

## Weekly update - Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 11 December 2017

### No Environment weekly meeting scheduled

### Actions from previous meeting

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#### 1. Havelock North Inquiry

- MfE to initiate conversations on who is best to lead the next stage; this is in progress.

### Upcoming meetings

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#### *Week 11-15 December*

11 -15 December                      Argentina

#### *Week 18-22 December*

|             |      |   |
|-------------|------|---|
| 18 December | 11am | Weekly update meeting                     |
| 19 December | 9am  | Meeting with Simon Upton (PCE) and the PM |
| 19 December | 4pm  | Housing ministers meeting                 |

#### *Proposed meetings which are not yet confirmed*

- 9(2)(f)(iv)
- Chew session with MfE officials on climate change (in particular including agriculture in the ETS)
- Meeting with officials on the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity

### 1. Progress towards Government's 100 day priorities

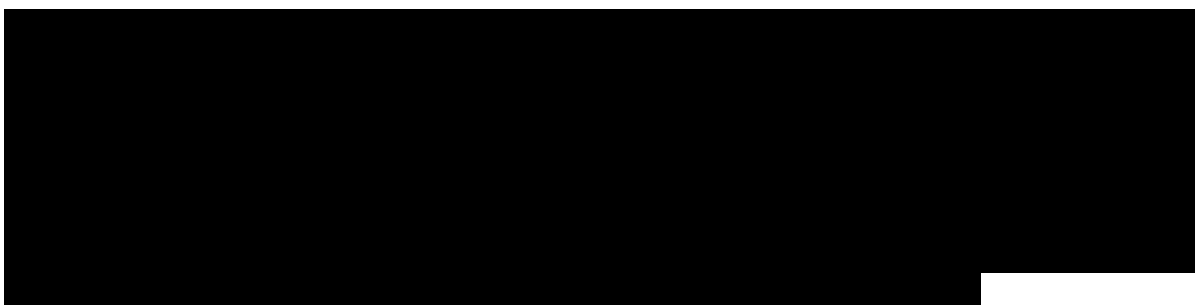
#### 1.1. Climate

On 22 November 2017 and 30 November 2017 you met with the Minister for Climate Change (Shaw) and MfE officials to discuss the draft Cabinet paper on the 100-day plan for climate change and its financial implications. The paper seeks agreement from Cabinet on the process for setting an emissions reduction goal and the establishment of a Climate Change Commission. The Cabinet paper was lodged on Thursday 7 December 2017 and the Minister Shaw will take the paper to Cabinet Business Committee on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Minister Shaw is releasing the final stocktake report from the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group (CCATWG) on 15 December. The final stocktake (interim) report includes a summary of the expected impacts of climate change on New Zealand over the medium and long term, defines what effective adaptation looks like and takes stock of existing work on adaptation.

You, together with the Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Conservation, met with the authors of the Coastal Hazards & Climate Change guidance on 5 December and you subsequently agreed that the updated guidance will also be released on 15 December.

1.2. S9(2)(f)(iv)



## 2. Strategic priorities

### 2.1. Havelock North Inquiry – next steps

You released the Inquiry's findings on 6 December 2017. We are working with our colleagues at Ministry of Health and Department of Internal Affairs to provide advice on the possible next steps in a Cabinet Paper to be taken to cabinet prior to Christmas which will include:

- An overview of the Inquiry's recommendations and its role;
- Those recommendations which can be addressed in the short term;
- A work programme for the longer term actions with an indication of which agency will be leading them.

We are also planning to align advice on access to drinking water for iwi with advice the response to the Havelock North inquiry.

## 2.2. Water

9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

## 3. Updates for noting

### 3.1. Office of the Auditor-General Work Programme on Water Management in 2017-18

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) will be reviewing how a range of organisations are carrying out their roles and responsibilities for water management as part of its work programme in 2017-18. The OAG has adopted a broad view of water management that includes freshwater resources, the marine environment, and three waters infrastructure. Eight separate audits are being conducted as part of the OAG work programme concerning a number of central and local government agencies. The Ministry for the Environment is providing the Office of the Auditor-General the information it needs to support the audits that are relevant to our areas of responsibility.

### 3.2 National Monitoring System – Reporting of 2015/16 data

This item is for your information. The National Monitoring System (NMS) collects annual data from local authorities on RMA functions, tools and processes. We and councils use this information to inform policy development. We will be releasing the second annual NMS data set, for 2015/16, on our website on 14 December. Notable statistics from the first two years of NMS data are included in the table below. We are currently processing the data received for 2016/17.

