



19 August 2025

OIAD-1690

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) on 22 July 2025.

The Ministry has provided a response to each of your questions below.

1. Categorisation of Waste in New Zealand

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available. We have provided links to this information below.

- **What is the official classification or categorisation of waste types in New Zealand?**

Waste is defined and categorised in different ways depending on the purpose. Information on waste types is publicly available and some of this information can be found here:

- Waste Minimisation Act 2008:
legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0089/latest/DLM999802.html
- Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulations 2009:
legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2009/0144/latest/DLM2055712.html

- **Please provide definitions and distinctions for hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, especially in the context of export and treatment**

This information is publicly available and can be found on the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) website: epa.govt.nz/hazardous-substances/

2. Governing Legislation & Policies

- **Which laws, regulations, and standards govern the management, recycling, and export of various wastes (including but not limited to:**

- Tyre Waste**

Waste Minimisation (Tyres) Regulations 2023

- Battery Waste and E-waste, Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Waste and Used Lubricating Oil**

- Waste Minimisation Act 2008
- New Zealand is a party to international conventions (Basel, Stockholm, etc.), which are discussed here:
environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/international-action/

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and associated regulations
- Health & Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017
- Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Act 1988
- Land Transport Rule (Dangerous Goods) 2005
- Maritime Rules
- Civil Aviation Rules
- New Zealand Consumer Guarantees Act
- Major Hazard Facilities Regulations 2016
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Local Authority Solid Waste Bylaws

3. National Waste Generation & Disposal Trends

- **Annual data (for the last 5 years) for:**
 - Volume of waste generated by category**
 - Treatment methods adopted: recycling, landfill, incineration, or export**
 - List of registered waste management vendors operating under government or approved schemes**

I am refusing the parts of your request for information on “*volume of waste generated by category*” and “*list of registered waste management vendors operating under government or approved schemes*” under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available:

- environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/waste-statistics/
- environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/download-waste-data/
- environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/waste-facilities-and-disposal/

I am also refusing the part of your request for “*Treatment methods adopted: recycling, landfill, incineration, or export*” under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist; the Ministry does not hold this information.

4. Waste Export

- **Year-wise export volume (in tonnes or m³) of: E-waste, Used batteries, Used tyres, Ferrous and non-ferrous metals, Export destinations and associated licensing or compliance requirements, Quantum of rejected export shipments if any, due to lack of compliance**

On 8 August 2025, the Ministry wrote to you by email to seek clarification of this question. You clarified that the part of this question regarding the “*Quantum of rejected export shipments, if any, due to lack of compliance*” relates to both shipments rejected **by the importing country**, and shipments rejected **by the New Zealand Customs Service**. You also advised that the information sought for this part of the request relates to the previous three years.

On 14 August 2025, the Ministry transferred the following parts of this question to the EPA, as this information is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the EPA:

- Year-wise **[for the previous three years]** export volume (in tonnes or m³) of:
 - E-waste
 - Used batteries
 - Export destinations and associated licensing or compliance requirements
 - Quantum of rejected export shipments **[by importing country]**, if any, due to lack of compliance

We have transferred the below part of question four to the New Zealand Customs Service. This is because the information to which this part of the request relates is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the New Zealand Customs Service:

- Year-wise **[for the previous three years]** export volume (in tonnes or m³) of:
Quantum of rejected export shipments (**waste**), if any, due to lack of compliance
[shipments rejected by the New Zealand Customs Service]

In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 to transfer your request. You will hear further from the New Zealand Customs Service concerning that part of your request.

I am refusing the part of your request for “*Year-wise [for the previous three years] export volume (in tonnes or m³) of • Used tyres • Ferrous and non-ferrous metals*” under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist; the Ministry does not hold this information.

5. Captive & In-country Recycling

- **Status of captive recycling facilities (e.g., in tyre, e-waste, or battery recycling)**
- **Major players and their capacity**
- **Government-supported Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives, if applicable**

The Minister for the Environment intends to reform the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and Litter Act 1979 to ensure New Zealand has fit-for-purpose, modern waste legislation that provides more options and flexibility to reduce and manage waste effectively and efficiently. Ministry officials are reviewing these Acts and advising the Minister on policy proposals. This includes a proposal for an extended producer responsibility framework. Public consultation on the policy proposals closed on 1 June. The Ministry’s website provides the consultation document which outlines the proposals and recordings of webinars where officials outline the proposals:

<https://consult.environment.govt.nz/waste/waste-legislation-proposed-amendments/>.

Officials will release the summary of submissions on the Ministry’s website once this can be made available. The objective is to have new waste legislation enacted before the next general election.

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

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information shortly after the response has been sent on our website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/>. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team at: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Kara Lok
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Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao