

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 2 July 2018

Environment weekly meeting 12.30pm – 1.00pm, Monday 2 July

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 Vicky Robertson, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment
 James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers
 Shaun Lewis, Director Investments and Partnerships
 Glenn Wigley, Director Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

Apologies: Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Performance, Innovation & Climate

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	National Resource Recovery	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
3.	EPA	Glenn Wigley	Verbal update	10

Upcoming meetings

Week 2 July – 9 July

3 July	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
4 July	7.00am	Hugo Group breakfast meeting – Wellington
	3.30pm	Meeting with Sandra Pringle (RATA Cert Ltd) and Sharon Humphreys (CEO, Packaging Council) and Minister Shaw - circular economy
5 July	11.00am	Meeting with Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment: waste issues
6 July	7.00am	Hugo Group breakfast meeting – Auckland
	5.00pm	Meeting with Francesca Lipscombe, NZ Ecolabelling Trust

Upcoming events

TBC **TBC** Visit to Flight Plastics

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Discussion with WasteMINZ on national waste data framework

You recently met with WasteMINZ and were provided with an overview of their work to date on a national waste data framework.

WasteMINZ undertook its initial work with funding from the Ministry for the Environment. They have since done further work with territorial authorities to encourage uptake of their reporting framework on a voluntary basis.

Officials are familiar with this work and will draw on it as appropriate during development of a national waste data framework. Ultimately the waste data framework needs to cover a wider range of operators in the sector, and will likely need to be backed by mandatory reporting requirements. Officials plan to incorporate reporting requirements for landfill operators and territorial authorities as part of the regulatory package for expanding the waste disposal levy. In time, the waste data framework will need to expand to also cover private sector operators such as recycling companies. It is not proposed to include these operators in the regulatory work currently underway, as

the work will already be complex, and further scoping is needed to first identify the range of operators who may be subject to reporting requirements in the future.

We provided you with an indicative timeline for the expansion of the waste disposal levy in briefing **B-18-04279**, of 29 March 2018. In that briefing, we noted that the timeline was subject to securing funding for some of the necessary preparatory work. Budget for this work is yet to be confirmed, so officials will prepare you an updated timeline when the 2018-19 budget and work planning process has been completed.

1.2. Waste Management Tyre Recycling Project – Situation Update

You announced the opening of Waste Management's (WM) Tyre Recycling Facility in Wiri, Auckland on Friday, 18 May 2018 – a project partially funded through the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF). This project is part of the Ministry's long term national solution to address the environmental problems caused by end-of-life tyres (EOLT).

