



# Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Improving the Framework for Managing Environmentally Harmful Products in New Zealand

Portfolio Associate Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)

On 25 June 2020, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

#### Reducing harm from waste

- 1 **noted** that the government has a priority to transition to a clean, green and carbon neutral New Zealand;
- 2 **noted** that New Zealanders are among the highest producers of household waste per capita in the OECD and that disposing of waste has long-term environmental, economic and social costs;
- 3 **noted** that product stewardship means producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers, collectors, and re-processers take responsibility for life-cycle impacts of products and reduce environmental harm;

#### Results of consultation

- 4 **noted** that the results of public consultation show a broad mandate for declaring priority products to enable improved product stewardship – 93 percent of submitters supported the overall proposal in full or in part;
- 5 **noted** that majority support was present across all submitter types, ranging from 77 percent for business /industry to 99 percent for individuals and 100 per cent for submissions from the academic/ research community;

#### Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines

- 6 **authorised** the Responsible Minister to declare as priority products, pursuant to section 9(1) of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA), tyres, electrical and electronic products, agrichemicals and their containers, refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases (with the exception of methyl bromide, farm plastics and plastic packaging (excluding beverage containers));
- 7 **authorised** the Responsible Minister to publish Ministerial guidelines pursuant to section 12(1) of the WMA;

- 8 **noted** that the Responsible Minister will signal to stakeholders and the public that the decision on declaration of priority product for beverage containers and methyl bromide will be made later in 2020 to enable alignment with other processes;
- 9 **noted** that:
- 9.1 declaring priority products triggers a requirement for a product stewardship scheme to be prepared and accredited for each product as soon as practicable;
- 9.2 there will be a further implementation phase of months or years before a scheme is in place;
- 10 **invited** the Responsible Minister to report back to the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee no later than November 2020 on proposals to publicly consult on regulations to support stewardship schemes for tyres and refrigerants;
- 11 **invited** the Responsible Minister to report back to Cabinet on a revised approach to beverage containers and methyl bromide in December 2020;
- 12 **noted** that the decisions in paragraphs 6 and 7 above are consistent with a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that is resilient for people, the economy and the environment.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon David Parker (Chair)  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for ENV