note provides you with information ahead of your meeting with Parul Sood, Waste Solutions Programme Director, Auckland Council to discuss recycling.

Meeting information

Date and time	26 August 2019, 1pm-1.45pm
Location	Auckland Policy Office, 45 Queen St, Auckland
Guests	• Parul Sood
MfE Contact	Liz Butcher, Analyst Liz.butcher@mfe.govt.nz

Key messages

2. You are meeting with Auckland Council to discuss recycling. [redacted]
s 9 (2) (b) (ii)
Out of scope

Background information & context

4. Auckland Council's second Waste Management and Minimisation Plan was adopted in June 2018, and is guided by the vision to be zero waste by 2040, take care of people and the environment, and turn waste into resources. The plan includes a target to reduce total waste (private and council managed) to landfill by 30 percent by 2027.

[redacted]
s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

Auckland Resource Recovery Network

7. In 2014, the council endorsed a long-term strategy for the Resource Recovery Network (RRN), including the establishment of twelve community recycling centres over a ten year period.

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

- Out of scope
- s 9 (2) (j)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Kerbside Recycling

13. Auckland Council run a comingled kerbside collection (with all materials going into one bin). s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) A review of kerbside collection and processing systems to identify how to increase the quality of recyclables, and ways to ensure more materials are recovered and recycled, is a focus of the National Resource Recovery (NRR) programme.

15. Standardisation across the resource recovery system to improve the quality of materials may help to address some of the issues experienced by Auckland Council. Development of model contracts for the sector is another recommendation that will be implemented through the NRR work programme. Potential amendments to the Basel convention may also force standardisation for plastics.

Out of scope

Out of scope

Points the guests are likely to raise

17. It is likely that the guests will want to discuss issues that they are experiencing within the current constraints of the resource recovery system, s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

Out of scope

19. The meeting attendees may also ask for an update on the waste levy expansion project.

Talking Points

20. The Ministry has an ambitious work programme that aims to reform New Zealand's waste management system to reduce waste, increase resource recovery and transition New Zealand towards a circular economy.

Out of scope

Out of scope

s 9 (2) (j)

s (9) (2) (j)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

National Resource Recovery work programme

23. The National Resource Recovery (NRR) work programme aims to explore solutions for some of the issues that you and other Councils are currently experiencing following the introduction of the China National Sword policy.

24. Key recommendations included in the NRR work programme include:

    - Looking at our infrastructure investment strategy – reviewing kerbside and commercial collections, resource recovery infrastructure stocktake and investigating feasibility for onshore fibre and plastics processing
    - Exploring product stewardship for packaging
    - Addressing system issues through looking at the role of regulations for plastic packaging and an education campaign to help New Zealander's 'recycle right'
    - Supporting the resource recovery system through development of model contracts and development of a sustainable procurement plan and guidelines.

25. The NRR work formally commenced on 1 July 2019 and is still in the very early stages of the three-year work programme.

26. You may wish to ask Auckland Council on how they intend to investigate improvements to the quality and quantity of material that is recovered through the Auckland resource recovery system.

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Roderick Boys
To:	John Scott (DPMC)
Cc:	Sam Buckle; Penny Race (Parliament); Marianna Tyler; Shaun Lewis; Stephanie Hill
Subject:	DPMC Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme
Date:	Friday, 23 August 2019 9:20:00 AM
Attachments:	image001.png 7316_MFE_RECET_A3_Infosheet_10-0.pdf DPMC waste update 23 Aug 2019 FINAL.docx

Hi John,

As discussed, please find attached a three page 'Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme.'

Also attached is an A3 infosheet on the RECET work programme.

Please let us know if you require any more information.

Thanks
Rod

Roderick Boys – Senior Policy Analyst, Hono Tataki – Resource Efficiency and Innovation
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Mobile: **022 493 0561** Email: **roderick.boys@mfe.govt.nz** Website: **www.mfe.govt.nz**
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6143

Please note: my normal working hours are 7.00am 3.30pm.

http://intranet/sites/all/files/Lockup-8pt.png

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme

The big picture:

1. Our per capita waste disposal rate is one of the highest in the OECD, rising from 570kg per person to 750kg per person over the last ten years. In comparison, many OECD countries have stable or reducing per capita waste production; overall the OECD municipal solid waste production per capita decreased by 6 percent on average between 2000 and 2017.
2. A $10 per tonne levy was applied to New Zealand's municipal landfills in 2009 under the Waste Minimisation Act (2008) to raise revenue for waste minimisation. The levy also increased the cost of disposal to recognise the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of waste. The levy was set at the default rate of $10 per tonne and has not been changed since 2009.



3. Statutory reviews of the waste levy have identified that the existing levy is considered too low and too narrow in coverage to change the behaviour of people who generate waste, or to support much needed investment in alternatives to landfill. Associate Minister for the Environment Hon Eugenie Sage is proposing changes to support a more effective waste disposal levy with phased increases as part of a larger drive towards a circular economy.

The public are concerned

4. The build-up of plastic in the environment has been identified as the number one concern for New Zealanders,[1] who know "there is no away" when it comes to waste. This was reinforced in March 2019 when extreme rainfall exposed Westland District Council's closed Fox Landfill. The river eroded and transported large volumes of waste out to sea and deposited detritus over some 70km of riverbed and coastline, before being cleaned up.
5. It is now widely recognised that wasteful practises:
   - degrade the environment and our quality of life (eg, urban litter, marine plastic);
   - create an inter-generational problem (eg, Fox River landfill exposure);
   - result in continuing resource extraction and lost opportunity for materials recovery;
   - contribute to climate change; and
   - are increasingly out of step with society's values (eg, public surveys, huge response to the plastic bag ban, etc.)

Global drivers for change

[1] https://www.colmarbrunton.co.nz/better-futures-climate-change-concern-rising-but-plastics-top-of-mind-for-kiwis/

Released Under the Official Information Act (1982)

6. The extraction and use of primary (raw) materials is much more polluting than secondary (recycled) materials.[2] The urgent need to decouple GDP growth from materials use and disposal is vital for the well-being of future generations. Meanwhile, our onshore systems for recovering materials are being seriously challenged by structural changes in global markets.
7. In February 2018 China's National Sword policy effectively banned the import of recyclable waste from other countries. Other importers including Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and India are now implementing their own policies to mitigate the impacts of waste imports. [redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]
8. While much focus is given to plastic, China's National Sword has also significantly impacted commodity prices of mixed paper and cardboard. [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]
9. In May 2019, the Conference of the Parties (COP 2019) agreed to amend the Basel Convention so that the global trade of contaminated and mixed plastic can be better managed. [redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted].

The New Zealand waste and resource recovery sector

10. New Zealand's waste and recycling collections, processing and disposal are managed by private companies and local authorities with many different arrangements. Waste from households is disposed of at 41 landfills (out of approximately 427 consented landfill sites). These 41 landfills receive around 30 percent of waste (from household and commercial sources). These landfills are mostly owned by local government but often managed by contractors, including Waste Management and EnviroNZ (Envirowaste) which control over half of the waste management market.
11. The remaining waste, such as construction and demolition, industrial, contaminated soils and clean fill, is typically disposed of at cheaper landfill sites, currently with very little data. Regulatory control of landfills is managed through the Resource Management Act 1991. Municipal landfills are well regulated and controlled, but there is significant inconsistency for other types.

Resource recovery

12. Our resource recovery sector (collection, sorting and processing of recyclables) has investments worth in excess of $3 billion, with a turnover of approximately $1 billion per year. The sector employs 15,000 – 20,000 staff. For kerbside collections, the market is dominated by four operators, who cover approximately 76 percent of households.
13. The sector manages approximately 1.295 million tonnes of material per annum. Overall quantities are dominated by ferrous metals, paper and cardboard, with glass also an important component. Plastics only make up 45,000 tonnes (3.5 percent) of the resources recovered.
14. Commercial and industrial sources produce the highest quantities of quality material for the resource recovery sector. Kerbside recycling is reasonably well established (97 percent of New Zealanders have access to facilities to recycle paper, glass, cans and plastic types 1 and 2 (and in some places 1 - 7). However, our recycling rate for packaging is estimated to be only 58 percent.

---

[2] OECD Global Material Resources outlook to 2060 https://www.oecd.org/environment/waste/highlights-global-material-resources-outlook-to-2060.pdf

[3] Approximately two thirds of New Zealand households with kerbside services have a comingled collection. [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted] s.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

15. s 9 (2) (b) (ii) Changes in global prices, due in part to the National Sword policy, have placed pressure on the sector and increased financial risks.

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s (9) (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Liz Butcher
To: Shaun Lewis
Cc: Matthew Ide; Sam Buckle
Subject: RE: Australian export ban update
Date: Wednesday, 28 August 2019 11:32:00 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Kia ora Shaun

Glad to hear the meeting went well yesterday. Thank you for the information, this is very helpful.

s 6 (b) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

See you tomorrow.

Liz

From: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 August 2019 11:17 AM
To: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Australian export ban update

[In confidence]
Kia ora Liz
Hope all is well at your end. The meeting yesterday was excellent – there is a lot going on over here across all states and at the Commonwealth level as well. I'll do a full debrief when I'm back tomorrow.

s 6 (b) (i)

- s 6 (b) (i)
- s 6 (b) (i)
  - s 6 (b) (i)
  - s 6 (a)
  - s 6 (a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- [redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

s 6 (b) (i) [redacted]

Happy to discuss.

Shaun

Shaun Lewis – Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships

Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Mobile: 64 21 101 2446 Email: shaun.lewis@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Pl, Thorndon, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143

MfE_logo

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Matthew Ide
To: Liz Butcher
Subject: FW: Discussion with Aus officials about SEM agenda item on circular economy
Date: Friday, 30 August 2019 4:07:00 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg
Circular Economy brief for SEM Ministerial 30Aug2019 (002).docx

---

Hi Liz

This is good, thank you for capturing the amendments.

Cheers
Matt

From: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2019 4:01 PM
To: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Discussion with Aus officials about SEM agenda item on circular economy

Hi Matt

I've made some suggested edits based on your comment below.

See attached.

Thanks again
Liz

From: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2019 3:44 PM
To: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Discussion with Aus officials about SEM agenda item on circular economy

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]
Other than that, this is good.

From: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2019 2:55 PM
To: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Discussion with Aus officials about SEM agenda item on circular economy
Importance: High

Hi Matt

MFAT have made a few additions to the brief that we sent through earlier in the week for the Single Economic Market Ministerial meeting (see email below). s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Sorry for the short time frame but they would like us to review and confirm by COP today.

MFAT's additions include the key points at the top and the section on Australia's waste and recycling policies s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Let me know if you have any questions.

Liz

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Objectives:

- s 6 (a)
- Exchange views on the circular economy, a burgeoning and cross-cutting area of policy, to establish common ground with Australia as we both confront similar challenges.
- Recognise the potential of trade and economic policy to contribute to the circular economy, especially in the promotion of economic markets for recycled waste.

Key points

- Given the new challenges facing both our economies from the environmental impacts of waste, s 6 (a) there are opportunities for Australia and New Zealand to collaborate through sharing information and identifying opportunities to align our policy approach to the circular economy.
- New Zealanders are concerned about the environmental impacts of waste and are ready for action on the matter. However, we are currently one of the highest producers of urban waste per capita in the developed world.
- The shift to a more circular economy provides an opportunity to use our resources more efficiently and can provide business and employment opportunities.
- Valuable bilateral engagement and information sharing is already happening. In July Associate Environment Minister, Hon Eugenie Sage, visited Australia to meet with State government representatives, and her federal counterpart Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Hon Trevor Evans. New Zealand appreciates the invitation received to attend the Australian Meeting of Environment Ministers in November in Adelaide.
- s 6 (a)
- s 6 (a)
  - s 6 (a)
  - s 6 (a)
  - s 6 (a)
  - s 6 (a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Circular Economy and the SEM

1. Market research indicates New Zealanders see reducing waste as the second most important challenge facing New Zealand over the next 20 years. Similarly, expectations about how we reduce our waste footprint are changing.

2. Public concern about waste has yet to translate to a reduction in waste volumes to landfill. New Zealand is one of the highest producers of household waste in the developed world, per capita. Over the last nine years (to July 2018), the total net tonnage disposed to levied landfills increased by 39 percent and a long-term growth trend is evident.

3. The longstanding practice of exporting our waste has been significantly disrupted by the decision of several markets, s 6 (a) , to no longer accept large streams of poor quality imported recyclables and waste.

4. An increased government focus on waste minimisation and resource recovery can help New Zealand shift to a low-emissions, circular economy that maximises the recovery and use of materials and embedded energy compared to the 'take, make, use and dispose' economic model. An economy with 'reuse, repair, recycle, recover' at the core has more job opportunities and growth pathways than a disposal-based system.

5. Jurisdictions that have explored the likely economic and climate change benefits of a transition to a circular economy and found significant net positive opportunities include South Australia, Finland, Scotland, Denmark, France, and China. Recent reports have highlighted a circular approach across two regions in Scotland has the potential to deliver over $1 billion pounds in economic benefits.

6. With the support of $4 million in additional funding allocated as part of the government's 2019 Wellbeing Budget, New Zealand will progress initiatives to reform the waste management system to reduce waste, increase resource recovery, and transition to a more circular economy. New Zealand is in the early stages of policy development and the work programme is complex.

7. New Zealand's Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Transition work programme supports government priorities including transitioning to a clean, green, carbon-neutral New Zealand, minimising waste to landfill, with significant reductions in all waste classes by 2020 and investing in product stewardship. Its key projects are:

    - Expansion of the waste disposal levy
    - Improving resource recovery infrastructure and systems
    - Regulated product stewardship
    - Transitioning towards a Circular Economy.

8. In May 2019, the Basel Convention COP14 agreed by consensus to amend annexes to the convention to better manage international movement of mixed and/or contaminated plastic waste. s 6 (a) [redacted]

9. Out of scope [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Out of scope

Improving New Zealand's resource recovery infrastructure and systems

10. In May 2019, Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment announced a plan to help improve New Zealand's recovery and recycling sector. The key recommendations include:

    - Looking at our infrastructure investment strategy including investigating feasibility of onshore fibre (paper and cardboard) and plastics processing;
    - Addressing system issues through looking at the role of regulations for plastic packaging; and
    - Supporting the resource recovery system through development of model contracts and a sustainable procurement plan and guidelines.

Australia's waste and recycling policies

11. s 6 (b) (i)

12. Prime Minister Morrison has publicly promoted the recent agreement by federal and state governments to "establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, while building Australia's capacity to generate high value recycled commodities and associated demand." s 6 (b) (i)

13. This announcement follows the federal government's election commitment to invest $167 million to "increase Australia's recycling rates, tackle plastic waste and litter, accelerate work on new recycling schemes and continue action to halve food waste by 2030". Following the election, the federal government established a new Assistant Ministerial portfolio for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management.

14. A key mechanism for coordinating Australian policy development and implementation is the Meeting of Environment Ministers (federal and State).
    s 6 (a)

    s 6 (a)

    s 6 (a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]
- s 6 (a) [redacted]

Hono Tātaki, Ministry for the Environment
August 2019

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Liz Butcher
To: Shaun Lewis
Cc: Matthew Ide; Sam Buckle
Subject: RE: DPMC Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme
Date: Friday, 30 August 2019 2:15:14 PM
Attachments: DPMC Australia Export Ban Update.docx

Kia ora Shaun

Please see attached the latest version with the updates requested by Sam (para 19) and a paragraph on product stewardship (para 22).

Thanks
Liz

From: Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2019 11:16 AM
To: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: DPMC Update on the New Zealand waste situation and the Government work programme

Hi Liz
Thanks for going this. Excellent note

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 6 (a)

s 6 (a)

s 6 (a)

What do you think?

Sam

Sent from my iPhone

On 30/08/2019, at 10:58 AM, Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz> wrote:

> Kia ora Shaun
>
> Please see updated note for DPMC attached with the requested changes.
>
> Happy to make further changes if needed. I've left a hardcopy on your desk with the highlighted amendments.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Update on Australia's announcement to ban exports of waste material

Key messages

1. Australia is moving rapidly on waste in response to public concern and restricted access to global markets for recycling [redacted]. Commitments include a recent announcement to ban the export of some waste materials, the allocation of substantial funding and the development of a response strategy focused on waste reduction, diversion from landfill and maximising the capacity of the resource recovery system.

2. [redacted]

Policy drivers and the Australian waste situation

3. Similar to New Zealand, Australia is seeing an increase in public awareness related to waste and recycling. This is translating into an increase in political will for action. Australia is also experiencing similar pressures to New Zealand regarding their national and state resource recovery systems with only 12 per cent of plastics recovered for recycling and the remainder going to landfill.

4. In 2018, Australia's environment ministers committed to a National Waste Policy. The policy provides a framework for collective action by business, governments, communities and individuals until 2030. The policy emphasises avoidance of waste, encourages re-use models and designing waste out of the system. It also acknowledges a need to increase use of recycled material, build demand and markets for recycled products and better manage material flows. Lastly, the policy aims to improve action to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Waste focus in 2019 election campaign

5. A number of waste initiatives were announced by the Coalition government during the 2019 election campaign including $167 million in funding to support an increase in Australia's recycling rates, tackle plastic waste and litter, accelerate work on new recycling schemes and continue action that will halve food waste by 2030.

Agreement to ban exports on waste materials

6. At the recent 47th annual general meeting of the Council of Australian Governments on 9 August, leaders agreed that Australia should establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, while building capacity for Australia to generate high-value recycled commodities and associated demand.

7. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has promoted the policy directive in the media, outlining the impact on other nations, their waterways and oceans, and the need for the government to take a leadership role in ensuring Australia takes responsibility for its own waste.

8. Morrison also outlined the economic impact of waste exports at a cost of $3.8 billion to state and territory budgets, the lost job opportunities and the potential economic benefit of unlocking the value

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

in waste materials. The new announcement aligns with the overarching policy direction outlined in the 2018 National Waste Policy.

9. Environment Ministers are tasked with advising on a proposed timetable and a response strategy following consultation with industry and affected stakeholders. Leaders agreed the strategy must prioritise waste reduction and diversion from landfill (particularly plastics) and maximise the capability of the resource recovery system to collect, recycle, reuse and convert waste.

Progress made following 9 August meeting

s 6 (b) (i)

s 6 (b) (i)

s 6 (b) (i)

Alignment with Basel amendment decision

13. In May 2019, the Basel Convention COP14 agreed by consensus to amend annexes to the Convention to better manage international movement of mixed and/or contaminated plastic waste. The objective is to improve management of international shipments of plastic waste, especially plastic waste leading to marine plastic litter. The amendments do this by incentivising the trade of high-value plastic waste for recycling, while dis-incentivising the trade of mixed and/or contaminated plastic waste, which tend to lead to more residual waste resulting in worse environmental outcomes.

s 6 (a)

s 6 (a)

Application of a similar policy in New Zealand

16. Based on the current state of our resource recovery system a similar policy directive would be challenging to implement in New Zealand in the near future. Australia is in a much stronger position to make this change and to invest further in growing onshore processing capacity and markets for recycled content.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 6 (a)

s 6 (a)

s 6 (a)

20. Without sufficient regulation to improve packaging recyclability and to increase the demand for local recycled materials then it is likely that introducing such a policy in New Zealand would have one of two effects:
    - further increase the flow of materials that end up in landfills due to closing off access to existing offshore markets
    - fast-track waste to energy as a disposal option.

s 6 (b) (i)

22. We are currently consulting on a proposed framework for regulated product stewardship and the declaration of six priority products (tyres, e-waste, refrigerants, agrichemicals, farm plastics and plastic packaging). If declared, a product stewardship scheme will need to be developed meaning that recycling markets must be available to support products at their end-of-life. Australia has committed $20M for a new Product Stewardship Investment Fund, which may provide future markets for New Zealand.

Opportunities for collaboration with Australia

23. Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment has been invited to the upcoming MEM in November where Australian environment leaders will present further detail regarding the proposed export ban. There is an opportunity for New Zealand to be represented at the Ministerial level and be party to these discussions.

24. On 13 September, Hon David Parker will be chairing a Single Economic Market ministerial meeting under his trade portfolio. Ministers will attend the meeting from both Australia and New Zealand. Circular economy has been placed on the draft agenda with information exchanges regarding our respective resource recovery systems suggested as a potential area for collaboration.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

The situation on plastics

There are thousands of different variations of plastic materials. s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted] While much of the higher value material is likely to be recycled, there is little information on what happens to the low-value materials once exported offshore. This is one of the key drivers for the global commitment to amend the Basel Convention to restrict the transboundary movement of low-value mixed and contaminated plastic waste.

Plastics are typically identified by the resin type numbers 1-7. However, this code does not tell people whether the material is recyclable as this is determined by what the product is, what else has been added to the plastic in manufacture (including colour), the recycling infrastructure, whether the material is contaminated and most importantly, the market value of the material as a recycled commodity (either onshore or offshore).

For example, clear PET (fizzy drink bottles) is worth a lot more on international markets than coloured PET (Sprite/L&P bottles). Most of New Zealand's clear PET is now being recycled onshore by Flight plastics in Seaview Lower Hutt, or exported at a good price. Coloured PET is currently exported along with other 'mixed plastics' for recycling offshore. Natural coloured HDPE (semi-transparent milk bottles) is in very high demand and is the most valuable plastic according to global commodity prices. Whereas coloured HDPE is worth much less and is sometimes included in mixed plastics. This complexity is why some council kerbside recycling schemes refer to product descriptions such as 'clear soft-drink bottles only' instead of or as well as the resin code 1, as it is easier for consumers to understand what will be accepted.

A description of the categories, and some rounded figures on the volumes of raw resin imports are set out below.

Plastic type	**Examples**	s (9) (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]
1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	Soda bottles Water bottles Salad dressing bottles	[redacted]
2 HDPE High-Density Polyethylene	Milk bottles Juice containers Motor oil container Shampoo and conditioner bottles	[redacted]
3 PVC Polyvinyl Chloride	Plumbing pipes Cling films Gutters Window frames	[redacted]
4 LDPE	Cling wrap Sandwich bags Squeezable bottles for condiments Grocery bags Frozen food bags	[redacted]
5 PP Polypropylene	Plastic diapers Tupperware Margarine tubs Yogurt containers Bottle caps	[redacted]

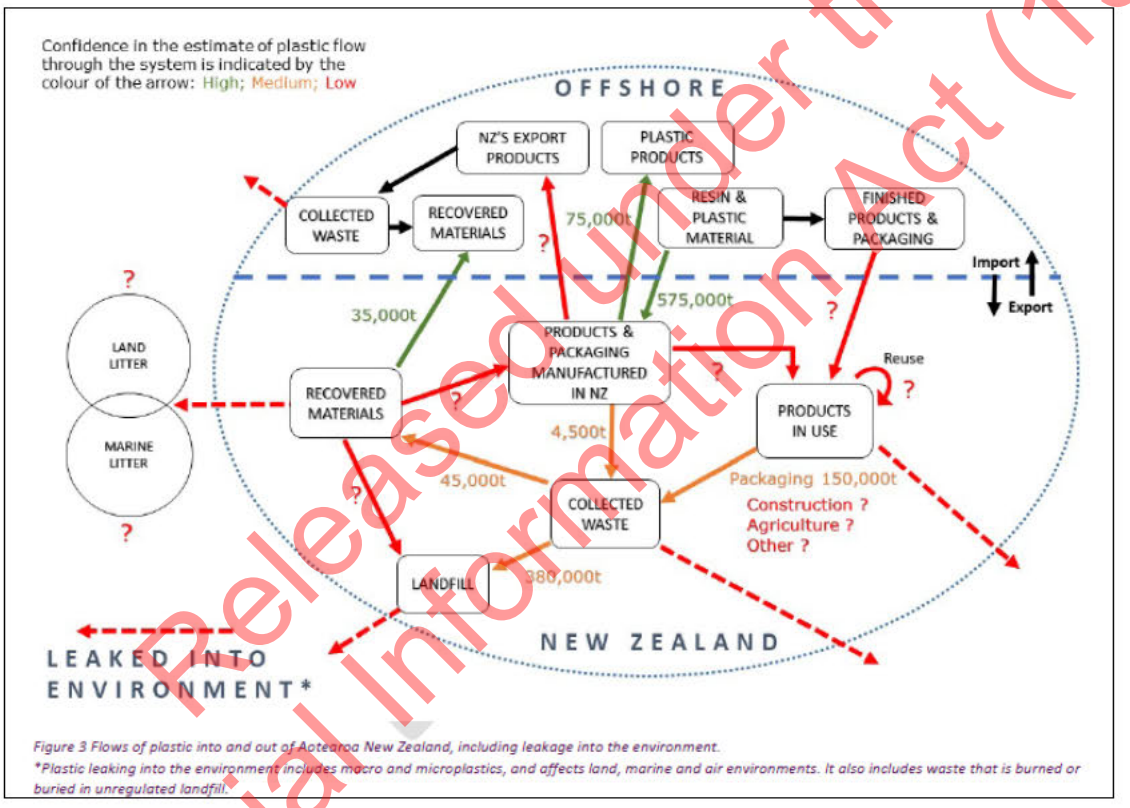
Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

	Disposable cups and plates	
6 PS Polystyrene or Styrofoam	Disposable coffee cups Plastic food boxes Packing foam	[redacted]
7 Miscellaneous Plastics (polycarbonate, polyctide, acrylic, acrylonitrile butadiene, styrene, fiberglass, and nylon)	Plastic CDs and DVDs Baby bottles Medical storage containers Eyeglasses	[redacted]
Total		[redacted]

** source: PMCSA 'Rethinking Plastics' Part 1 draft report. Note: does not include imported finished good and packaging.*

We cannot currently specify total volumes of each plastic type available and/or collected for recycling in New Zealand.

The following table from the PMCSA 'Rethinking Plastics' draft report highlights the various material flows and the significant gaps in data:



(source: PMCSA 'Rethinking Plastics' Part 1 draft report)

What these numbers do not show is that the majority of plastic materials that are utilised in NZ are not available for recycling. These materials will typically end up in landfills. There are multiple reasons why they are not 'available for recycling' including that the plastic is embedded in a broader product such as a chair or a computer, the plastic is mixed with other materials directly in a product's composition, and that the plastic in question has not been separated off from other waste and provided through the appropriate channel for recycling, even though it could be.

In terms of waste and plastic management, the challenges fall into two broad categories. Firstly, usage of offending material should be minimised and reduced significantly. Secondly, for materials that do enter New Zealand, these should be reused or recycled as much as possible. [redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

The Australian Experience

Australia is generally ahead of New Zealand in its approach to waste management. There is more waste levy money in the Australian system. Scale also allows Australia to more efficiently manage volumes of waste. For example, in the recent Australian election, there was a commitment to invest $167 million to increase Australia's recycling rates, tackle plastic waste and litter, accelerate work on new recycling schemes and continue action to halve food waste by 2030.

s 6 (a) [redacted]

s 6 (a) [redacted]

[redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

Other considerations

s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

The Ministry for the Environment's recently announced National Resource Recovery work programme includes work on and investigations into:

- A New Zealand Container deposit scheme to reduce litter and significantly increase beverage container recycling rates (New Zealanders use around 2 billion beverage containers every year)
- Options for moving away from single-use plastics and/or reducing the amount of new material imports, including more sustainable material alternatives and recycled content regulations
- Increased onshore processing infrastructure needs so that there is an investment strategy for current and any future increased waste levy.

The Chief Science Advisor's Rethinking Plastics project will also make recommendations on how New Zealand can move towards a sustainable system for consumer plastics, while retaining some of the

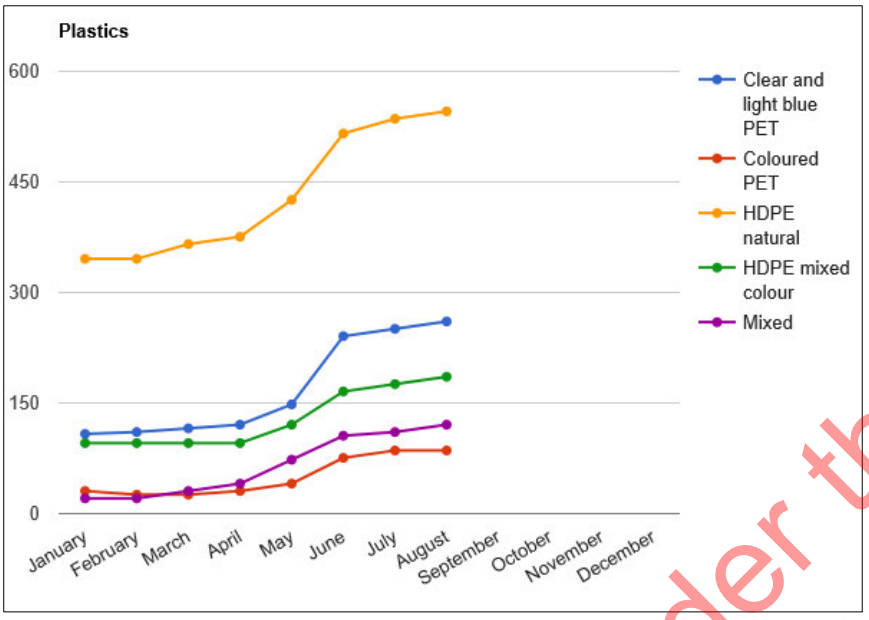
Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

benefits of plastic. MPI, SCION, Plastics New Zealand, the Packaging Forum, Packaging Council, and the Sustainable Business Network are also working on elements of the packaging problem. There is also a number of research projects and feasibility work being conducted through tertiary institutes to better understand issues around microplastics.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Appendix

Plastic bottles prices £ per tonne 2019 – for illustrative purposes only



(source: https://www.letsrecycle.com/prices/plastics/)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

From: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2019 9:44 AM
To: Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Rubbish on way back from Indonesia

The Minister may also wish to mention the Basel convention amendment:

- This year New Zealand was one of about 180 countries to agree via consensus to make better regulate global trade in plastic waste to help prevent environmental pollution.
- The agreement to amend the Basel Convention means exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require consent from the Governments of receiving countries before shipping.
- This amendment will not prevent the trade of plastic waste but will incentivise trade in high-quality, sorted, clean plastic waste and help ensure that that materials are being shipped for the purposes of recycling.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- The changes are expected to take effect January 2021.

From: Matthew Ide
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2019 9:37 AM
To: Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Rubbish on way back from Indonesia

Hi Penny

Info we could compile in the short timeframe:

Key points we can gather from the various reports on this matter:

- Reports indicate that 547 containers have been identified as potentially going to be sent back to the country of origin. Of those 547 containers, 331 have been re-exported to their country of origin while the paperwork for another 216 is still being finalised.

- We are not yet aware of specific shipments that have been sent back to New Zealand. New Zealand has been named in news stories on this matter along with several other countries.

- Authorities in Indonesia are still investigating shipments. More information will be forthcoming about the extent to which New Zealand is affected (and therefore the relevant organisation/company).

- Where New Zealand companies are exporting materials to Indonesia, it is expected that they will comply with the export/import requirements imposed by the Indonesian government. It would be disappointing if this were not the case, and a return shipment to New Zealand would certainly highlight who is abiding by the rules and who is not.

- Containers have already been sent back to Australia, with more to follow. "The [Indonesian] government announced in July that it had sent back nearly 60 containers of waste from Australia that were supposed to contain only paper but included household waste, used cans, plastic bottles, oil packaging, used electronics, used baby diapers and used footwear." (source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/indonesia-sending-back-547-containers-of-waste-from-west/2019/09/18/c4a8736a-da0d-11e9-a1a5-162b8a9c9ca2_story.html)

- More broadly, the National Resource Recovery work is looking into nationwide recycling infrastructure and services.
- New Zealand now has a programme of work under to recharge our recycling systems. Plastics, paper and cardboard, glass, construction and demolition waste, food waste, e-waste are all materials we could be recovering, processing and recycling more of in our transition to a circular economy. Where materials cannot be recycled, we need to transition towards materials that can be reused and recycled.

Minister can indicate she has directed officials to look into this matter and find out more

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

information.