| <b>Performance measures</b>   | <b>2014/15</b> | <b>2015/16</b> | <b>%<br/>Change</b> | <b>Commentary</b>  |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Percentage of new plans, plan changes and variations started, underway or completed that were driven by being consistent with, or giving effect to, national direction. | 9%             | 23%            | +14%                | Indicates that national direction is being incorporated in plan making/changing processes.                 |
| Percentage of new plans, plan changes and variations (with data available on the time taken) that complied with the two-year statutory timeframe.                       | 83%            | 95%            | +12%                | Indicates that compliance with statutory timeframes are improving.   |
| The total number of resource consents that were processed through to a decision (either granted/approved or declined).  | 40,363         | 41,810         | +3.5%               | Indicates a small variation in total number of consents processed around NZ.                               |
| Percentage of all section 88, section 127, and section 128 resource consents (which were progressed to a decision) that were processed within statutory timeframes.     | 96%            | 96%            | No change           |  |
| Percentage of all section 88, section 127, and section 128 resource consents that were granted/approved.  | 99.8%          | 99.8%          | No change           |  |
| Percentage of councils that set aside budget to assist iwi/ hapū to participate in the development of resource management plans.  | 58%            | 36%            | -22%                | May indicate that other methods are being used to assist iwi/ hapū to participate in the planning process. |

## 4. Briefing notes

8 December – 22 December

### 4.1. Hon Parker

| Issue or event  | Lead agency | Further information   | Date due to your office |
|---|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| Agency roles for responding to a request for Crown assistance to address natural hazard risks to life in Matatā | MfE         | This briefing provides advice on responding to a letter from the Minister of Local Government relating to an appropriate lead portfolio for addressing a request for Crown assistance to resolve natural hazard risks to life in Matatā   | 8 December              |
| Good Farming Practice: Action Plan for Water Quality  | MfE/MPI     | This briefing provides you with the draft Good Farming Practice Action Plan for Water Quality. It suggests you meet with the Action Plan's Governance Group to provide feedback, and proposes that the Water Directorate work with the Governance Group to fast track implementing the Plan in priority catchments.   | 12 December             |
| National Direction Programme – strategic choices and priorities   | MfE         | This briefing provides you with an overview of the programme, key challenges and strategic choices on your priorities for the national direction programme.   | 15 December             |
| 9(2)(f)(iv)   |             |   |                         |
| Meeting with the PCE and the PM   | MfE         | To provide background material to support your meeting with the PCE and the PM.   | 15 December             |
| Community Environment Fund Recommendations 2017   | MfE         | We seek your decisions on applications for funding from the 2017 round of the Community Environment Fund.   | 19 December             |
| Te Mana o Te Wai Fund - Options on funding allocation   | MfE         | As part of Budget 2017, a transfer of funds from the Ministry for Māori Development - Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) to the Ministry for the Environment occurred, providing an additional \$1 million to support freshwater initiatives through the Te Mana o Te Wai Fund (TMOTW) appropriation. This briefing note seeks a decision on options for allocating this \$1 million. | 19 December             |

## 4.2. Hon Sage

| Issue or event  | Lead agency | Further information   | Date due to your office |
|---|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| Resource efficiency priority work areas and funding options for 2018-2022   | MfE         | To form the basis of a discussion on our priorities for the next 18+ months. It will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing the three recommendations of the Waste Levy Review</li> <li>Circular Economy Sectoral Analysis</li> </ul> Advice on funding options will also be presented. | 20 December             |
| Information on territorial authorities<br>Background information on the role of territorial authorities in waste minimisation | MfE         | To inform the Minister of the role territorial authorities play in waste minimisation and the opportunities to partner with them  | 21 December             |
| Information on Product Stewardship  | MfE         | To inform the Minister of the role of product stewardship in reducing waste to landfill.  | 21 December             |
| National Environmental Standard on the Outdoor Storage of Tyres   | MfE         | To inform the Minister of progress in preparing the Standard scheduled to come into force in August 2018  | 21 December             |
| Background info on the PCE  | MfE         | To provide background material to regarding the PCE.  | TBC                     |

## 5. Engagement and Media

### 5.1. Key issues in the media

- Napier's water ban has been downgraded to level 2 restrictions, after a review of the city's reservoir levels. Level 4 restrictions (a total watering ban) were introduced after a weekend of very high water usage had left reservoirs at critically low levels.
- ACC has confirmed its decision to decline claims related to the Hawke's Bay campylobacter outbreak. The agency says that because the gastro outbreak was neither an accident or a criminal offence it won't offer cover.
- Forest & Bird has confirmed it will appeal the resource consents for a new open-cast coal mine at Te Kuha, near Westport.
- Replas, the company contracted to recycle New Zealand's soft plastic packaging, is warning councils and supermarket chains that the scheme may fail if it doesn't get more support. The scheme was established last year with government funding. The plastic is sent to Australia where it is turned into usable products, which are then imported back by New Zealand. Replas has doubled the rubbish it is sending to Australia, but only half of it is currently imported back in the form of recycled products, making the scheme unsustainable unless importing increases.