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

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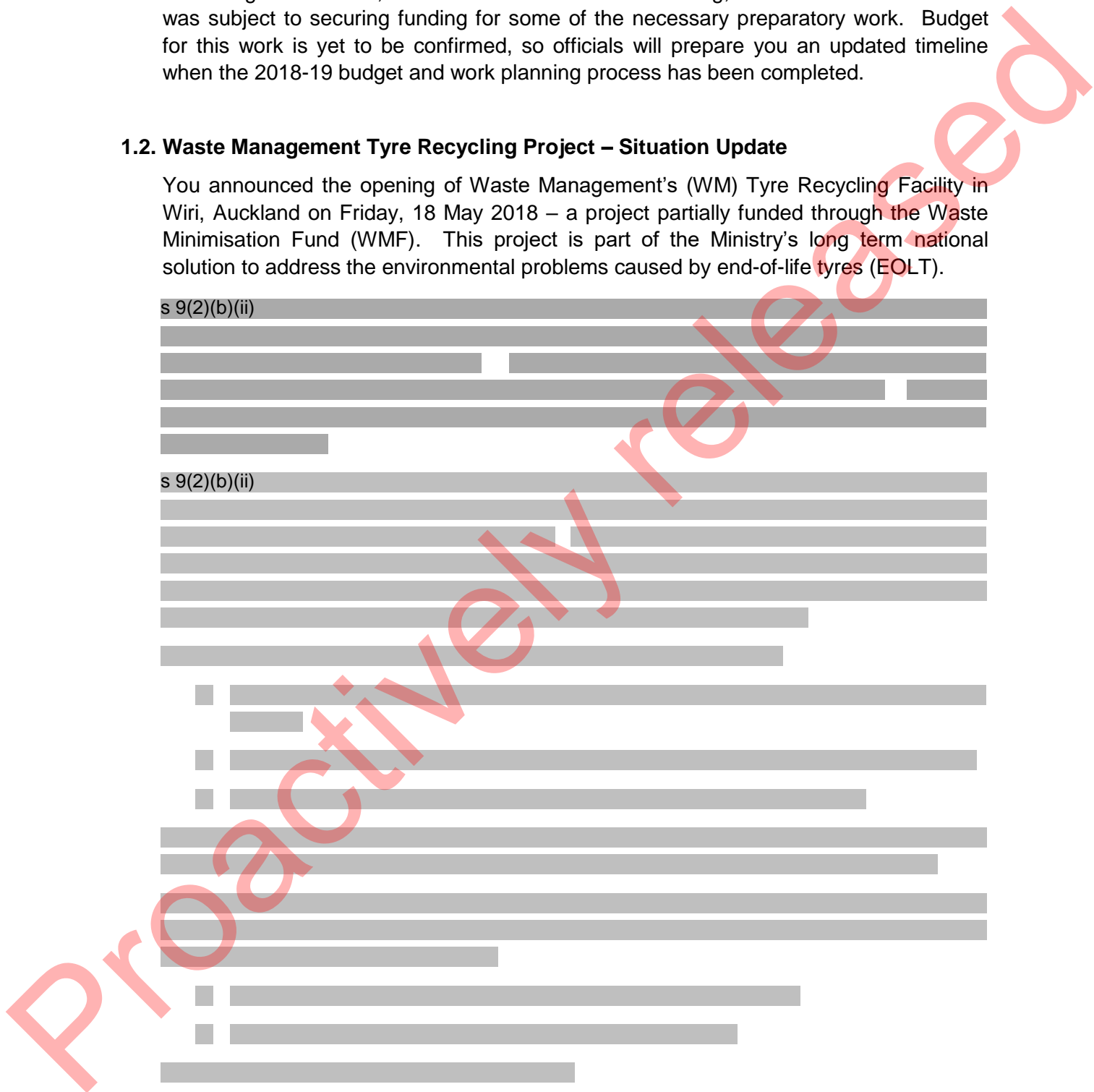
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s 9(2)(g)(i)

1.3. Progress on Update on Planning Standards consultation

There has been a high degree of interest in the consultation, with 860 people pre-registered to attend one of the 17 workshops arranged. We are in Auckland today, Hamilton and Whangarei tomorrow, and Tauranga later in the week. Workshops have already been held in Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, New Plymouth, Napier, Palmerston North, and Wellington.

The nature and tone of our conversations has shifted markedly in the 12 months since our previous consultation roadshow. There is much greater acceptance now of the need for the planning standards. Instead, practitioners are focused on understanding the implications of the technical changes that need to be made to plans. Questions about how the zone framework and spatial planning tools work in practice, the proposed rule format requirements and definitions are most common.

The staged implementation approach appears to be appreciated by Councils we have spoken with to date. Few have felt the need to discuss this aspect of the proposals in depth. This is significant given the nature of concerns previously expressed about the default RMA timeframes for implementing the planning standards.

Tasman and Marlborough Councils have expressed concerns that the proposals don't provide enough flexibility for them to develop truly integrated unitary plans (ie, where the regional policy statement (RPS) provisions are weaved throughout the plan and not located at the front of the unitary plan to reinforce the hierarchy of the RPS). Their preferred approach is different from the approach recommended by the Auckland Independent Hearings Panel, which we adopted. We will continue to test this issue with other regional and unitary councils during the consultation period.

Next steps

We will provide a further update following the conclusion of the roadshow in mid-July and again in mid-August when the submission period closes.

1.4. s9(2)(f)(iv)

2. Briefing notes

2 July – 27 July

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
New Zealand's international efforts on marine debris	MfE	Provides you with an overview of our international engagement on marine debris, including countries and forums/organisations to work with and why.	2 July
Volumetric charges for hydrogenerators: release of report	MfE/MPI		2 July

3. Cabinet material being prepared

2 July – 27 July

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This is a joint paper for proposing your intention to make five appointments to the EPA Board during the 2018 round.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Proposal to phase-out single-use plastic shopping bags	(DEV) Economic Development Committee	The papers seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags.	Due to DEV 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Supporting the transition toward a circular economy	(DEV) Economic development Committee	This paper informs cabinet of the intended waste and resource portfolio work programme which supports the transition toward a circular economy.	Due to DEV 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Minamata Convention: Approval to consult on Mercury Regulations	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	This Cabinet Paper seeks Cabinet agreement to publicly consult on a proposed package of regulatory measures to control the use and release of mercury in New Zealand. These measures are required in order for New Zealand to be able to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 8 July Due to ENV Committee: 14 August Due to Cabinet: 20 August