Cheers
Matt

[redacted]
Out of scope
[redacted]

[redacted]
Out of scope
[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]





Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Follow us:

Facebook

|

From:	Hannah Singer
To:	Glenn Wigley; Shaun Lewis
Cc:	Matthew Ide; Amanda Baldwin; Meg Larken; Mariska Wouters
Subject:	RE: Rubbish on way back from Indonesia
Date:	Friday, 20 September 2019 3:28:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.jpg image002.jpg

Hi Glenn and Shaun,

As requested, please see below the overview of what we know about the plastic waste being sent back from Indonesia. We are hoping to have updated information over the weekend from Post in Jakarta (after a diplomatic briefing on the issue that is scheduled for today). We will send any updates to you before midday Monday.

Context

- Since the introduction of China's National Sword policy, Indonesia has become one of the world's largest importers of plastic waste.
- On Wednesday a report in the Washington Post indicated that Indonesia was re-exporting plastic waste shipments to a number of countries, including New Zealand.
- Subsequent media reports have said that:
  - The return of waste is part of a coordinated inspection between Indonesian authorities (Customs, Ministry from the Environment, and Police agencies) with approx. 2041 containers inspected
  - Indonesian authorities were reported to have said that the plastic recyclable material was contaminated with rubbish and 'B3 waste' (B3 waste is an Indonesian waste code which includes medical waste, or materials that could be explosive, inflammable, reactive, infectious or corrosive)
  - There was no indication as to how many shipments were being returned to New Zealand, or specific details about those shipments.

What we know

- Inquiries by NZ Post in Jakarta on Thursday suggest that there are 5 containers from "New Zealand/the Marshall Islands" to be returned. We are still investigating what this means, it may indicate that the containers in question were a transhipment through NZ rather than originating here.
- NZ Post in Jakarta has advised that there will be a briefing on Friday for diplomatic officials on re-exporting waste.

Next steps

- Before Monday we will provide you with any updated information from the meeting for diplomatic officials in Jakarta.
- We will continue to work with MFAT and Customs to get a full understanding of the situation for New Zealand.

Cheers,

Hannah

From: Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 September 2019 9:05 AM
To: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Media query from Amber-Leigh Woolf, Stuff NZ
I am writing about the recycling being returned to NZ. Would Eugenie Sage be able to answer the following questions by about 5pm today?

- When will NZ stop sending recycling to Indonesia and other countries?
- How can NZ's recycling system be changed to stop this happening again?
- Who is to blame - the people not recycling properly, or is it the recycling facilities to blame?
- How many containers of waste are being sent back to New Zealand from Indonesia? (And approximately how many tonnes, if known.)
- Where will it all land - which port?
- When is it expected to arrive back in NZ?
- Could it be re-processed back in to the recycling system, or will it be sent to the landfill?
- What can be done to stop this happening again?

Thank you and please let me know how you're placed to answer these questions today

Kind regards
Amber

--
Amber-Leigh Woolf
Journalist

E amber.woolf@stuff.co.nz | **M** 027 404 2990 | **P** 04 474 0138
Fairfax Media,Level 7 Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140

Response to Amber-Leigh Woolf at Stuff

- Customs to confirm details of shipment back to NZ.
- Authorities in Indonesia are still investigating shipments. More information will be forthcoming about the extent to which New Zealand is affected (and therefore the relevant organisation/company).
- New Zealand companies which export materials to Indonesia, need to comply with the export/import requirements imposed by the Indonesian government. It would be disappointing if thi were not the case, and a return shipment to New Zealand would certainly highlight which recycling businesses are abiding by the rules and which ones are not.
- The Ministry for the Environment's National Resource Recovery work is looking into nationwide recycling infrastructure and services.
- New Zealand now has a programme of work under to recharge our recycling systems. Plastics, paper and cardboard, glass, construction and demolition waste, food waste, e-waste are all materials we could be recovering, processing and recycling more of in our transition to a circular economy. Where materials cannot be recycled, we need to transition towards materials that can be reused and recycled.
- This year New Zealand was one of about 180 countries to agree via consensus to better regulate global trade in plastic waste to help prevent environmental pollution.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- The agreement to amend the Basel Convention means exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require consent from the Governments of receiving countries before shipping.
- This amendment will not prevent the trade of plastic waste but will incentivise trade in high-quality, sorted, clean plastic waste and help ensure that that materials are being shipped for the purposes of recycling.
- This comes into effect globally on 1 January 2021 and MfE is looking into options to implement the decision domestically.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Meg Larken
To:	Hannah Singer; Matthew Ide
Subject:	FW: Recycling being returned to NZ
Date:	Tuesday, 24 September 2019 4:09:20 PM
Attachments:	image001.jpg image002.png image003.png image004.png

FYI

From: Rick Zwaan <rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 3:35 PM
To: Kate Lancaster <Kate.Lancaster@mfe.govt.nz>; Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>; Kurt Sharpe <Kurt.Sharpe@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Arrun Soma <Arrun.Soma@mfe.govt.nz>; Tamsin Vuetilovoni <Tamsin.Vuetilovoni@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; communications@customs.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Recycling being returned to NZ

Thanks Kate,

FYI here's the response we've just sent to Amber-Leigh,

Comment from Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage:

Indonesia's decision to send back waste to highlights the importance and urgency of the Government's plan to reduce waste and recharge New Zealand's recycling system.

As Associate Minister for the Environment, I expect New Zealand companies exporting waste to abide by the rules set by the countries they're sending it to. Any returned containers to New Zealand would highlight who is abiding by the rules and who is not.

Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials are working to find out more information about the Indonesian Government's decision and exactly how many containers may be sent back to New Zealand.

It is likely that only a portion of the waste in any returned containers will actually will be able to be recycled here. That's why New Zealand needs a fundamentally different approach to waste. We need to find ways to reduce our waste and reuse more materials from products at their end of their life. We also need to increase our ability to process waste here in New Zealand. Recently Minister Jones and I announced $40million of funding from the Provincial Growth Fund will be allocated to projects and infrastructure to enhance onshore processing of recycling.

The government is working to change our approach to waste with the National Resource Recovery Taskforce recommendations, with our work on product stewardship, and with plans to expand and increase the landfill levy. Revenue from the landfill levy is recycled back into projects that reduce waste.

While the government have a role to play here to make sure the policy settings incentivise reducing waste and encourage reuse and recycling, businesses and the public can also help by

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

ensuring that what they're putting into the recycling is clean.

In May this year New Zealand was one of 180 countries to agree to better regulate the global trade in plastic waste to help prevent environmental pollution. The agreement to amend the Basel Convention means exporters of contaminated or hard to recycle plastic waste will require consent from the Governments of receiving countries before shipping. This will help incentivise trade in high quality, clean, sorted materials that can be recycled and avoid repeats of the current Indonesian situation.

From: Kate Lancaster [mailto:Kate.Lancaster@mfe.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 2:24 PM
To: Rick Zwaan <rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz>; Penny Race <Penny.Race@parliament.govt.nz>; Kurt Sharpe <Kurt.Sharpe@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Arrun Soma <Arrun.Soma@mfe.govt.nz>; Tamsin Vuetilovoni <Tamsin.Vuetilovoni@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; communications@customs.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Recycling being returned to NZ

Hi there Rick – sorry for the delay. Here's the response regarding waste being sent back from Indonesisa (attached).

Customs haven't yet been able to confirm when, where and how many shipments are coming back to New Zealand. We've been in touch with their communications team (copied in above).

Please let us know if you are ok with the response. Thanks.

Kate Lancaster – Senior Communications Advisor
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Mobile: 022 069 0389 Email: kate.lancaster@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6012

I leave at 2.30 on Wednesdays and Fridays.



From: Arrun Soma <Arrun.Soma@mfe.govt.nz>

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 10:34 AM
To: Tamsin Vuetilovoni <Tamsin.Vuetilovoni@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Recycling being returned to NZ

From MO

From: Rick Zwaan <rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 10:27 AM
To: Media <Media@mfe.govt.nz>; Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Kurt Sharpe <Kurt.Sharpe@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Recycling being returned to NZ

Kia ora,

Could MfE please draft a response to this in line with the helpful messaging already provided and answers to the additional questions (do we have any additional info from MFAT yet) draft by 2pm would be ace so the Minister can review it on her way to WasteMINZ.

Rick

From: Amber-Leigh Woolf [mailto:amber.woolf@stuff.co.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 September 2019 10:24 AM
To: Rick Zwaan <rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Recycling being returned to NZ

Hi Rick,

I am writing about the recycling being returned to NZ. Would Eugenie Sage be able to answer the following questions by about 5pm today?

- When will NZ stop sending recycling to Indonesia and other countries?
- How can NZ's recycling system be changed to stop this happening again?
- Who is to blame - the people not recycling properly, or is it the recycling facilities to blame?
- How many containers of waste are being sent back to New Zealand from Indonesia? (And approximately how many tonnes, if known.)
- Where will it all land - which port?
- When is it expected to arrive back in NZ?
- Could it be re processed back in to the recycling system, or will it be sent to the landfill?
- What can be done to stop this happening again?

Thank you and please let me know how you're placed to answer these questions today.

Kind regards
Amber

--
Amber-Leigh Woolf
Journalist

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

E amber.woolf@stuff.co.nz | **M** 027 404 2990 | **P** 04 474 0138
Fairfax Media,Level 7 Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140



The information contained in this e-mail message and any accompanying files is or may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail or any attached files is unauthorised. This e-mail is subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or communicated without the written consent of the copyright owner. If you have received this e-mail in error please advise the sender immediately by return e-mail or telephone and delete all copies. Nine Group does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this e-mail or attached files. Internet communications are not secure, therefore Nine Group does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 October 2019 1:58 PM
To: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Indonesia 2 Oct Stuff
Importance: High

Indonesia 2 Oct Stuff (https://tepuna.mfe.govt.nz/otcs/cs.dll/link/12709039)

Out of scope

- How many containers of contaminated waste are being sent back to NZ?
- Approximately how many tonnes will that be, if known?
- When will they arrive?
- Will they be inspected by the ministry when they arrive to find out where the contaminated recycling came from? Or who else might do this investigation?
- Where will the contaminated containers go to - which port?

We have been advised by Indonesian Customs that there are a total of five containers of plastic waste from New Zealand said to be contaminated. We do not have confirmation about the type or amount of contamination, the volume of the containers, nor when or where the containers will be returned. The Ministry for the Environment is in regular contact with New Zealand Customs Service and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this matter.

- Is the ministry doing work to find out how this can be prevented in future?
- Or is the ministry looking at ways to stop the export of waste to South East Asia entirely?

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

In May this year New Zealand was one of over 180 countries to agree to better regulate the global trade in plastic waste. The agreement to amend the Basel Convention means exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require consent from the governments of receiving countries before shipping. This will help incentivise trade in high-quality, clean, sorted materials that can be recycled and avoid repeats of the current Indonesian situation.

Export of recyclable waste is undertaken by private providers who must meet rules set by the countries importing it such as contamination levels.

There is a legitimate and useful plastic waste import industry in Indonesia and other countries, as long as the materials are of a high standard and meet the requirements of the Basel Convention and any domestic regulations of the importing country. The global trade in plastic waste takes materials that may otherwise end up in landfills, and recycles it so that those resources are recovered and re-used.

This situation reinforces the importance of the Ministry for the Environment's work programme to reduce waste and improve recycling. The Ministry's work pr gramme includes the National Resource Recovery (NRR) Taskforce recommendations, product stewardship (including a proposal to declare single-use packaging and beverage packaging priority products), and a proposal to expand and increase the landfill levy. Revenue from the land ill levy is recycled back into projects that reduce waste, increase recycling and support reuse and reduction.

The NRR Taskforce recommendations the Ministry is working on to improve our domestic resource recovery include:

1. Investigate the recyclabilit of plastic packaging and the opportunities to transition to more sustainable packaging materials.
2. Undertaking a feas bility study on how to increase New Zealand's plastics reprocessing capacity.
3. Reviewing kerbside collection and processing systems to identify how to increase the quality of ecyclables and to ensure more materials can be recovered and recycled instead of going to landfill.
4. Develop an education campaign to help New Zealanders recycle correctly (and avoid contamination of recyclables) and reduce the amount of material going to landfill.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Matthew Ide
To:	rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz
Cc:	Penny Race (Parliament); Therese Anders; Sarah Helm
Subject:	RE: Minister on Q&A
Date:	Friday, 4 October 2019 4:48:00 PM
Attachments:	QA briefing for Min Sage 4 October.docx

Hello Rick

Here are the messages to support the Minister's Q&A interview.

Regards
Matt

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2019 4:12 PM
To: rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz; Therese Anders <Therese.Anders@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Minister on Q&A
Importance: High

Hi Rick
Cc Therese, Penny/Andrew, and Matthew

Passing this onto Therese to handle as a top priority for tomorrow.
Matthew, she may need support from your team.

Thanks
Sarah Helm

From: Arrun Soma <Arrun.Soma@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2019 4:09 PM
To: rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>; Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Minister on Q&A

Hi Rick

Just CCing in Sarah who works on this portfolio.

Also – just wondering if you can omit the media@mfe.govt.nz address when you send through emails, as it gets auto-forwarded to a bunch of people at our end who don't need them. Perhaps just send to your MfE contact who works on Minister Sage's portfolios, as it will save everyone receiving them.

Cheers,

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Arrun

From: Media <Media@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2019 3:59 PM
To: Kate Lancaster <Kate.Lancaster@mfe.govt.nz>; Chris Baylis <Chris.Baylis@mfe.govt.nz>; Arrun Soma <Arrun.Soma@mfe.govt.nz>; Lauren Kelly <Lauren.Kelly@mfe.govt.nz>; Medium Term Programme Board <MediumTermProgrammeBoard@mfe.govt.nz>; Media Portal (Isentia) <mediaportal.nz@isentia.com>
Subject: FW: Minister on Q&A

From: Rick Zwaan
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 3:58:52 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington
To: Penny Race (Parliament)
Cc: Media
Subject: Minister on Q&A

Kia ora,

On Monday Minister Sage has an interview on Q&A to discuss the broad w ste programme. Could MfE please pull together talking points from existing materials covering:

- The overall work programme to reduce waste and recharge NZ's recycling system
- The recent decision from Indonesia to return containers of waste to NZ (and what the latest on this is)
- The CRS announcement
- The project to assess vulnerable landfills (ECan & Tonkin and Taylor one)
- Mandatory product stewardship (& an update on number of submissions received on Mon morning would be ace)

If we could have hese by 4pm tomorrow (Friday 4th – excluding the number of submissions) that'd be ace.

Nga mihi,

Rick Zwaan | **Press Secretary & Acting Ministerial Advisor**
Office of the Honourable Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation, Minister for Land Information
Associa e Minister for the Environment
+64 4 817 6713| +64 21 845 587 | Email rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz
6R Bowen House |Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160
Te Whare Paremata, Te Whanganui-a-Tara 6011, Aotearoa
[SEEMail]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

TVNZ Q&A interview 7 October 2019

Briefing for Hon Eugenie Sage

Background to interview:

The reason for the interview follows the recent news that Indonesia is to return containers of New Zealand waste. This development will be discussed, then move on to a discussion on the broader area of what the Government plans to do to manage the country's waste.

The following are subject summaries, and suggested messages:

1. **Indonesia returning containers of waste – the current situation**
    - Indonesian Customs has advised that there are five containers of plastic waste from New Zealand that are said to be contaminated.
    - The situation is unclear - we do not have confirmation about the type or amount of contamin tion, nor when or where the containers will be returned.
    - Australia and many other countries have also been advised by Indo esia that some of their waste containers are being returned.
    - MfE is in regular contact with the New Zealand Customs Serv ce and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this matter.
    - It is important to note, there are legitimate exports of plastic waste from New Zealand to Indonesia and other countries, as long as the materials are of a high standard and meet the requirements of the Basel Convention, which are tightening and any domestic regulations of the importing country.
    - This is why New Zealand and more than 180 countries agreed to better regulate the global trade in plastic waste earlier this year through an amendment to the Basel Convention. This will mean exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require consent from the governments of receiving countries before shipping.
    - This will help incentivise trade in high quality, clean sorted materials that can be recycled thus reducing the chance that recyclab es sent off shore end up as badly managed waste polluting the environment, which is the larger issue.
    - While New Zealand cou d be doing a lot more to process recovered plastic materials and turn them into new products onshore, ultimately the global trade of recovered plastic materials will continue and we can do a better job of it. This is what the amendments to the Basel Convention are all about (coming into forc on 1 January 2021).

    Suggested messages:

    - This situation – and the decision by China in early 2018 to stop taking our plastic waste – reinforces the importance of the Government's accelerated multi-project work programme to reduce waste, improve recycling and focus on moving towards a circular economy.
    - Plastic, something so fundamental to our everyday life, has quickly become one of our generation's greatest environmental challenges.
    - We have seen a massive shift in the New Zealand public's mood on waste – it is a challenge for us as a government – for local government, manufacturers, producers and retailers – to keep up with the rate of change being demanded.

2. **The Government's work programme to reduce waste and recharge NZ's recycling system**
    - **The Government is focussed on shifting to a circular economy**, an approach that designs waste out of our economy.
    - We are now in a paradigm shift - moving away from the single-use, take, make and dispose model – towards a low emissions, circular economy where we take carefully from nature, make, use, then recover materials from it so they can be reused, remade and recycled.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- The Government is proud of its growing work programme, which includes the following related work streams:
    - **Waste Levy**
        - Although only 11 percent of landfills are currently subject to the waste disposal levy, this has enabled us to raise nearly $300m to support waste minimisation activities.
        - Half of this goes to councils to implement their own waste minimisation initiatives.
        - MfE is currently doing work on the waste levy expansion, this includes looking at unlevied landfills, the levy rate and our waste data.
    - **Strategic investment**
        - The other half of the waste disposal fund levy goes to the Waste Minimisation Fund, administered by the MfE.
        - This allows us MfE to fund innovative projects that make a tangible difference to the way we manage waste, recover resources and promote reuse and reduction which all lower our impact.
    - **National Resource Recovery**
        - China's decision to stop plastic waste imports has had a significant impact on our waste sector.
        - In 2018 the Government set up a National Resource Recovery taskforce, and its recommendations will be implemented over th next two to three years.
        - Earlier this year I announced a comprehensive plan to help recharge New Zealand's resource recovery and recycling sector.
    - **Container Return Scheme** (see below)
    - **Product Stewardship** (see below)

3. Container Return Scheme (CRS) announcement

- Just days ago I announced the Government is funding work to begin a one-year co-design process for a New Zealand beverage CRS.
- Around 2 billion single use beverage containers are consumed in New Zealand every year.
- A CRS will have a significant impact on our nation's waste, as each year about half of all containers are not recycled – many end up littering our streams, marine environment, public spaces or go to landfills.
- Overseas schemes sometimes achieve over 90% recovery rates.
- A CRS would change the way New Zealanders see beverage containers. They will become something of value, and we will see increased recycling and new opportunities for refilling.
- A world-leading CRS wou d be a win-win-win solution. For consumers, when they recycle their drink bottles, they'll get back perhaps a 10-20 cent deposit, or more. It would increase recycling rates and reduce recyclables entering landfills or winding up as litter.

4. Vulnerable landfills

- Risks from existing and historic landfills will be identified in a multi-agency project led by the M nistry for the Environment and 16 regional councils, in collaboration with Local Government New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.
- Thi is an issue that needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.
- The extreme weather event earlier this year which led to the exposure and erosion of an historic Fox River landfill site has highlighted how important it is we know where these historic landfills are, which are vulnerable and how can we improve the resilience of sites to potential climate change impacts.
- The Ministry for the Environment is funding this initial phase of the work.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- Engineering company Tonkin + Taylor have been contracted and work has already begun. They will gather natural hazard and landfill data from councils across New Zealand, and then develop a risk screening and assessment tool which can be used nationally.
- This is an issue that needs to be dealt with by local and central government, working with communities, to ensure we understand the risks from existing and historic landfills and that enough resources are made available.
- The erosion in March of a closed landfill by a river in Westland was a wake-up call to New Zealand that historic landfills may become a threat to communities and the environment as the effects of climate change become more pronounced.

5. Product Stewardship

- Product stewardship is all about designing environmental harm out of products and improving incentives for recovery and recycling.
- Currently, New Zealand has no regulated product stewardship schemes, so councils, ratepaye s, and the natural environment are picking up the cost for managing this waste. This is unfai , and a factor in New Zealand's comparatively poor recovery and recycling rates and shamefully high per capita rates of waste to landfill.
- Product stewardship means all participants in a product's life must take responsibility for life-cycle impacts: producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers, collectors and re-processers.
- The beverage Container Return Scheme – announced just two weeks ago – if implemented would bring product stewardship to New Zealand on a scal never seen here before.
- And we have our sights on other products too: We have just finished consulting on declaring the following as "priority products": tyres, elect ical and electronic products, agrichemicals, refrigerants, farm plastics and plastic packaging.

Suggested message:

- We are well pleased hat more than XXX (to be provided Monday morning) submissions were made during the Product Stewardship consultation round, which closed on Friday 4 October.
- I look forward considering this feedback as we take the next steps on the road toward improved product st wardship outcomes for New Zealand.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 October 2019 11:55 AM
To: Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia

Hi Abbie,

[redacted]
s 9 (2) (b) (ii)
[redacted]

Cheers,

Hannah

From: Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 October 2019 11:15 AM
To: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia

Thanks Hannah – great update. [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

From: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 October 2019 11:00 AM
To: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>; Therese Anders <Therese.Anders@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Hi Shaun and Abbie,

Please see below talking points on the waste being returned from Indonesia for your meeting with Minister Sage this afternoon.

