



Summary

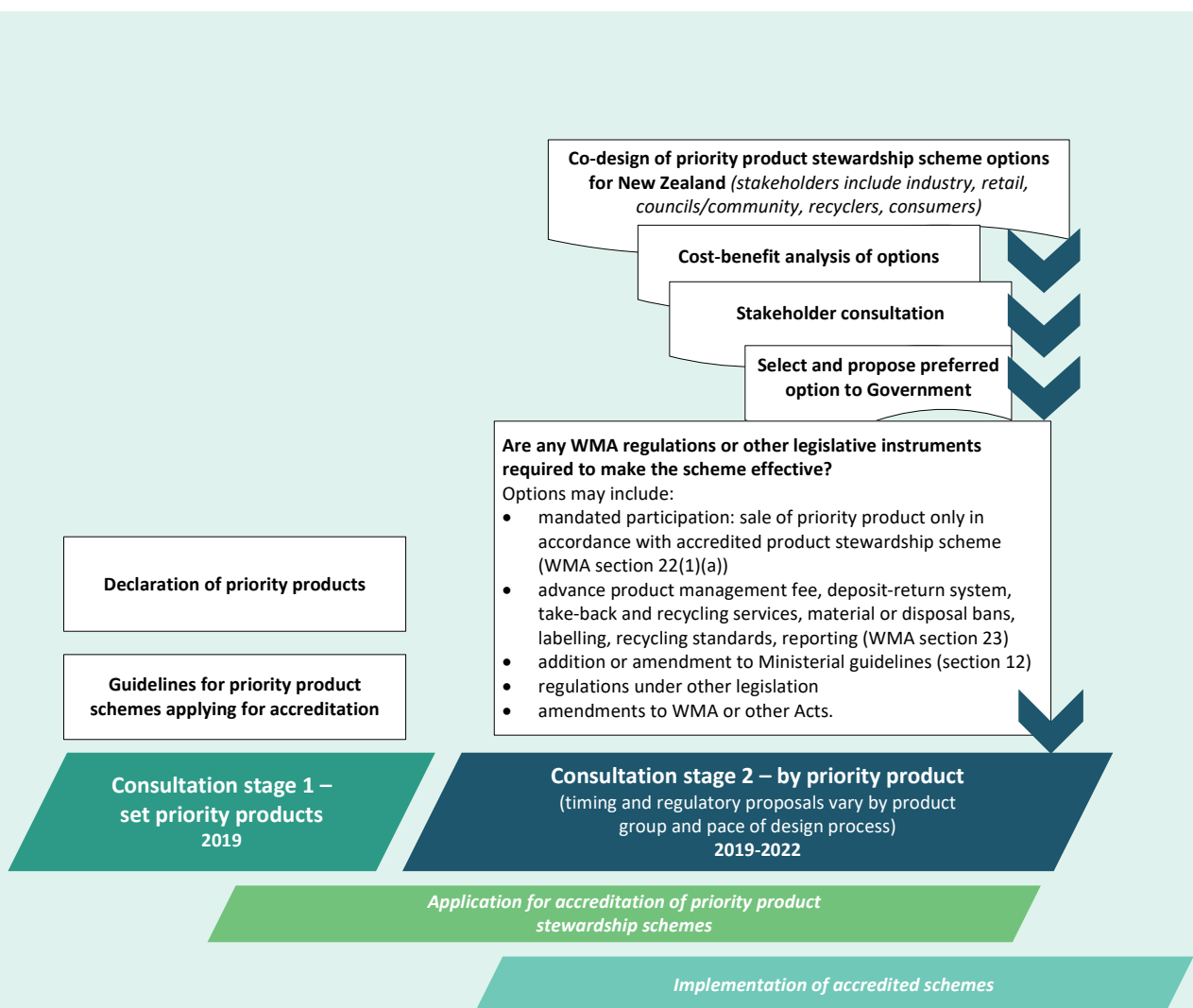
Proposed priority products and priority product stewardship scheme guidelines consultation



The Government wants New Zealand to have a productive, sustainable, inclusive and low-emissions economy. The aim is for a more prosperous and fairer society, and economic growth within environmental limits. Part of this process is designing waste out of the system by transitioning from a linear 'throw-away culture' (take-make-dispose) to a circular economy (make-use-return).

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) has various tools to support this. One of the strongest tools for reversing linear resource use is regulated product stewardship.

