

## Weekly Update

**Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment**

**For the week starting 5 August 2019**

### Environment weekly meeting 3.30pm – 4.15pm, Monday 5 August

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency

Amanda Moran, Deputy Secretary, Natural and Built Systems

Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built Systems

Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Fox River	Glenn Wigley	Verbal update	10
3.	Green Ribbon Awards update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
4.	EPA Board appointments update	Glenn Wigley	Verbal update	10
5.	Kotahitanga	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	5

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## 1. Updates for noting

### 1.1. Monitoring compliance - (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018

The Ministry's strategy is to continue to undertake its enforcement role by:

- undertaking education and engagement to promote compliance
- monitoring to identify potential non-compliance
- assessing, and where necessary investigating, significant non-compliance
- taking appropriate action when non-compliance is identified.

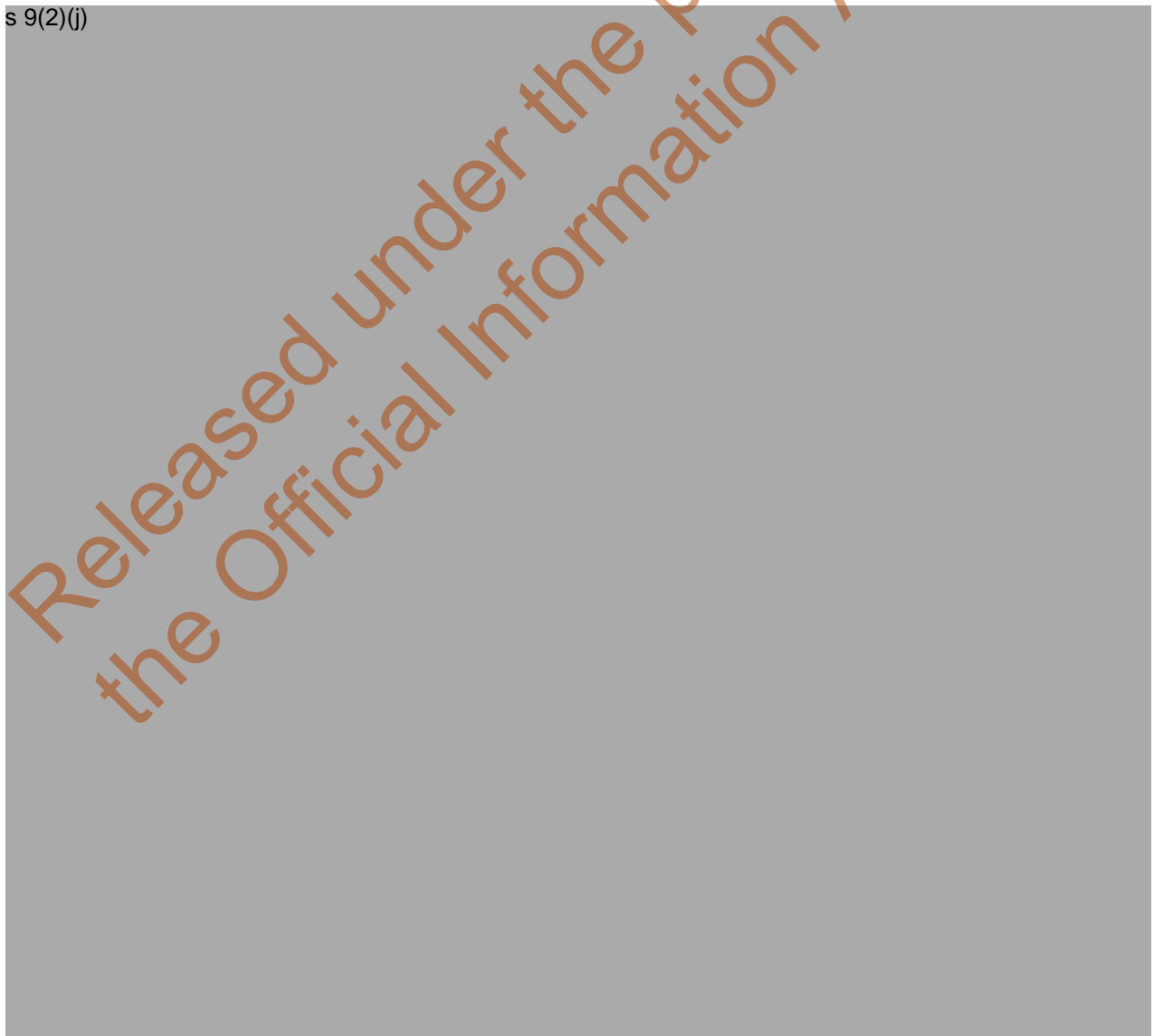
As at 31 July, we have had a total 179 reports of non-compliance with the ban have been made through the Ministry's online portal since 1 July. Broken down week by week, there were 56 reports in the first week, 60 reports in the second week. Numbers then decreased in the third and fourth weeks with 34 and 22 reports respectively and only seven to date in week five.

Regarding phone call enquiries related to the ban, the Ministry's reception desk had over 100 calls inquiries during the first week of July. The number of calls has now dropped.

We received a total of 76 email inquiries. There is a further breakdown of the queries we received in the attached infographics sheet (appendix one).

The compliance priority remains education and engagement to promote compliance to ensure retailers understand the ban and the alternatives available

s 9(2)(j)



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the Official Information Act 1982

## 2. Briefing notes

5 August – 30 August

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05730 Update on Productivity Commission inquiry into local government funding and financing	MfE	This briefing provides an overview of the inquiry's draft findings and their relationship to Environment and Climate Change work programmes	13 August
2019-B-05832 Meeting note with Foodstuffs	MfE	This meeting note provides background on the Scion WMF project to with labels, NZ Plastic Packaging Declaration commitments and talking points	22 August

## 3. Cabinet material

5 August – 30 August

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05776 Landfill Levy Expansion	ENV	This paper seeks approval to publicly release the consultation document on a proposed expansion of the waste disposal levy and reporting requirements.	<b>Due to your office:</b> 16 August <b>Due to lodge:</b> 19 September <b>Due to Committee:</b> 26 September <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 30 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board nominations 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint Jacqui Forbes and Denise Roche to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	<b>Due to your office:</b> 3 September <b>Due to lodge:</b> 4 September <b>Due to Committee:</b> 11 September <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 16 September
2019-C-05869 Update on a New Zealand container return scheme	ENV	Update on a New Zealand container return scheme	<b>Due to your office:</b> 14 August <b>Due to lodge:</b> 15 August <b>Due to Committee:</b> 22 August <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 25 August

#### 4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction	Te Arawhiti	LEG	Seeks to introduce the Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill, which gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed with the mandated entity Ngāti Hinerangi Trust and PSGE Te Puāwaitaanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust on 4 May 2019	MfE supports this paper. We noted that the accompanying Departmental Disclosure Statement noted that no steps had been undertaken to assess the legislation against New Zealand's international obligations; in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have asked Te Arawhiti to advise when it considers it should start assessing proposed legislation for consistency with international obligations such as the UNDRIP, and providing Ministers with this advice.
Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities: Māori interests in the transition period	HUD & Te Arawhiti	DEV	This Cabinet paper reports back to Cabinet on measures to assist Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities to support Māori urban development aspirations and protect Māori rights and interests in the transition period ahead of its full establishment.	MfE has reviewed an early draft and are comfortable with the contents.
Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	SWC or DEV	This draft paper recommends ways to reset the Government's Build Programme to better respond to housing need and the implementation issues with the KiwiBuild programme. It proposes to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation</li> <li>2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support</li> <li>3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals</li> </ol>	MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The price points reflect overall living costs (including transport, energy and water costs) rather than just home purchase costs. This will likely have environmental benefits, and require consideration of price point, typology and location more holistically.</li> <li>2. The place-based assessments are aligned with the Housing and Business Assessments prepared under the NPS-UDC, and to progress these as part of (or in conjunction with) any spatial planning exercises underway. These could be prioritised in high growth urban areas that demonstrate housing shortages.</li> </ol>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area</li> <li>5. Retain the price points for Kiwibuild, and replace the target of 100,000 homes with a range of indicators, such as volumes of homes delivered, the cost of construction and land, housing affordability measures, number of homeless, and the quality of housing.</li> </ol>	