Talking Points

- We have had confirmation from s 9 (2) (b) (ii) that the two containers s 6 (a) s 6 (a), s (9) (2) (b) (ii) We are still pursuing the other three containers.
- s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (b) (ii) s 9 (2) (b) (ii)
- We are working with s 9 (2) (b) (ii) to find out more information about when the containers will arrive back in New Zealand, and s 9 (2) (b) (ii)
- [*If the Minister asks whether the containers will be audited*] It may be appropriate to audit the containers on their return. We will work with s 9 (2) (b) (ii) to understand how they plan to process the containers, and whether an audit would be part of that process.
    - This may be a decision made between s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

We are providing Minister Sage with an FAQ sheet for her interview on Q+A this afternoon. We have not used s 9 (2) (b) (ii) name in our answers and instead have noted that we have verified the exporter of two of the containers and are working with them to find out more information, and the process for when the containers arrive back in NZ.

Cheers,

Hannah

From: Hannah Singer
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2019 4:39 PM
To: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>; Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>; Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Akane Sandom <Akane.Sandom@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Update: Conversation with Visy Recycling re containers of plastic waste being returned from Indonesia

Hi all,

This afternoon we contacted s 9 (2) (b) (ii) to inquire about the containers of plastic waste being returned to New Zealand from Indonesia. s 6 (a)

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

We will provide you with a further update on Monday, and talking points on this matter ahead of the officials meeting with Minister Sage on Monday afternoon.

Many thanks,

Hannah

Hannah Singer – Policy Analyst, Environmental Risk and Innovation
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Mobile: 027 875 4835 Email: hannah.singer@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6143

MfE_logo

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Sarah Helm
To:	Penny Race (Parliament); rick.zwaan@parliament.govt.nz
Cc:	Therese Anders; Shaun Lewis; Matthew Ide; Ministerials; Sam Buckle
Subject:	FAQs for the Minister FINAL (amended)
Date:	Monday, 7 October 2019 1:34:30 PM
Attachments:	FAQs for the Minister (final draft).docx

Amended as discussed Penny and Rick. Approved by Shaun.

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

From: Therese Anders <Therese.Anders@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 October 2019 1:18 PM
To: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>; Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Therese Anders <Therese.Anders@mfe.govt.nz>; Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FAQs for the Minister (final draft)

Hi Shaun,

Please can you sign out amended FAQs as discussed

Many thanks,

Therese

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

FAQs for the Minister's TVNZ Q&A interview (possible questions)

1. *What is the latest situation with the containers being returned from Indonesia?*

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

s 9 (2) (g) (i)

2. *How do we know five containers are being returned to New Zealand?*

- We had confirmation from Indonesian Customs that there are a total of five containers from New Zealand, said to be contaminated, although they did not provide any specific details about their re-export or the extent of the contamination.

3. *Has the Indonesian government been in contact with the New Zealand government?*

- The Indonesian Government has provided New Zealand ministries with an overview of the situation. We are seeking further clarification about some of the details of the containers.

4. *How is the plastic contaminated?*

- We still don't know the type of contamination that the Indonesian Government found, or how much contamination there was.
- I expect New Zealand companies exporting waste to abide by the rules set by the countries they're sending it to.

5. Why don't we know more information?

- We are limited by the information we receive from the Indonesian Government, and the information the exporter has received to date. It is an evolving situation.
- We will continue working with the company that we have confirmed exported two of the containers, as well as the Indonesian Government.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

6. How will the containers be processed when they return to New Zealand?
    - This will be a decision for the relevant exporters. Pending customs and biosecurity checks, it may be that the materials are able to be recycled, or they may need to go to landfill. We won't know full details until the containers come back to New Zealand.

7. In regards to the recent amendment to the Basel Convention (exporters to require consent from countries before exporting contaminated or hard to recycle waste) has any work been done on how that will impact NZ exporters?
    - The amendment to the Basel agreement comes into effect on 1 January 2021 and exporters will be required to get consent from importing countries before they can export most mixed and/or contaminated plastic waste. Separated, clean plastic waste that is suitable for recycling can be exported without requiring consent.
    - MfE officials have begun initial analysis on the impacts of the Basel Convention amendment, and will be providing advice to Ministers later in the year.
    - The Pending Cabinet approval, consultation on implementing the decision will follow.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Hannah Singer
To: Shaun Lewis; Abbie Bull; Matthew Ide; Amanda Baldwin; Meg Larken; Roderick Boys; Sarah Helm; Therese Anders
Subject: RE: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia
Date: Monday, 7 October 2019 4:40:26 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Hi all,

During our discussion this afternoon, ahead of Minister Sage's meeting with officials, we discussed the fact s 6 (a) [redacted] As agreed during our discussion, due to this uncertainty we have provided Minister Sage with a higher-level update.

Many thanks,

Hannah

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted] the containers on their return.

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- [redacted]

[redacted]

out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Talking points for Minister Sage

Trans-Tasman Business Circle Zoom Video Conference, Friday 18 October 2019
"Beyond Green to Gold" – the imperative for environmental, social, and economic sustainability

Moving New Zealand to a circular economy

- The Government is focussed on shifting to a circular economy, an approach that designs waste out of our economy.
- This is not just about mitigating environmental impacts of waste. It is an important broader economic shift as well.
- New Zealanders are concerned about the environmental impacts of waste and are ready for change. However, we are currently one of the highest producers of urban waste in the developed world per capita.
- The shift to a more circular economy provides an opportunity to use our resources more efficiently and can provide business and employment opportunities.

New Zealanders are concerned about waste

- Market research indicates New Zealanders see waste reduction as the second most important challenge facing New Zealand over the next 20 years.1 Similarly expectations about how we reduce our waste footprint are changing.
- There has been a massive shift in the New Zealand public's mood on waste – it is a challenge for the Government, local government, manufacturers, producers and retailers to keep up with the rate of change being demanded.
- The public concern about waste has yet to translate to a reduction in waste volumes to landfill. New Zealand is still one of the highest producers of household waste in the developed world, per capita. Over the last nine years (June 2009 to July 2018), the total net tonnage disposed to levied landfills increased by 39 percent2 and a long-term growth trend is evident.
- The longstanding practice of exporting our waste has been significantly disrupted by the decision of several markets, most notably China, to no longer accept large streams of poor quality imported recyclables and waste.

Government is working hard to shift to a low-emissions, circular economy

- An increased Government focus on waste minimisation and resource recovery can help New Zealand shift to a low-emissions, circular economy which maximises the recovery and use of materials and embedded energy compared to the 'take, make, use and dispose' economic model.
- An economy with 'reuse, repair, recycle, recover' at the core of its system has many more job opportunities and growth pathways than a disposal-based system.

[1] Second equal with 'increasing the supply of affordable housing' and only narrowly behind 'reducing poverty' - see Ministry for the Environment. 2018. Environmental Attitudes.
http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/About/Environmental_Attitudes_SEP_2018.pdf

[2] Figure calculated from Online Waste Levy System 2019

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- Jurisdictions that have explored the likely economic and climate change benefits of a transition to a circular economy and found significant net positive opportunities include Finland, Scotland, Denmark, France, China and South Australia. For example, recent reports have highlighted a circular approach across just two regions in Scotland has the potential to deliver over $1 billion pounds in economic benefits3.
- With the support of $4 million in additional funding allocated as part of the Government's 2019 Wellbeing Budget, the Ministry for the Environment will be progressing initiatives to reform the waste management system to reduce waste, increase resource recovery, and transition New Zealand towards a more circular economy.

The Ministry's work programme includes the following key aspects

- **Waste levy**
  - Although only 11 percent of landfills are currently subject t the waste disposal levy, this has enabled us to raise nearly $300m to support waste minimisation activities.
  - Half of the levy revenue goes to councils to implement their own waste minimisation initiatives.
  - MfE is currently doing work on the waste levy expansion, this includes looking at unlevied landfills, the levy rate and our waste da a.
- **Strategic investment**
  - The other half of the waste disposal levy (minus admini tration) goes to the Waste Minimisation Fund, administered by he MfE.
  - This allows MfE to fund innovative projects that make a tangible difference to the way we manage waste, recover resources and promote reuse and reduction.
- **National Resource Recovery**
  - China's decision to stop plastic waste imports has had a significant impact on our waste sector.
  - In 2018 the Government set up a National Resource Recovery taskforce, and its recommendations will be imp emented over the next two to three years.
  - Early in 2019 he Minister announced a comprehensive plan to help recharge New Zealand s resource ecovery and recycling sector.
- **Product Stewardship**
  Product stewardship is all about designing environmental harm out of products and improving incentives for recovery and recycling.
  - Currently, New Zealand has no regulated product stewardship schemes, so councils, ratepaye s, and the natural environment are picking up the cost for managing this waste This is unfair, and a factor in New Zealand's comparatively poor recovery and recyc ng rates and high per capita rates of waste to landfill.
    Product stewardship means all participants in a product's life must take responsibility for life-cycle impacts: producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers, collectors and re-processers.
  - The beverage Container Return Scheme – announced just two weeks ago – if implemented would bring product stewardship to New Zealand on a scale never seen here before.

[3] www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/press-release/£1bn-potential-circular-economy-scotland's-cities-and-regions-revealed-new-reports

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

- We have just finished consulting on declaring the following as 'priority products': tyres, electrical and electronic products, agrichemicals, refrigerants, farm plastics and plastic packaging.

