



COR0328

9 May 2024

Darren Patterson
Chair
Waste Advisory Board
By email: darren@pattersonenvironmental.co.nz

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your continued work as Chair of the Waste Advisory Board (the Board). I write to you to reply to your letter dated 4 December 2023 about the Board's draft strategic plan and provide an updated Terms of Reference for the Board.

The Board's draft strategic plan

Thank you for your letter dated 4 December 2023 and for sharing the Board's draft strategic plan. I appreciate the work the Board has put into this document and in general I agree with the Board's strategic plan. I have outlined below the topics I would like the Board to prioritise advising me on.

I am aware that Australia has a much lower per person amount of waste going to landfill and I am keen to find out how this was achieved and what lessons can be adopted within the New Zealand context.

As part of your work on priority areas 1 and 2, Whole of Government Approach to Waste Minimisation and New Zealand's Transition to Circular Economy, I would like you to include a case study about Australia's waste sector – with a particular focus on what drivers enable Australia to have a lower level of waste disposal. Furthermore, in your work on priority area 4, Product Stewardship, I would be interested in hearing what schemes Australia have in place and what is working or not working.

As part of your work on priority area 3, Emissions Reduction and Adaptation, you mention a "circularity index" with an example from Scotland. I would like to know more about this case study.

I would also like you to consider the advantages and disadvantages on a lighter touch approach to reporting by territorial authorities to the Ministry for the Environment, and any risks that may be associated with that.

Finally, I am curious about hazardous waste, its long-term effect on landfills and what can be done now to prevent future contamination from the hazardous waste to the surrounding environment. In addition to your proposal for priority area 11 Hazardous Waste, I would like you to find out what the main hazardous waste and substances are that are being disposed of, any available information on quantities and the scale of any issue.

Updated Terms of Reference

Please find attached to this letter an updated Terms of Reference for the Board, as required by section 91(1) of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act).

The Terms of Reference has been updated to:

- better reflect the current process to appoint new members, especially the Chair. This includes:
 - a requirement for nominations to be advertised in a Tauranga newspaper.
 - An update to the reference in the Act to the Minister of Māori Affairs to the relevant current portfolio name.
- better reflect the updated conflict of interest policy at the Ministry for the Environment.
- update how fees and reimbursements are paid to the members of the Board by the Ministry for the Environment.

There have also been changes to the language and the structure of the Terms of Reference. Please note that I have not changed how the Board's work programme and strategic plan operates.

Thank you once again for your work on the strategy and the Board. I look forward to the advice and insight you will provide.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penny Simmonds', written in a cursive style.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment