

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

For the week starting 5 November 2018

### Environment weekly meeting 1.30pm – 2.00pm, Monday 5 November

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System

Andrew Needham, Senior Analyst, Hono Tātaki

Apologies: James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers

Shaun Lewis, Director Investments and Partnerships

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Golden Bay Cement	Andrew Needham	Verbal update	20

## 1. Actions and decisions

1.1. s9(2)(b)(ii)



1.2. s9(2)(b)(ii)



s9(2)(b)(ii)

Proactively released

Yes/No

## 2. Updates for noting

### 2.1. Productivity Commission final report on *Low-emissions Economy* – Responses to Waste recommendations

The Ministry has prepared draft Government responses to the six recommendations made in Chapter 15 (Waste) of the Productivity Commission's *Low-Emissions Economy* final report. In mid-November we will provide you with a briefing seeking your approval of the draft responses. Once approved, these responses will be added into a cross-agency Cabinet paper outlining Government responses to all recommendations of the *Low-Emissions Economy* report.

Proactively released

### 3. Briefing notes

5 November – 30 November

Issue or event	Lead agency	Further information	Date due to your office
Essential Freshwater Avoiding Further Loss of Wetlands	MfE	Provides preliminary options for avoiding further loss and degradation of wetlands. This will provide recommendations of options for discussion and continued development with DOC, Kahui Wai Māori, Freshwater Leaders Group and others.	9 November
Productivity Commission's Final Report on Low-Emissions Economy - Waste chapter recommendations	MfE	Summarises the recommendations of chapter 15 (Waste) of the Productivity Commission's Low-Emissions Economy final report. The briefing proposes Government responses to each recommendation, and seeks your feedback on each proposed response.	14 November
Tyres - mandatory product stewardship and National Environmental Standard	MfE	Provides advice on tyres mandatory product stewardship and seeks decision on next step for the proposed National Environmental Standard for Outdoor Storage of Tyres.	13 November
Te Ōhanga Āmiomio	MfE	Introduces the three Circular Economy initiatives progressing in Rotorua, Bay of Plenty.	16 November

### 4. Cabinet material

5 November – 30 November

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Single use plastic bags phase out.	(DEV) Cabinet Economic Development Committee	This paper proposes mandatory phase out of single use plastic bags.	<b>Due to DEV Committee:</b> 7 November <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 12 November

### 5. Official Information Act requests

#### 5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
I'd like to get copies of any reports memos, briefings that have been across the minister's desk, on the August 1 letter from three mayors, calling for a feasibility study on a national solution to onshore recycling of paper and cardboard. Could any other material related to the content of the August 1 letter, also be included.	s 9(2)(a) Fairfax Media	18-O-02186	31 October	6 November
A copy of Talking points on Container Deposit scheme – May 2018	s 9(2)(a) National Party	18-O-02214	16 November	23 November

A copy of Talking points on Container Deposit scheme – May 2018	s 9(2)(a) National Party	18-O-02213	16 November	23 November
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## 5.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I request the following deliverables:</p> <p>1.1.1 Governance Group Terms of Reference.</p> <p>1.1.2 Copies of the Governance Group meeting minutes provided to MfE.</p> <p>1.2.1 Community water values compilation document summary sent to MfE.</p> <p>1.2.2 Notes and preliminary outcomes from the Water Forum held 10 April 2018.</p> <p>1.3.1 Assessment of SABER activities and outcomes and how the projects will collaborate.</p> <p>1.3.2 Agreed timeframes for the UCLCCWP to be informed by SABER values outputs.</p> <p>1.4 Draft of UCLCCWP scoping document.</p> <p>2.1.1 d) Detailed project information and photos for Million Metres provided to MfE.</p> <p>3.1.1 a) The agenda, minutes and attendance list from the June workshop attended by Councils, Research Institutes and Community.</p> <p>b) An outline of the agreed research priorities in a concept form.</p> <p>4.1.1 a) The list of all project team members including expected project milestones and deliverables for all project teams</p> <p>4.2.1 Copies of contracts executed for the FIF Project Manager, Administrator, Communications Manager and UCLCCWP Water Plan Leader.</p> <p>4.4.1 b) the Annual report.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	18-D-02084	5 November
<p>Substantial parts of "Document 1" have been redacted. The only reason given for redactions is "Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of a natural person." The redactions undertaken appear to go way beyond that. Can you please provide Document 1 without redaction except for the names of people who need to be protected.</p> <p>Also, page 19 of Document 1 details the comments of the Panel who evaluated the TDC request.</p> <p>Can you please provide correspondence from the Ministry (including emails) that detail the supplementary information sought from TDC, along with a copy of the TDC responses.</p> <p>I am prepared to meet the reasonable costs of complying with this request. You may answer my request by email.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	18-D-02157	14 November
<p>1) Data showing the level of funding paid to each territorial authority (TA) or regional council in New Zealand, quarterly, from the waste disposal levy. This data should be from when data on payments starts, up until the latest payments made, broken down by TA.</p>	s 9(2)(a) Infometrics	18-D-02158	14 November

<p>2) Any data or reports held by MfE that details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of solid waste disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA</li> <li>b. The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of food waste disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA</li> <li>c. The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA</li> <li>d. The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of recyclable materials disposed of each quarter or year, broken down by TA and recyclable type</li> <li>e. The amount (in tonnes, kgs, or similar units) of waste materials exported each year</li> <li>f. The proportion of recyclable materials which are actually recycled each year, broken down by recycling location (NZ or overseas)</li> </ul> <p>3) Any data pertaining to waste facilities in NZ, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The location of each waste facility monitored in New Zealand, by TA</li> <li>b. The opening and closing date of each facility</li> <li>c. The currently used, and total capacity, of each facility</li> </ul> <p>4) Any reports produced by MfE, or produced for MfE, which outlines the level of waste present in NZ, or the level of waste disposed of in NZ</p> <p>Where the points under (2) are not able to be provided by TA, I would ask that they be provided by waste facility, or failing that, the most disaggregated measure possible. I would also ask that this data in Points 1-3 be provided in Excel documents. I would further ask that Point 4 be provided as searchable PDF documents.</p>			
<p>Freshwater Fund Grant to Tasman District Council</p> <p>Can you advise the conditions of the grant, and</p> <p>a copy of the material submitted by TDC in support of their application, and</p> <p>copies of officials advise and methodology in arriving at the decisions of which applications to support.</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p> <p>Millers Firewood &amp; Landscape Supplies</p>	<p>18-D-02200</p>	<p>21 November</p>

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

For the week starting 26 November 2018

### Environment weekly meeting 12.00pm – 12.30pm, Monday 26 November

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers

Amanda Moran, Deputy Secretary, Natural and Built System

Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System

Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Work programme	James Walker	Verbal update	10
3.	Meeting of Environment Ministers, Australia	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
4.	Seacleaners	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5

## 1. Actions and decisions

### 1.1. Updating Cabinet on your broader resource efficiency and waste programme

At Cabinet on Monday 12 November, Ministers asked for an update from you on the broader resource efficiency and waste portfolio. The update is to include the overall work programme, issues being worked on in the short, medium and long term, links with other agencies, decision points for Ministers and timing of work. Ministers were also interested in the links with other work such as the Provincial Growth Fund where there have been a number of applications for Waste to Energy plants and other waste management projects. Information on the work programme could be provided to the DEV committee on 12 December.

The Cabinet Office advised an updated A3 and oral update is sufficient for this update. We can prepare an update outlining progress over the short, medium, long term; decision points for you; and discuss links with other work programmes, such as the Provincial Growth Fund.

We can provide your Office with a draft A3 and talking points by 7 December for your consideration. The update can then be presented to DEV on 12 December.

*Do you agree that we prepare an oral item with an A3 schematic and talking points to Cabinet on 12 December?*

**Yes/ No**

### 1.2. Ministers of the Environment Meeting 5-7 December

You have expressed a desire to attend the annual meeting of Environment Ministers in Canberra 5 to 7 December. We have provided a list of suggested meetings with Ministers if you attend the meeting. Should you wish to meet with these Ministers, we will contact officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to arrange these meetings. A suitably qualified official from our Ministry can be made available to accompany you.

Ministers	Topics	Extra topics
Victoria	<b>Landfill levy</b> Quantum of the levy	Development strategy for recovered resources Victoria
NSW	Annual increase for levy Apportionment of levy to state waste minimisation projects and state accounts	Funding waste minimisation and resource recovery projects NSW
Queensland	Circular Economy sectoral analysis <b>Data collection and reporting</b> Recycling, reuse, minimisation, disposal Waste tracking Responses to National sword	CDS implementation Whole of government approach to Circular Economy

*Do you want officials from MFAT to arrange meetings with these Ministers when you are in Canberra?*

**Yes/ No**

*Do you want an official from the Ministry to accompany you?*

**Yes/ No**

## 2. Updates for noting

### 2.1. Chemical Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The 30th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP30) was held in Quito, Ecuador on 5 to 9 November. Two Ministry for the Environment managers represented New Zealand, and chaired the Montreal Protocol Budget Committee, and there was agreement on a proposal that reduced members' contributions for 2019 by 4 per cent by using built-up reserves.

Most of the other MOP30 decisions were on relatively technical matters, e.g. reporting requirements, encouraging energy efficiency (especially in high ambient temperature countries), and concerns around detected emissions of the banned substance CFC-11 in China.

Two MOP30 side-events covered how Europe, Australia and Japan have approached their implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, including different approaches to pre-charged equipment, so this information will be useful in informing our approach to this topic, including conversations with the industry.

It was announced at MOP30 that 60 countries have ratified the Kigali Amendment. The Kigali Amendment will phase down the manufacture and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – the Amendment will come into force internationally on 1 January 2019.

We have provided Minister Parker's office with a draft LEG paper for cross-party consultation on New Zealand's Kigali regulations, with the aim of submitting these to LEG in December 2018. The regulations will create a permitting system to phase down the import and export of HFCs which the EPA will manage. The permitting system is necessary for New Zealand to ratify the Kigali Amendment in October 2019. Once ratified the Kigali Amendment will take effect domestically on 1 January 2020.

Separately, Minister Parker has also considered a draft LEG paper to list chemicals recently banned or controlled by the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions in schedules to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act. As with the Kigali Amendment LEG paper, the aim is to submit this paper to LEG in December 2018 to meet our international obligations.

## **2.2. Environmental Protection Authority Briefing – Resource Management Act and Related Hearing Processes**

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) have provided you with a briefing note (RMA and Related Hearing Processes – EQN-35061-L6G2X8) about their role in relation to providing secretarial and support services to decision-makers appointed to hear high-profile, nationally important decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). We provided feedback to the EPA on the development of this advice. Outstanding issues from our perspective include:

- s9(2)(f)(iv)

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We have advised the EPA that we are willing to have further discussions about how best to share skills or consider opportunities for secondments.

## **2.3. Our Regulatory Stewardship Strategy 2018**

On 30 November we will be publishing the Regulatory Stewardship Strategy 2018 on our website. We have obligations, set by Treasury on behalf of the Minister of Finance, to publish systems descriptions, assessment information and forward plans, and report to the Treasury Secretary on our progress against stewardship expectations. A copy of the strategy will be sent to your office prior to publication.