## 6. Official Information Act requests

### 6.1. Ministerial

| Request  | Correspondent  | Reference  | At your office | Due to send |
|--|--|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982 I request a list of all reports, briefings, memos or aide memoires that you have received since you were sworn in as Minister for the Environment. Where information is withheld, I request you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19(a)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act.  | 9(2)(a) [Redacted]<br>Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Rt Hon Bill English, Leader of the Opposition | 17-O-01456 | 11 December    | 18 December |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All briefings, reports, aide memoirs, emails, memos and other official information received by the Minister since 26 October 2017 in relation to Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017;</li> <li>• All briefings, reports, aide memoirs, emails, memos and other official information received by the Minister since 26 October 2017 in relation to amending the Resource Management Act;</li> <li>• All briefings, reports, aide memoirs, emails, memos and other official information received by the Minister's Office since 26 October 2017 in relation to the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017;</li> <li>• All briefings, reports, aide memoirs, emails, memos and other official information received by the Minister's Office since 26 October 2017 in relation to amending the Resource Management Act.</li> </ul> | 9(2)(a) [Redacted]<br>Member of the public   | 17-O-01521 | 12 December    | 19 December |
| 'Information on the proposed amendments for inclusion in the Statues Amendment Bill 2018 that the Minister received on 21 November 2017 (Minister's reply to my WQ 10265(2017).'   | 9(2)(a) [Redacted]   | 17-O-01565 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| <i>On The Waitangi Tribunal's national Freshwater and Geothermal Resources Inquiry that the Minister received on 2 November 2017 (Minister's reply to my WQ 10241(2017).'</i>  | 9(2)(a) [Redacted]   | 17-O-01566 | 12 January     | 19 January  |

| Request  | Correspondent | Reference  | At your office | Due to send |
|--|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 'Briefing, memos or aide memoirs that the Minister received on Annual update on the use of fireworks in New Zealand, Publication of updated guidance on Coastal Hazards and Climate Change, Update on progress towards developing the first set of national planning standards; your role in urban areas (refer Minister's reply to my WQ 10223 (2017)). | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01567 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| 'Briefings, memos or aide memoires relating to international meetings in December 2017" (Minister's reply to my WQ 10218(2017)).'  | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01568 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| Briefing/memos or aide memoires relating to Action required for the East-West Link Rooding Proposal and Inquiry Fee Extension (Minister's reply to my written question 10215 (2017)).  | 9(2)(a)       | 17-B-01569 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| 'A copy of The Crown's approach for addressing Iwi and hapū rights and interests in freshwater; Information on Waitangi Tribunal's Freshwater Inquiry (as per Minister's reply to my written question 10198 (2017)).'  | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01570 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| 'The Weekly Environment Update and all other briefing papers, memos or aide memoires received by the Minister on 10 November 2017. (Reply to my written question 10200 (2017)).'   | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01571 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| Documents relating to Information on the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity; Advice on EEZ regulations and the Event note received by the Minister on 16 November 2017 referred to in his answer to my written question 10183 (2017).   | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01572 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| A copy of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Amendment Act 2015 (Transitional Controls) Regulations 2017 and related information received by the Minister on 9 November 2017 and referred to your reply to my Written question 10199(2017).  | 9(2)(a)       | 17-O-01573 | 12 January     | 19 January  |

| Request   | Correspondent               | Reference  | At your office | Due to send |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 'Information on the proposed amendments for inclusion in the Statutes Amendment Bill 2018 that the Minister received on 21 November 2017 (Minister's reply to my WQ 10265(2017).'   | 9(2)(a)                     | 17-O-01574 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| 'Briefings, memos or aide memoirs in relation to regulation to ban plastic microbeads, introduction to the NES for Plantation forestry, information on the transition toward a circular economy (refer Minister's reply to my WQ 10260 (2017).' | 9(2)(a)                     | 17-O-01579 | 12 January     | 19 January  |
| Please provide all documents received since October 26, 2017 which refer to the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary.   | 9(2)(a)<br>Political report |            |                |             |

## 6.2. Departmental

| Request   | Correspondent                                     | Reference  | At your office | Due to send                               |
|---|---|------------|----------------|---|
| Request for the 2008 Adler report on The state of the compliance and enforcement regime under the Resource Management Act 1991.   | 9(2)(a)<br>PHD student<br>(Canterbury University) | 17-D-01519 | 21 November    | 4 December                                |
| A copy of the Briefing to the Incoming Minister (BIM) provided to the Minister for the Environment; • A copy of the BIM provided to the Minister for Climate Change; • A copy of the BIM provided to both Associate Ministers for the Environment; • All reports, memorandums, papers , documents, advice, correspondence, notes, emails, text messages, PID, or other official information, written, reviewed or considered by Ministry staff between 1 August 2017 and 26 October 2017, in relation to the preparation of the BIMs and/or content of the BIM; • All draft versions of the BIMs produced between 1 September 2017 and 26 October 2017; • All covering notes that may have gone with the BIMs signed by the Secretary for the Environment; • All attachments and/or any other briefings that went | 9(2)(a)<br>Member of the public                   | 17-D-01451 | TBC            | 19 December<br>(15 day extension pending) |

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| alongside the BIMs; • A copy of the Briefing to the Incoming Ministers of the Natural Resources Sector; • A copy of all other briefing to incoming Ministers from any board, such as the Waste Advisory Board. |  |  |  |  |
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