

27 June 2023

By email:

Liz Moncrieff

Director Strategy, Integration, Governance & Performance
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Liz,

Thank you for your letter on 20 June and the request for information following the Severe Weather Events Recovery Review Panel (Recovery Panel) consideration of the Order in Council to enable open burning of mixed waste.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council has contacted both Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) and New Zealand Apples and Pears (NZAPI) to offer assistance to gather the information sought by the Recovery Panel at both locality and property level. The Council was advised today that this information has been gathered from landowners since the 20th June by survey and the results directly sent to the Ministry for the Environment.

I note in the request for further information the panel wanted to understand “the linkage between the existing Department of Internal Affairs funding for the removal of debris and sediment, and this solution.” In response to this part of the request, the Council attaches the latest status report from the Silt and Waste Recovery Taskforce.

To date, the funding provided by the Department of Internal Affairs for the removal of debris and sediment has assisted Council to remove a total of 350,000m³ silt to date from 438 requests or jobs received to date and an additional 141 jobs to deal with mixed waste. The Silt and Waste Recovery Taskforce will collect silt and mixed waste that has been piled up (silt) sorted and separated (mixed waste) from the property boundary and take it away for processing. The work on site is managed and paid for by the landowner (who can apply to the Commercial fund to do this work) and transportation and processing costs is being met by the Councils through the funding that has been provided to the Council.

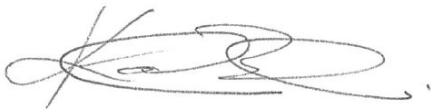
As a direct result of the funding provided by Central Government, officers have been able to engage contractors to manage different waste streams for processing. There are contractors saving treated timber posts and making them available for re-use, others taking plastic netting and Extenday plastic to make plastic fencing posts, 3 R Group are collecting Hazardous Waste, Wood Debris is being collected and chipped by a number of companies. The Silt and Mixed Waste Taskforce is looking for as many opportunities as possible to reduce the waste going to landfill or proposing to be burnt.

Many property owners are working hard to separate the waste left behind on their properties or as they begin recovery and removing trees, post and wire, irrigation, extenday and bird netting, there are some properties where the waste piles are too big, too intertwined and it is this waste that industry proposes shall be burned. The Council has previously estimated the quantities of waste based on flood extents and depths, this was originally provided to the Ministry for the Environment in its original submissions for funding and support for the OIC on burning. However, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council was not provided more detailed or accurate waste quantity information from

Industry. We understand that this information has now been provided to the Ministry for the Environment directly from HortNZ and NZAPI.

If the Regional Council can be of further assistance to this process, please do not hesitate to contact Katrina Brunton.

Yours sincerely



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