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Approval to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	Seeks Cabinet's agreement to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 1 October 2019. To achieve this, the paper seeks agreement to undertake parliamentary treaty examination and draft proposed amendments to the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations required to implement the Amendment.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 26 July Due to ENV Committee: 31 July Due to Cabinet: 6 August

4. Official Information Act requests

4.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
<p>Documents obtained under the OIA from the Environmental Protection Authority indicate that MfE has established and is leading a cross-agency forum on gene technologies and that, according to the EPA, the initiative is "to get alignment across relevant government agencies on advice to Ministers, and to ensure the successful delivery of preparatory work for a public conversation on development in genetic technologies."</p> <p>Under the Official Information Act I request all documents generated and received by MfE in relation to the cross-agency forum on new gene technologies/new biotechnologies since its began, including conception and approval of the initiative.</p>	s 9(2)(a) Sustainability Council	18-D-00932	N/A	12 July

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 16 July 2018

Environment weekly meeting 2.30pm – 3.00pm, Tuesday 17 July

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers
 Shaun Lewis, Director Investments and Partnerships
 Glenn Wigley, Director Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

Apologies: Vicky Robertson, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment
 Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Performance, Innovation & Climate

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	A circular economy	Shaun Lewis	18-B-04705	10
3.	Hazardous Substances Enforcement Advisory Group Ministerial	Glenn Wigley	Verbal update	10

Upcoming meetings

18 July 9.00am – MfE-Hawke's Bay Regional Environment Forum, Napier
5.00pm

Upcoming events

27 July 5.30pm – Speaking at the 50th AGM of Scrap Metal Recycling
6.30pm Association

TBC Visit to Flight Plastics

Proactively released

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Mackenzie Basin

Mackenzie District Council (MDC) has informed us that several consents for dairy farm development at Simons Pass Station have been withdrawn. s9(2)(f)(iv)

It is not known at this stage whether the consent applications will be re-submitted, nor whether similar applications from other landowners will be submitted.

On 13 July, we met in Canterbury with officials from MDC and aligned agencies (Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand and Environment Canterbury). With further applications still a possibility we will continue to develop advice, ensuring the broader issue of ecologically sustainable land and water management in the Mackenzie basin is also addressed.

1.2. Responses to your questions on briefing about the Biodiversity Collaborative Group process

On 15 June 2018, you received advice on Biodiversity Collaborative Process Quarter 4 Update (2018-B-04656 refers). The Biodiversity Collaborative Group (the Group) are funded through the Community Environment Fund, in your Associate Environment Portfolio. The responses to your questions on the briefing are as follows.

1. Is DOC an active observer?

Officials from the Department of Conservation are active observers on the Biodiversity Collaborative Group, and have been since the establishment phase in 2016. DOC officials also provide information to the group as requested (for example, information on DOC programmes, partnerships and guidance, or review of the Group's draft proposals). Other active observers are from Land Information New Zealand, Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry for Primary Industries, as well as local government representatives from Taranaki Regional Council (also the chair of the Regional Councils' BioManagers group) and Marlborough District Council (a unitary authority).

2. Why will it take officials 9 months to provide advice to ministers? Surely this could be done in 3-4 months by the active observers given their involvement in the process. Can MFE advise on the timeline.

The timeframes indicated in briefing 2018-B-04656 allow for scenarios where the Biodiversity Collaborative Group does not deliver a complete National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS IB) or policy package, or deliver recommendations that require further work for officials to finalise. As noted in the briefing, we are actively managing risks to the Group's delivery through the way we are working with the Group. The 9 month period from the Group's recommendations to public consultation allows time for officials to further develop the draft NPS IB if needed, but if the Group deliver a complete NPS IB that is acceptable to relevant Ministers, this period could be shortened.

2. Briefing notes

16 July – 10 August

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
New Zealand's international efforts on marine debris	MfE	Provides an overview of MfE's international engagement on marine debris including which countries and forums/organisations to work with and why	17 July
Proposed process and timeline for mandatory product stewardship	MfE	Outlines proposals for considering declaring four groups of products to be priority products subject to mandatory product stewardship: e-waste (lithium ion batteries), agrichemicals, tyres, and refrigerants.	19 July

3. Cabinet material being prepared

16 July – 10 August

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
Approval to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	Seeks Cabinet's agreement to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 1 October 2019. To achieve this, the paper seeks agreement to undertake parliamentary treaty examination and draft proposed amendments to the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations required to implement the Amendment.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 2 August Due to DEV Committee: 8 August Due to Cabinet: 13 August
Ministerial Advisory Group review of the Hazardous Substances Compliance System	(ENV) or (DEV) - <i>time dependant</i>	This paper seeks to provide background on issues with the hazardous substances compliance system and to seek agreement on the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Group to undertake a review of the hazardous compliance system.	Due to Committee: <i>TBC</i> Due to Cabinet: <i>TBC</i>

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 23 July 2018

Environment weekly meeting 12.00pm – 12.30pm, Monday 23 July

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers

Shaun Lewis, Director Investments and Partnerships

Glenn Wigley, Director Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

David Pearson, Director, Strategic Business Performance

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	Budget process	David Pearson	Verbal update	10
3.	Upcoming announcements	James Walker	Verbal update	10

Upcoming events

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| 27 July | 5.30pm
6.30pm | – Speaking at the 50th AGM of Scrap Metal Recycling Association |
| 30 July | 4.30pm
6.00pm | – Speaking at the Packaging Forum AGM |

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Waste Minimisation Fund Panel Moderation Meeting

The Waste Minimisation Fund Panel are meeting from 23 July till 26 July to moderate their assessments of applications received in the 2018 round.

1.2. Waste Advisory Board Gazette Notice and website update

A Gazette Notice will be published announcing the new appointments to the Waste Advisory Board once successful applicants have confirmed their acceptance of the appointment with your office. We aim to have this published on 26 July. Following this announcement the website will be updated with new member's details.

2. Briefing notes

23 July – 17 August

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
Advice on Programme of Meetings in Japan, Korea, and Indonesia in October.	MfE, DOC, LINZ, MFAT	Provides you with options and objectives for a programme of meetings between 22 - 30 October. Includes attendance at the World Circular Economy Forum in Japan, a programme of bilateral meetings and/or site visits in Japan and Korea, and potential attendance at the Our Ocean conference in Bali, Indonesia.	2 August

3. Cabinet material

23 July – 17 August

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Supporting New Zealand's Transition to a Circular Economy for	(CBC) Cabinet Business Committee	Sets out a system view about the management of plastics to reduce the environmental impacts of plastics and to implement a circular economy approach. The work will lead to the development of a strategy and action plan that will document a coherent and comprehensive response to New Zealand's management of plastics.	Due to Cabinet 23 July
Proposal to phase-out single-use plastic shopping bags	(CBC) Cabinet Business Committee	Seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags.	Due to Cabinet 23 July
Negotiating mandate for new treaty on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction	(ESR) External Relations and Security Committee	Seeks a mandate for formal negotiations for a new treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Note that the Minister of Foreign affairs will consult with you on this paper as the Minister of Conservation, and Minister Parker as the Minister for the Environment.	Minister Peter due to lodge: 26 July Due to ESR Committee 31 July Due to Cabinet 6 August
Approval to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	Seeks Cabinet's agreement to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 1 October 2019. To achieve this, the paper seeks agreement to undertake parliamentary treaty examination and draft proposed amendments to the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations required to implement the Amendment.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 2 August Due to DEV Committee: 8 August Due to Cabinet: 13 August

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Review of the Hazardous Substances Compliance System	(ENV) or (DEV) - <i>time dependant</i>	Seeks to provide background on issues with the hazardous substances compliance system, to seek agreement to undertake a review, and the form which this review would take.	Due to Committee: <i>TBC</i> Due to Cabinet: <i>TBC</i>
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

Proactively released

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 30 July 2018

Environment weekly meeting 11.45pm – 12.15pm, Monday 30 July

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Shaun Lewis, Director Investments and Partnerships

Glenn Wigley, Director Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

Liz Moncrief, Manager, Planning Standards

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	Minister initiated applications	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
3.	National Sword update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10

Upcoming meetings

31 July	3.30pm – 4.00pm	Minister Parker
6 August	4.00pm – 4.30 pm	Jeroen Douwes – EPA Board
7 August	3.30pm – 4.00pm	Minister Parker
8 August	12.45pm – 1.15pm	EPA Board members