Several key, and what we consider to be fundamental issues facing our regulatory systems, were identified through the assessments:

- growing awareness of cross-domain impacts
- rising public expectations for the quality and effectiveness of local planning
- tensions over how resources are allocated, used and conserved, and conflicts between resource uses
- demand for collaborative approaches at national and local levels
- how to address iwi rights and interests in a post-settlement era
- how to ensure New Zealand actions decisions from international forums it is signatory to
- collection and effective use of quality data and science
- poor compliance.

We have drawn on this material to inform our business planning process, in particular during development of the strategic story supporting capability and other initiatives for Budget 2019.

2.4.

s9(2)(g)(i)



## 2.5. Ministerials

While there are still a number of outstanding Ministerials, the team continues to make significant inroads to reducing the outstanding volume.

Workflow improvements have assisted in streamlining Ministerial processing, and together with additional new staff being recruited, should see the current level managed down to meet the expected completion timelines.

## 2.6. National Resource Recovery Data

You recently requested further information on exports of recyclable material. We have met with Customs and are preparing a data set that can be used and updated as required. The Customs data team will be working with Statistics New Zealand to ensure the data is quality checked.

## 2.7. s9(2)(f)(iv)



## 2.8. Coastal Hazards guidance wins national award

The Ministry's guidance for local government on *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change* has won the annual Terry Healy Award from the New Zealand Coastal Society for "a project which has made a significant contribution to New Zealand's coastal and marine environment". The Coastal Society is an expert group of Engineering New Zealand, and the award was announced at the Society's annual conference in Gisborne on Thursday 22 November. The award was presented jointly to the Ministry and the expert authors of the report, including NIWA and Victoria University. The guidance was nominated for the award by Vicky Robertson.

The Minister for Climate Change, Hon Shaw launched this guidance last December. This year the Ministry and authors have travelled to twelve regional centres around the country holding workshops with council staff and other practitioners to help implement it, as well as presenting to elected councillors and community meetings.

### 3. Briefing notes

26 November – 14 December

Issue or event	Lead agency	Further information	Date due to your office
Ōhanga Āmiomio: Circular Economy Regional Hub and Pacific Regional Summit	MfE	Provides you with an update on Ōhanga Āmiomio circular economy projects including the Bay of Plenty Regional Hub (Te Ōhanga) and the Pacific Summit in Rotorua in April 2019.	29 November
Productivity Commission's Final Report on Low-Emissions Economy - Waste chapter recommendations	MfE	Summarises the recommendations of chapter 15 (Waste) of the Productivity Commission's Low-Emissions Economy final report. The briefing proposes Government responses to each recommendation, and seeks your feedback on each proposed response.	29 November
Community Environment Fund: Future Funding for Environment Centres and Future Funding Rounds	MfE	Provides options for the future funding of environment centres and possibilities for a potential funding round for the Community Environment Fund.	3 December
Appointments to be made in 2019	MfE	An overview of all upcoming appointments and expected appointments to be made in 2019. This information is to be provided to Cabinet office.	12 December

### 4. Cabinet material

26 November – 14 December

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Update on Resource Efficiency & Waste portfolio work programme	(DEV) Cabinet Economic Development Committee	Updates Ministers on the resource efficiency and waste portfolio.	<b>Due to DEV Committee:</b> 12 December

### 5. Official Information Act requests

#### 5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
I would like to get a copy of this work, which is referred to below in the minister's letter : " The Government's task force on China's National Sword initiative is presently assessing the issue of resource recovery at a national scale. This includes how paper and cardboard are being recycled. The taskforce is actively working with local government, and with industry and international experts on this issue. I am expecting its assessment and recommended long term strategy in October."	s 9(2)(a) Fairfax	18-O-02430	27 December	4 December

## 5.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
1/ A copy of Envirofert Limited's Waste Minimization Funding Application in its entirety.	s 9(2)(a)	18-D-02493	12 December
2/ A copy of Mfl's decision on the above.			
3/ Any changes that Envirofert Limited have notified Mfl of in regards to how the funding is to be spent.			

Proactively released