Product stewardship is when people and businesses take responsibility for the life-cycle impacts of their products, either voluntarily or in response to regulatory tools.



Proposed stage one and stage two consultations for product stewardship schemes under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA)

What we are proposing

The Government proposes a framework for co-designing regulated product stewardship for six priority products. This framework would declare the priority products, set guidelines for scheme design and open the full range of regulatory options for product stewardship under the Waste Minimisation Act.

To ensure the best outcomes, it is important to design regulated product stewardship to suit New Zealand conditions and aspirations. A second round of consultation will follow for each product group once we know design details and before any regulations are passed.

Priority products

The Government proposes using several tools under the WMA to increase incentives for people and businesses to take responsibility for the life-cycle impacts of their products.

The aim is to reduce the harm posed by certain end-of-life products and design waste out of the system.

A two-stage process is proposed (as shown in the figure opposite).

- ▶ stage one consults on the proposed declaration of six priority products and ministerial guidelines to clarify expected outcomes and attributes of accredited priority product schemes
- ▶ stage two will consult progressively by product group through 2019–21 on proposed WMA regulations.

Six proposed priority products have been selected as a start of the declaration of priority products. They are considered to meet the requirements under the WMA for declaring a priority product.

These are:



tyres



electrical and electronic products (including lithium ion and other batteries)



agricultural and their containers



refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases



farm plastics (including silage wrap and feed sacks)



packaging (beverage containers and single-use plastic packaging).

A co-design regulated approach

The Government proposes taking the following co-design approach to establishing regulated product stewardship schemes for priority products:

- ▶ setting a framework for regulated product stewardship, by declaring certain products as 'priority products'
- ▶ issuing guidelines that product stewardship schemes applying for accreditation for priority products will be expected to meet
- ▶ working with stakeholders to design:
 - › appropriate schemes for accreditation under the WMA
 - › ways to 'level the playing field' (potentially using the WMA or other regulations)
- ▶ monitoring scheme outcomes
- ▶ making and enforcing any necessary regulations.

Producers of priority products, stakeholders involved in a product's life cycle, and other interested parties would, as appropriate to their circumstances:

- ▶ make submissions on this consultation
- ▶ participate in subsequent co-design processes
- ▶ participate in accredited schemes for priority products, including any requirements such as membership or advance disposal fees and provision of data.

Co-design progress so far

Co-design has begun for some proposed priority products (eg, tyres, agricultural, refrigerants) and is under discussion for others. Each product group will have particular design requirements and need to be co-designed with the relevant stakeholders.

The Government will promote and monitor these processes and facilitate an appropriate policy response. Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) support for stakeholder processes is an option.

Proposed guidelines for priority product stewardship schemes

Well-designed product stewardship frameworks can significantly improve waste minimisation, harm reduction, resource recovery and incentives for more circular product design as New Zealand transitions to a circular economy. Careful planning is also required to transition from low-recovery rates and limited markets to high-recovery rates and enhanced onshore processing in the longer term.

The Associate Minister for the Environment is proposing to gazette guidelines for product stewardship schemes under section 12 of the WMA in 17 categories:

1. Intended objectives and outcomes
2. Fees, funding and cost effectiveness
3. Governance
4. Non-profit status
5. Competition
6. Stakeholder engagement and collaboration
7. Compliance
8. Targets
9. Timeframes
10. Market development
11. Performance standards, training and certification
12. Liability and insurance
13. Design for environment
14. Reporting and public accountability
15. Public awareness
16. Monitoring, compliance and enforcement
17. Accessible collection networks.

For information on WMA tests that must be met before these can be gazetted and full text of proposed guidelines, please see the full consultation document available on the Ministry's website at: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/proposed-priority-products-and-priority-product-stewardship-scheme-guidelines.

Next steps

This consultation does not cover any potential regulations to support the effective operation of a priority product stewardship scheme.

The timing of any regulations will vary by priority product group, and will occur once stakeholder working groups have identified scheme option details, including expected costs and benefits.

Making a submission

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 4 October 2019.

You can make a submission in two ways.

1. Use our online submission tool, available at: www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/priorityproducts.
This is our preferred way to receive submissions.
2. Write your own submission by answering the questions in the consultation document.

Send your submission by mail to:

Proposed Priority Products and Guidelines,
Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362,
Wellington 6143.

Email your submission (as a PDF or Word document) to: priorityproducts.submissions@mfe.govt.nz.

Direct any queries to:
regulated_product_stewardship@mfe.govt.nz.