- **Container Return Scheme (CRS)**
  - In September the Minister announced the Government is funding work to begin a one-year co-design process for a New Zealand beverage CRS.
  - Around 2 billion single use beverage containers are consumed in New Zealand every year.
  - A CRS will have a significant impact on our nation's waste, as each year about half of all containers are not recycled – many end up littering our streams, marine environment, public spaces or go to landfills.
  - Overseas schemes sometimes achieve over 90% recovery rates.
  - A CRS would change the way New Zealanders see beverage containers. They will become something of value, and we will see increased recycling and new opportunities for refilling.
  - A world-leading CRS would be a win-win-win solution. For consumers, when they recycle their drink bottles, they'll get back perhaps a 10-20 cent deposit, or more. It would increase recycling rates and reduce recyclables entering landfills or winding up as litter.
- **Basel Convention amendment will regulate global trade in plastic waste**
  - New Zealand and more than 180 countries agreed to better regulate the global trade in plastic waste earlier this year, through an amendment to the Basel Convention. This will mean exporters of contaminated or hard-to-recycle plastic waste will require consent from the governments of receiving countries before shipping.
  - The Basel Convention amendment will help incentivise trade in high-quality, clean, sorted materials that can be recycled, thus reducing the chance that recyclables sent off shore end up as badly managed waste polluting the environment, which is the larger issue.
  - While New Zealand looks to be doing a lot more to process recovered plastic materials and turn them into new products onshore, ultimately the global trade of recovered plastic materials will continue. This is what the amendment to the Basel Convention is all about. It comes into force on 1 January 2021.
- **Vulnerable landfills**

  The extreme weather event earlier this year which led to the exposure and erosion of the historic Fox landfill site in Westland, discharging waste materials along 21 kilometres of river and 60 kilometre of coastline, was a wake-up call to New Zealand
  - As the effects of climate change become more pronounced, the risk to communities and the environment from vulnerable existing and historic landfills may increase.
  - The impacts of climate change on assets and infrastructure, including landfills, is an issue that needs to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.
  - The Government is aware of these issues and has a number of actions currently underway to address these challenges across both central and local government.
  - These actions include:
    - the Community Resilience work programme, this programme focuses on how communities can best be supported to manage risks from natural hazards and adapt to climate change through agency coordination and the development of policy.
    - the National Climate Change Risk Assessment, this assessment will provide a national overview of how various hazards and threats might be influenced by

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

climate change and will be used to prioritise action to reduce risks or take advantage of opportunities through a National Adaptation Plan.
    - the Vulnerable landfills project, this is a multi-agency project, led by regional councils in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation and Local Government New Zealand, to identify and rank vulnerable landfills nationally.
- These actions require both central and local government, working together with communities, to ensure we understand the risks from existing and historic landfills and ensure that sufficient resources are available.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Amanda Baldwin
To: Sarah Helm; Matthew Ide
Cc: Hannah Singer; Abbie Bull
Subject: Re: Developments re: indonesia?
Date: Friday, 11 October 2019 8:32:25 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg

---

s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (g) (i)

Get Outlook for Android

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 8:23:19 AM
To: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Developments re: indonesia?

Hi Amanda and Matthew

I was on sick leave yesterday and see there is a new media enquiry and a revised statement to go out (I just sent it thru to MFAT and Customs and cc'ed you in).

As far as I can tell, there is no actual change in the situation tho – is that correct?

Grateful for confirmation or otherwise – thanks!

Sarah Helm – Principal Communications Advisor
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Email: Sarah.helm@mfe.govt.nz Phone: 022 493 0031
Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143

cid:image001.jpg@01D44390.A7FEEB00

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Sarah Helm
To: Hannah Singer; Amanda Baldwin; Roderick Boys; Matthew Ide
Subject: RE: Stuff media enquiry: Recycling sent back to NZ due Wed 2/10 - 2pm
Date: Friday, 11 October 2019 10:24:52 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg
image006.jpg

Hi all

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

- Approximately how many tonnes will be sent back, if known?
- When will they arrive?
- Where will the contaminated containers go to - which port?
- Will they be inspected by the ministry when they arrive to find out where the contaminated?

- In September 2019 Indonesian Customs advised there are five containers of plastic waste from New Zealand that are said to be contaminated, and are to be returned.
- Australia, United States, United Kingdom and many other countries have also been advised by Indonesia that some of their plastic waste containers are being returned for the same reason.
- The situation regarding the New Zealand containers is unclear– there has been no confirmation about the type or amount of contamination, nor when or where the containers will be returned.
- The Ministry for the Environment is in regular contact with the New Zealand Customs Service and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this matter.
- There is a legitimate plastic waste import industry in Indonesia and other countries, as long as the materials are of a high standard. Exports of plastic waste must meet the domestic regulations of the importing country, and the requirements of the Basel Convention. The global trade in plastic waste takes materials that may otherwise end up in landfills, and recycles it so these resources are recovered and reused.

recycling came from?

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

19-B-05970

Event note – Phone call with Graeme Barnes, Huhtamaki

Date submitted: 11 October 2019

To: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Time of event: 4:10pm, Wednesday 16 October 2019

Name of the event: Phone call with Graeme Barnes

Purpose

1. s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

2. This event note provides background on Huhtamaki, progress on the National Resource Recovery (NRR) work programme, and details of other initiatives related to reprocessing fibre and packaging.

Event details

Date	Wednesday 16 October
Time	8.00pm
Location	Phone call from your office Level 6 Bowen House Wellington
Contact	**Huhtamaki:** Graeme Barnes, Sales Manager s 9 (2) (a) [redacted] [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

NRR work programme

12. s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

China's National Sword policy effects on paper

13. China was by far the biggest importer of recovered fibres and plastics, accounting for approximately half of the world markets.

14. Fibre grades such as newsprint and 'old corrugated cardboard' (OCC) are at present still able to be imported into China but a strict limit of a maximum of 0.5 percent non-fibre 'outthrows' is being enforced through the Blue Sky 2018 enforcement programme.

15. New Zealand historically exports roughly 300,000 tonnes of fibre, with Indonesia being the most common destination. China was the second most common destination until mid-2017. Thailand and Vietnam have to date replaced the capacity lost in China.

16. The main impact from National Sword in terms of income is the impact on fibre prices (due to the proportion of the recycling stream this comprises).

NRR Taskforce recommendations

17. In May 2019 you announced the NRR Taskforce recommendations on how to improve recycling in New Zealand.

18. One of these recommendations is to undertake feasibility studies on how to increase New Zealand's fibre (paper and cardboard) processing and plastic reprocessing capacity.

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

s 9 (2) (b) (ii)

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted] Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

-------- Original message --------
From: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Date: 14/10/19 10:32 (GMT+12:00)
To: Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>, Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>, Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>, Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>, Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>, Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>, Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Update on Indonesian containers + draft email to councils for review

Hi all,

Update on New Zealand containers

We have received verbal confirmation from [redacted] s 6 (b) (i), s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

Rod and I also spoke this morning about the 3 containers [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted] We suggest contacting [redacted] s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

[redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

Please let me know if you have any questions/comments. We could confirm our approach in today's meeting.

Cheers,

Hannah

[redacted]

[redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

[redacted] Out of scope [redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

-------- Original message --------
From: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Date: 14/10/19 11:55 (GMT+12:00)
To: Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>, Abbie Bull <Abbie.Bull@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Minister Sage Officials Meeting: Talking points on waste being returned to NZ from Indonesia

Hi Glenn,

FYI – at last week's meeting with Minister Sage Shaun and Abbie provided the Minister with a high-level update only about the waste said to be being returned from Indonesia, [redacted] s 9 (2) (g) (i) Because of this they did not provide details about the two containers identified as being exported by [redacted] s (9) (2) (b) (ii)

Cheers,

Hannah

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

[redacted]

Out of scope

[redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

When is the waste arriving into New Zealand? Can we film it/board the ship?

- In September 2019 Indonesian Customs advised there were five containers of contaminated plastic waste from New Zealand which were to be returned.
- Australia, United States, United Kingdom and many other countries have also been advised by Indonesia that some of their plastic waste containers are being returned for the same reason.
- The situation is complicated and relates to a complex, evolving international market. Plastic for recycling can be-sold through third parties before being purchased by a final offshore customer.
- The situation regarding the New Zealand containers continues to be unclear– there has been no confirmation about the type or amount of contamination, nor when or where the containers will be returned.
- To date, none of the containers have arrived back in New Z aland
- While we can track containers crossing the New Zealand border, there are limits to the information we can gather outside of New Zealand's jurisdiction
- If and when the containers arrive back into New Zealand, the M nistry for the Environment will be notified by the New Zea and Customs Service who are advised of all containers arriving in New Zealand
- The Ministry for the Environment is in r gular contact with the New Zealand Customs Service and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this matter.
- There is a legitimate plastic waste import in ustry in Indonesia and other countries, as long as the materials are of a high standard. Exports of plastic waste must meet the domestic regulat ons of the importing country, and the requirements of the Basel Convention. The global trade in plastic waste takes materials that may otherwise end up in landfills, and recycles it so these resources are recovered and reused.

Why doesn't the Ministry know when the was e is arriving back into the country?

- If and when the containers arrive back into New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment will be notified by the New Zealand Customs Service who clear all importations arriving into New Zealand.
- The Ministry for the Environment is in regular contact with the New Zealand Customs Service and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this matter
- The s tuation is complex and involves multiple government agencies in Indonesia, exporters and importers, and shipping companies. Once a shipment leaves New Zealand's jurisdiction we have limited access to information about that shipment.
- The plastic waste import market is undergoing change and this increases the degree of uncertainty. There is a legitimate plastic waste import industry in Indonesia and other countries, as long as the materials are of a high standard and meet the domestic regulations of the importing country, and the requirements of the Basel Convention.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Amanda Baldwin
To:	Sarah Helm
Cc:	Matthew Ide; Roderick Boys; Hannah Singer; Glenn Wigley
Subject:	RE: For approval: Indonesia (for today)
Date:	Friday, 18 October 2019 2:26:24 PM
Attachments:	image001.jpg image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.jpg

Hi Sarah,

I have read the media statement about returned plastics from Indonesia for Minister Sage and I have nothing further to add.

Happy to approve

Glenn I am just copying you in now so that you are aware.

manda

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2019 1:56 PM
To: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: For approval: Indonesia (for today)
Importance: High

Hi Amanda

This has been through Customs and MFAT.
Rick Zwaan in Mi Sage's office wants it for a journalist today.

For your approval:
https://tepuna.mfe.govt.nz/otcs/cs.dll/Overview/12773275

Sarah Helm – Principal Communications Advisor
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Email: Sarah.helm@mfe.govt.nz Phone: 022 493 0031
Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Hannah Singer
To: Glenn Wigley
Cc: Mariska Wouters; Amanda Baldwin
Subject: RE: Indonesia shipments
Date: Friday, 18 October 2019 3:50:00 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg

Hi Glenn,

The EPA only has a permitting role if the imports or exports fall under the Basel Convention. Until the Basel decision comes into effect on 1 Jan 2021, most imports or exports of plastic waste do not require permits unless the plastic is hazardous, or mixed with other waste.

s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

Until we can show that these exports should be regulated under Basel, it appears that MfE (rather than the EPA) should have oversight as it is primarily a domestic waste management issue.

Thanks,

Hannah

From: Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2019 3:41 PM
To: Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; Mariska Wouters <Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Indonesia shipments

Hi all

I am keen to understand our role vs EPA role in this a bit more.

EPA obviously grants the export permits – what is their ongoing monitoring role in relation to exports and returns, vs MfE?

Glenn

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2019 2:31 PM

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Hannah Singer
To: Nikki Mckenzie; Meg Larken; GIVEN, Tim (SEA); CHIN, Tania (LGL); Owen Cox; WAI-POI Daniel [ISED]; GLASSEY, Nathan (ENV); NG, Jocelyn (SEA); RENOUF, Sarah (LGL); Matthew Ide; Mariska Wouters; Amanda Baldwin; Rosemary Paterson; Rio Yoon; Roderick Boys; kirsty.marshall (kirsty.marshall@customs.govt.nz)
Cc: Miriam Robertson
Subject: RE: Global Waste Shell Game: "Returned" Illegal Waste Shipments from U.S., Diverted from Indonesia to other Asian Countries
Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2019 10:57:00 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi Nikki,

There is still a large amount of uncertainty in relation to the containers of plastic waste. We have had no confirmation from Indonesia about if/when the containers are being returned.