## 5. Official Information Act requests

### 5.1. Departmental

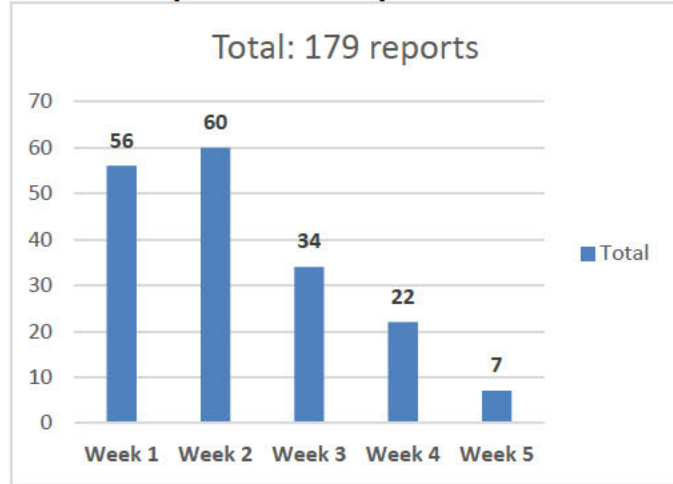
Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
A copy of any and all information in relation to the decision not to hold the Green Ribbon Awards in 2019. Please also include any information on the steps being taken to make the Green Ribbon Awards 'even better' (see <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards">www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards</a> ).	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01414	7 August

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# Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018 – Progress Report (1 July – 31 July 2019)

**STATISTICS** (number of reports of alleged non-compliant bags via the [online portal](#), phone and email queries related to plastic bags)

## Number of Reports of Non-Compliance



## Other Data:

### Number of Phone Calls

Week 1	+ 100
Week 2	+ 20
Week 3	+ 10
Week 4	+ 5
Week 5	+ 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>+ 137</b>

Number of Email Queries (since July 1<sup>st</sup>)  
76

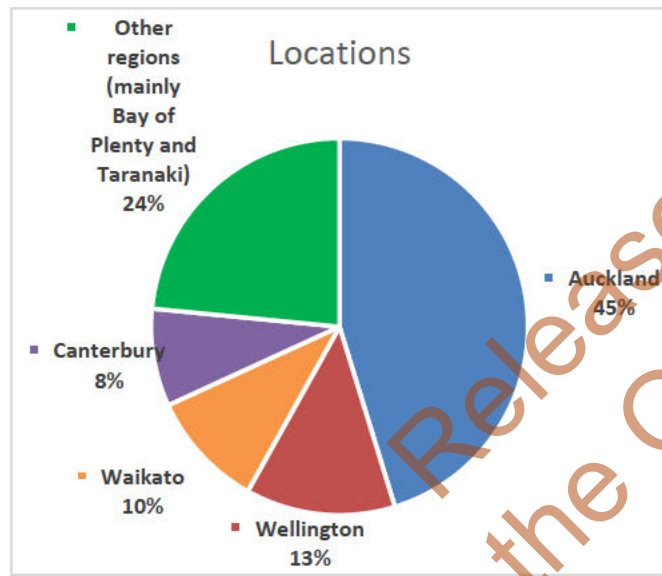
Number of Ministerials  
11 (none are solely about plastic bags)

## CURRENT ACTIONS

### What we currently do:

- We provide advice, via email or on the phone, to help businesses and consumers understand the ban;
- We provide an [online form](#) via the MfE's website which the public can use to report retailers providing banned bags;
- We respond to reports received through the [online portal](#) about the supply of banned plastic bags, and follow these up directly with the retailer involved.

## ANALYTICS (of the bag reports)



The category 'Other' encompasses hair salon, games retailers and department stores.

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## Weekly Update

**Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment**

**For the week starting 12 August 2019**

**There is no meeting scheduled this week**

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## 1. Updates for noting

### 1.1. Landfill levy expansion

Last week we provided your office with a briefing note and draft cabinet paper on the landfill levy.

We are meeting with you on Tuesday 13 August to discuss your feedback on the Cabinet paper and the draft discussion document, which has also been provided to your office.

### 1.2. Consultation on proposed improvements to assessments and reassessments of hazardous substances

On 29 July, Cabinet approved to release the discussion document on proposed improvements to assessments and reassessments of hazardous substances. We are planning to open the consultation on 12 August until 30 September.

