



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand: Update

Portfolio Associate Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)

On 12 September 2019, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 24 July 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:
 - 1.1 noted an update on the work programme to improve the waste management system in New Zealand;
 - 1.2 noted that the Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage) intends to publicly announce the development of a potential New Zealand container deposit refund scheme within the next few weeks;

[DEV-19-MIN-0196]

- 2 **noted** that the paper under ENV-19-SUB-0050 provides background on Container Refund Schemes (CRS) and an update on the Associate Minister for the Environment's plans to investigate a CRS in New Zealand;

- 3 **noted** that these plans are based on the investigation of a comprehensive CRS, section 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 4 **noted** that a comprehensive CRS has the potential to contribute to waste minimisation, increased recycling, increased materials recovery, reduced litter, job creation, and opportunities for community fundraising if well designed;

- 5 **noted** that:

- 5.1 the Ministry for the Environment has received an application to the Waste Management Fund to design a national CRS;
- 5.2 officials have been engaging with the applicants to ensure that the project aligns with the government's policy objectives and includes input from key technical experts, stakeholder groups and government agencies;

- 6 section 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 7 **noted** that any comprehensive CRS will require Cabinet's support to proceed to implementation, as the framework for mandatory participation in a CRS would be established via regulations under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008;
- 8 **noted** that the expected cost of the design project (phase 1) is currently estimated at \$1.2 million, likely to be funded from a combination of the Waste Minimisation Fund and Ministry for the Environment's baseline funding.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Shane Jones
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Hard-copy distribution:

Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)

Proactive release