Upcoming events

30 July	4.30pm – 6.00pm	Speaking at the Packaging Forum AGM
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1. Updates for noting

1.1. Expansion of the waste disposal levy

We provided you with a preliminary timeline for expanding the waste disposal levy in March briefing note B-18-04279. We noted the timeline was subject to securing funding. We now have baseline funding available and can proceed with some of the contracted work needed to support the regulatory process (a cost benefit analysis and technical work on landfill classifications). We will discuss the revised timeline with you at our meeting. s9(2)(g)(i)

1.2. Update on National Planning Standards consultation

Regional roadshows on the draft first set of National Planning Standards (planning standards) have now finished. The 18 roadshows had very high interest, attracting approximately 1000 attendees. A wide range of groups were represented including environmental NGOs, councils, consultancies and industry groups. We met with councils in each location and held seven hui.

Early feedback suggests that the first set strikes an appropriate balance of consistency and local variation. Questions asked at the roadshows were highly technical and detailed. Practitioners are now beginning to understand how plans will need to change to align with the planning standards.

Roadshows: Observations and themes

- Substantial rule redrafting may be necessary because of standard definitions. Current plan definitions often function as quasi-rules and contain inclusions, exclusions and additional detail. The planning standards definitions have not been drafted in this way for clarity. Requiring rules to be in tables was also noted as being challenging, particularly for complex rules. We are continuing to test how this could work for a variety of plan formats.
- Practitioners appear generally supportive of a structured approach to including local variation in plans through consistent zones and common spatial planning tools such as overlays and precincts.
- Practitioners are interested in what future sets of planning standards may address, and how they will be used with other national direction tools. There is interest from different sector groups in having standardised provisions for their activities (eg, retirement village sector, utility providers) and having standardised metrics or methodologies to support the identification and management of resources such as freshwater, landscapes and biodiversity.
- Concerns raised that placing iwi consultation processes directly into an RMA plan may preclude adopting new and innovative methods without first having to follow a plan change process.

Council meetings: Observations and themes

- General support for the revised implementation approach offering five years for most councils and seven years to those that are about to, or have recently settled a large plan review process. This has largely allayed concerns raised with the default RMA timeframes.

- Concerns the requirement to transition to an ePlan system requires financial and human resources that many councils do not currently have, or have not budgeted for. It was often suggested that central government should bear the costs of paying for councils to upgrade to an ePlan.
- Messages that ongoing implementation support for councils into the future is critical to embedding the first set of planning standards so that they achieve their intended outcomes.

Hui: Observations and themes

- Support for providing a consistent location for references to relevant iwi planning documents, while still integrating Māori values throughout plans and policy statements.

Next steps

Following analysis of submissions and possible workshops you will receive a number of briefings over the next few months, including:

- update on submissions received (early September)
- briefing on the zone framework and spatial planning tools standards (early October)
- detailed briefing on submissions, options analysis and seeking your direction for final decisions (December)
- briefing seeking decisions on the RMA section 32AA further evaluation report and recommendations on the draft planning standards, including draft cabinet paper (February 2019).

We note also that the first set of National Planning Standards must be approved by 18 April 2019. The New Zealand Planning Institute is holding its annual conference from 2-5 April 2019. This could provide an opportunity for you to launch the final first set of planning standards should the necessary processes be fulfilled.

2. Briefing notes

30 July – 24 August

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New Zealand's international efforts on marine debris	MfE	Provides you with an overview of our international engagement on marine debris including which countries and forums/organisations to work with and why	31 July
Advice on Programme of Meetings in Japan, Korea, and Indonesia in October.	MfE, DOC, LINZ, MFAT	Provides you with options and objectives for a programme of meetings between 22-30 October. Includes attendance at the World Circular Economy Forum in Japan, a programme of bilateral meetings and/or site visits in Japan and Korea, and potential attendance at the Our Ocean conference in Bali, Indonesia.	2 August

3. Cabinet material

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Ministerial Advisory Group review of the Hazardous Substances Compliance System	(ENV) or (DEV) - <i>time dependant</i>	Seeks to provide background on issues with the hazardous substances compliance system and to seek agreement on the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Group to undertake a review of the hazardous compliance system.	Due to Committee: TBC Due to Cabinet: TBC

Proactively released