### 1.3. Waste Advisory Board nominations

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We will send the Cabinet paper out for agency consultation on 12 August following any comments received from Minister of Māori Development Hon Nanaia Mahuta's office.

### 1.4. Update on the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) 2019 funding round

Following the WMF panel moderation meeting on 29-31 July we are now compiling and finalising the panel's comments and funding recommendations. From over 130 applications, the panel is recommending WMF funding of around \$10 million to just over 30 applicants.

We will send the briefing to you, with the panel's recommendations, by 23 August, and have allowed for our weeks for you to review and decide particular funding decisions.

The next step will be for the Ministry to advise unsuccessful applicants of the outcome of your decision. We will also commence the due diligence process (undertaken by a third party) for the successful applicants. We expect the due diligence process to be completed by the end of December.

Based on the above dates, our timeline for the project planning stage is to have the majority of these projects successfully in deed by the end of March. This should be a much smoother process this year based on the number of projects recommended for approval and our additional internal resources.

As the current panellists are approaching the end of their three-year appointments we will also be exploring options for WMF panel composition in 2020 and beyond. Feedback from this years' experience was that the panel could benefit from additional technological expertise (particularly in the resource and materials innovation sector), as well as a stronger Mātauranga Māori or Māori perspective.

We will provide further advice on this matter in due course.

### 1.5. Public sector e-bike initiative

The Ministry for the Environment is working with other government agencies to develop a discount scheme for public sector staff for e-bikes. The purpose of the initiative is to reduce carbon from transport and to improve health by encouraging the purchase and use of e-bikes for travelling short trips.

As stewards of the public system, it is important that public sector organisations like the Ministry leads by example by improving health and wellbeing, and reducing their impact on climate change.

In August, the cross-agency group is inviting suppliers to qualify for a preferred suppliers list for e-bike offers they can provide for public sector staff. This will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tender Service and comply with standard government processes.

The New Zealand Transport Agency's procurement team will manage the development of a preferred supplier panel. Once suppliers have responded with their offers, each agency will decide which offer works best and promote that offer to its respective staff.

## 2. Briefing notes

12 August – 6 September

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05730 Update on Productivity Commission inquiry into local government funding and financing	MfE	This briefing provides an overview of the inquiry's draft findings and their relationship to Environment and Climate Change work programmes.	15 August
2019-B-05888 Vulnerable landfills	MfE	Briefing to support Cabinet Paper on vulnerable landfills	22 August
2019-B-05832 Meeting note with Foodstuffs	MfE	This meeting note provides background on the Scion WMF project to with labels, NZ Plastic Packaging Declaration commitments and talking points	22 August
Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) 2019 funding round	MfE	Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) 2019 funding round recommendations	23 August
2019-B-05870 Proactive Release of Cabinet paper for Resource recovery and circular economy work programme	MfE	This briefing provides you with recommendations for proactive release of cabinet paper for public release.	26 August

## 3. Cabinet material

12 August –30 September

Paper name and number	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint Jacqui Forbes, Denise Roche, and Don Chittock to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	<b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 11 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 16 September
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	ENV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	<b>Due to your office</b> 22 August <b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 26 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 30 September

#### 4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

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Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction	Te Arawhiti	LEG	Seeks to introduce the Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill, which gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed with the mandated entity Ngāti Hinerangi Trust and PSGE Te Puāwaitaanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust on 4 May 2019	MfE supports this paper. We noted that the accompanying Departmental Disclosure Statement noted that no steps had been undertaken to assess the legislation against New Zealand's international obligations; in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have asked Te Arawhiti to advise when it considers it should start assessing proposed legislation for consistency with international obligations such as the UNDRIP, and providing Ministers with this advice.
Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	SWC or DEV	<p>This draft paper recommends ways to reset the Government's Build Programme to better respond to housing need and the implementation issues with the KiwiBuild programme.</p> <p>It proposes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation</li> <li>2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support</li> <li>3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals</li> <li>4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area</li> <li>5. Retain the price points for Kiwibuild, and replace the target of 100,000 homes with a range of indicators, such as volumes of homes delivered, the cost of construction</li> </ol>	<p>MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The price points reflect overall living costs (including transport, energy and water costs) rather than just home purchase costs. This will likely have environmental benefits, and require consideration of price point, typology and location more holistically.</li> <li>2. The place-based assessments are aligned with the Housing and Business Assessments prepared under the NPS-UDC, and to progress these as part of (or in conjunction with) any spatial planning exercises underway. These could be prioritised in high growth urban areas that demonstrate housing shortages.</li> </ol>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			and land, housing affordability measures, number of homeless, and the quality of housing.	