We have received some information that the s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

We understand that the s 6 (a), s 9 (2) (b) (ii) [redacted]

We are now maintaining a watching a brief on this issue.

Cheers,

Hannah

From: Nikki Mckenzie <Nikki.Mckenzie@epa.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2019 8:43 AM
To: Meg Larken <Meg.Larken@mfe.govt.nz>; GIVEN, Tim (SEA) <Tim.Given@mfat.govt.nz>; CHIN, Tania (LGL) <Tania.Chin@mfat.govt.nz>; Owen Cox <Owen.Cox@epa.govt.nz>; WAI-POI Daniel [ISED] <Daniel.Wai-Poi@mfat.govt.nz>; Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (ENV) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; NG, Jocelyn (SEA) <Jocelyn.Ng@mfat.govt.nz>; RENOUF, Sarah (LGL) <Sarah.Renouf@mfat.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Mariska Wouters <Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Rosemary Paterson <rosemary.paterson@mfat.govt.nz>; Rio Yoon <Rio.Yoon@epa.govt.nz>
Cc: Miriam Robertson <Miriam.Robertson@epa.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Global Waste Shell Game: "Returned" Illegal Waste Shipments from U.S., Diverted from Indonesia to other Asian Countries

Hi all,

s 6 (a) [redacted]

s 6 (a) [redacted]

Kind regards,

Nikki McKenzie
Advisor, Hazardous Substances Applications

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From:	Liz Butcher
To:	Shaun Lewis; Sam Buckle; Stephen Goodman
Cc:	Roderick Boys; Michael Curran
Subject:	Agenda paper on Australia Waste Export Ban
Date:	Monday, 4 November 2019 11:34:00 AM
Attachments:	image001.png 2.1(b) COAG waste export ban - Attachment A.pdf 2.1(b) COAG waste export ban.pdf
Importance:	High

Kia ora koutou

Please see attached the agenda papers for the MEM item on Australia's proposed export ban. You may wish to read these ahead of the meeting this afternoon with Minister Sage.

I've gone through the MEM briefing again and done a significant proof read and will now add in some additional information related to the export ban.

Thanks

Liz Butcher
Senior Policy Analyst, Hono Tataki – Resource Efficiency and Innovation
Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao
Email: liz.butcher@mfe.govt.nz Phone: 022 517 3314 Website: www.mfe.govt.nz
23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6143
http://intranet/sites/all/files/Lockup-8p_.png

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: Liz Butcher
To: Shaun Lewis; Sam Buckle; Stephen Goodman
Cc: Roderick Boys
Subject: FW: MEM statement
Date: Friday, 8 November 2019 4:54:00 PM

See below for the agreed MEM statement that was made by Minister's following the MEM meeting earlier today. It is fairly certain that the export ban will go ahead it is the timing that was the biggest area of debate. I'll fill you in next week.

From: COX, Sam (CBA) <Sam.Cox@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 8 November 2019 4:51 PM
To: Liz Butcher <Liz.Butcher@mfe.govt.nz>; Penny Race (Parliament) <penny.race@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: MEM statement

[UNCLASSIFIED]

The MEM statement released by Australian Ministers is below, and published here.

I expect media releases will be posted at some point.

BEGINS

NINTH MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

Agreed Statement – 8 November 2019, Adelaide

The ninth meeting of Australia's Environment Ministers has put forward a proposed timetable for the progressive phase out of problem waste exports from July next year, while also committing to ambitious waste reduction targets for all states and territories under a New National Waste Action plan.

Meeting in Adelaide today the Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to working together to deliver practical environmental outcomes that address the range of challenges facing our environment.

Topics ranged from waste, to procurement strategies, product stewardship, biodiversity, climate change, feral cat eradication, blue carbon abatement, indigenous heritage and ivory trade.

Key issues:

COAG Waste Export Ban

Ministers agreed that waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres that have not been processed into a value-added material should be subject to the export ban. They further determined that the ban should commence on 1 July 2020 with a phased approach. Ministers agreed the phase out should be completed by the following dates:

- All waste glass by July 2020.
- Mixed waste plastics by July 2021.
- All whole tyres including baled tyres by December 2021.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Remaining waste products, including mixed paper and cardboard, by no later than 30 June 2022.

This timetable reflects the unique challenges of each jurisdiction, and the preparedness of some jurisdictions to complete the phase out ahead of schedule.

Ministers will further test the timetable with industry and local government, while also developing response strategies and undertaking independent market analysis.

The decision follows the August 2019 Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) charging environment Ministers with the development of a time-table for banning the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres.

All jurisdictions acknowledged resourcing, from Commonwealth, states and territories, and industry will be required to effectively implement the ban.

In early 2020 Ministers will provide further advice on final timetables, definitions and response strategies to First Ministers for their confirmation.

National Waste Policy – Action Plan

Environment ministers agreed to a new National Waste Policy Action Plan that will drive the implementation of Australia's National Waste Policy.

It includes ambitious targets to make Australia a world leader in waste management and recycling, including:

- An 80 per cent 'recovery' rate of material acr ss all waste streams.
- Significant increases to government procurement of recycled materials.
- Halving the amount of organic waste sent to landfill

All Ministers have committed to identifying any significant procurement opportunities over coming months such as major road projects that could use significant amounts of recycled material. The Commonwealth agreed to take a leading role. This reflects a wider commitment from the Commonwealth and states to drive procurement strategies for recycled material.

The Commonwealth Government will prioritise work with states and territories and relevant industry and standards bodies to develop engineering specifications and standards to support the use of recycled materials in building, construction and infrastructure development, for use across all jurisdictions. The Commonwealth Government will report back on progress at the next MEM.

A cross-sector refe ence group involving government, non-government organisations, industry groups and business representatives will also be established to review progress on the Action Plan's implementation.

To support the delivery of strategies within the Action Plan, Ministers also agreed to encourage major battery manufacturers to participate in a new Battery Stewardship Scheme o improve the rate of battery recycling.
For those states and territories with container deposit schemes, Ministers agreed to work together to expand and harmonise the scope and alignment of schemes and product labelling for beverage manufacturers.
Ministers agreed to write to the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to set out their expectations with respect to new packaging targets.

Australia's Strategy for Nature

Environment ministers endorsed a national framework for government, non-government and community action to strengthen Australia's biodiversity and care for local environment areas.

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030 is the result of extensive collaboration between the Australian Government, all state and territory governments, and the Australian Local Government Association.

The work will position Australia to be well ahead of the new global biodiversity framework to be released in 2020.

Feral cat control

Ministers agreed the need to identify and evaluate new feral cat control strategies to protect our species. These strategies include synthetic biology, and ministers agreed to report back at their next meeting. Feral cats in Australia kill an estimated 459 million native mammals, 596 million reptiles and 316 million birds each year.

Digital Transformation of Environmental Assessments

Ministers agreed to work together to digitally transform environmental assessment systems, providing greater access to shared environmental data, less duplication and greater transparency.

Delays within the current system are a costly frustration to both proponents and environmental groups and have already been identified as a key area to address within the review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* under Professor Graeme Samuel.

Climate Change

The Ministers reviewed a number of issues relating to climate change including the progression of 'blue carbon' measurement to dentify abatement opportunities in aquatic environments. The expediting of calculation methods, particularly for the reintroduction of tidal flows to restore mangroves and salt marshes, was agreed along with the progression of opportunities under the Emissions Reduction Fund. Ministers also discussed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Reports on *Climate Change and Land*, and *Oceans and Cryosphere.*

Ministers agreed that the Commonwealth would provide a detailed presentation on its plan to meet Australia's emissions reduction targets under the Paris Agreement to the next Meeting of Environment Ministers. This will include an opportunity to understand how States and Territories are contributing to those outcomes.

Coastal Erosion

Coastal erosion and inundation was acknowledged as a risk that requires a collaborative approach from all levels of government. Ministers agreed to establish an intergovernmental wo king group to collate existing information on coastal erosion and inundation hazard risk management, and propose a collaborative approach to coastal erosion for consideration through a future meeting of environment ministers.

Heritage sites

Ministers supported the addition of Murujuga to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in 2020. With more than one million images, Murujuga (the Dampier Archipelago and surrounds) has the world's largest, densest and most diverse concentrations of rock art carvings in the world.

Ministers also discussed how to better protect sites of Indigenous cultural heritage within their jurisdictions, noting the fire damage caused to ancient Aboriginal rock last summer in Queensland's Carnarvon Gorge National Park.

Yabby nets

Ministers will also pursue a nationally consistent approach to address the negative

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

impacts that ‘opera-house’ yabby nets have on Australia’s native wildlife, in particular on platypus.

Ivory ban

There was agreement that all jurisdictions would identify appropriate mechanisms to eliminate domestic trade in ivory and rhinoceros horn, including working with relevant trading houses. Ministers agreed to write to make a submission through the Commonwealth’s review of the EPBC Act.

[UNCLASSIFIED]

"The information contained in this email message is intended only for the addressee and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Ministry. It may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it as this may be unlawful. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately."

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)

From: MARSHALL Kirsty
To: Sarah Helm; MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD); WAI-POI Daniel [ISED]; KEYES Helen; GIVEN, Tim (SEA); MEDIA
Cc: Hannah Singer; Roderick Boys; Matthew Ide; Amanda Baldwin; Shaun Lewis
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Indonesia
Date: Thursday, 21 November 2019 2:11:51 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.jpg

Good afternoon

No change. s 9 (2) (g) (i) [redacted]

Kind regards

Kirsty

s 9 (2) (a) [redacted]

From: Sarah Helm <Sarah.Helm@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 21 November 2019 13:59
To: MARSHALL Kirsty <Kirsty.MARSHALL@customs.govt.nz>; MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD) <Elspeth.McIntyre@mfat.govt.nz>; WAI-POI Daniel [ISED] <Daniel.Wai-Poi@mfat.govt.nz>; KEYES Helen <Helen.Keyes@customs.govt.nz>
Cc: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>; Shaun Lewis <Shaun.Lewis@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Indonesia

[SEEMAIL]
Hi all

I have had the attached media enquiry today.
Any change? Customs?

Thanks
Sarah Helm

From: Sarah Helm
Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2019 2:08 PM
To: 'MARSHALL Kirsty' <Kirsty.MARSHALL@customs.govt.nz>; 'MCINTYRE, Elspeth (CMD)' <Elspeth.McIntyre@mfat.govt.nz>; 'WAI-POI Daniel [ISED]' <Daniel.Wai-Poi@mfat.govt.nz>; 'KEYES Helen' <Helen.Keyes@customs.govt.nz>
Cc: Hannah Singer <Hannah.Singer@mfe.govt.nz>; Roderick Boys <Roderick.Boys@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Ide <Matthew.Ide@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Baldwin <Amanda.Baldwin@mfe.govt.nz>;

Released under the Official Information Act (1982)