



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government response to Select Committee on Food Waste

Portfolio Associate Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)

On 4 June 2020, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 12 March 2020, the Environment Committee published its report entitled *Briefing to Investigate Food Waste in New Zealand*;
- 2 **noted** that government agencies (in particular the Ministries of Social Development, Environment, and Primary Industries (including New Zealand Food Safety)) are increasing their work on food waste issues, in particular food rescue and redistribution, in response to the economic effects of COVID-19, and that Budget 2020 provided substantial additional funding for existing and new initiatives in this area;
- 3 **noted** that the updated Waste Strategy to be developed during 2020-2021 is expected to include a specific focus on food waste throughout the supply chain, and in particular on rescue and redistribution as a way of minimising food waste;
- 4 **noted** that the Environment Committee recommended that:
 - 4.1 the House and the government take note of the report, appended to the Committee's report, about food waste in New Zealand, drafted by the committee's advisor, Associate Professor Miranda Miroso;
 - 4.2 the government adopt a national definition of and measure of food waste, in line with international approaches;
 - 4.3 the government include reducing food waste with a reduction target as part of a national waste strategy and implementation plan;
- 5 **agreed** that the government responds by endorsing the Environment Committee's recommendations and advising that it will progress them as part of the government's overall work programme on waste minimisation, and in particular the forthcoming work on a new Waste Strategy and on establishing a solid platform of data to inform future policy work;

6 **approved** the Government response attached as Appendix 2 to the paper under ENV-20-SUB-0019.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Shane Jones
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

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