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## 5. Official Information Act requests

### 5.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I request information around the spending of funding received from the waste minimization fund or any other government grant. In particular, I want to know if there is any stipulation on buying from New Zealand suppliers before going offshore to purchase with any government funding?</p> <p>I want to know if New Zealand manufacturers are protected by the government to ensure that any government funded projects be supplied by New Zealand made product where possible as a first requirement.</p> <p>Please forward me any information around the rules of spending government funding for NZ projects.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01509	21 August

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## Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 19 August 2019

### Environment weekly meeting 3.00 – 3.45pm, Monday 19 August

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency

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 Update	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	15
3.	Update on PGF	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5

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## **1. Updates for noting**

### **1.1. Visit to Westland, West Coast**

On Friday 9 August, Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System, and Bruce Croucher, Acting Principal Analyst, travelled to the West Coast to view the Fox Landfill, observe Operation Tidy Fox and meet with Westland District Council (WDC) and West Coast Regional Council (WCRC).

The Fox landfill has a layer of rock covering all the exposed faces of the landfill. The Westland District Council (WDC) informed us that this protection would not withstand a significant storm event and that further protection, at a cost of \$300,000, was required to protect the landfill for a one in 30-50 year storm event. This will be discussed at an upcoming Council meeting.

The DOC Incident Management Team at the Fox DOC offices took the Ministry officials through the operational and planning processes used during Operation Tidy Fox (OTF). During a visit to the Fox River, downstream of the State Highway Bridge, the riverbed was observed to be free of visible waste materials.

At the meeting with Mike Meehan, Chief Executive WCRC, he indicated WCRC had discussed with WDC their vulnerable landfill proposal (as set out above) and its potential consent requirements.

The meeting with Simon Bastion, Chief Executive and other WDC officers focussed on solutions for the Fox and other vulnerable landfill in Westland. WDC officials detailed their proposal to remove the waste from their vulnerable landfills and place it within a specially designed containment cell. WDC understood that the cell would need to meet current landfill standards and required resource consents. The proposal was preferred by WDC, as taking the waste to the existing Butlers landfill would effectively fill most of its available void space. The council officers acknowledged that the proposed solution would take a considerable amount of time and that additional protection will be required in the interim. WDC expected that the additional protection works for Fox landfill could be undertaken as emergency works and that they could recover up to 60 percent of the costs from the Civil Defence & Emergency Management Resilience Fund.

Ministry officials will be holding regular conference calls with both Councils and Department of Conservation officials over the next few months.

### **1.2. Waste Levy Waiver, Operation Tidy Fox**

We have assessed and approved the application, from Westland District Council (WDC), to waive the requirement to pay any amount of the waste levy for waste collected from Operation Tidy Fox.

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 only provides for waivers to be granted in 'exceptional circumstances'. In assessing the application we have given consideration to the nature and scale of the flooding event, the environmental and conservation significance of the local area and its proximity to Te Wāhipounamu South West New Zealand World Heritage Area and the associated risk to the environment if the waste is not disposed of in a timely manner.

The estimated waiver amount, based on currently available information, for waste from Operation Tidy Fox is approximately \$7,500 to \$10,000.

We have declined the application from WDC for the waste currently remaining in the Fox Landfill at this stage. We do not currently have sufficient information from WDC regarding their intentions on the future management and / or remediation of the Fox Glacier Landfill to assess 'exceptional circumstances' for material remaining in the Fox Glacier Landfill that may require removal.

The Ministry can consider an application for the remaining waste in the Fox River Landfill, if this is required, once WDC have finalised the evaluation of options on the future management and / or remediation required for the Fox River Landfill.

**1.3. Update – Landfill levy expansion project**

Work is continuing on refining proposals to expand the landfill levy. The current focus is further work on the investment strategy and other revisions to the consultation document based on our discussions to date. We expect updated cost benefit analysis results at the end of the week. We will meet with you again on 26 August, by which point we propose to have a first draft of the new 'investment strategy' chapter for your input. We will also update you on feedback from the agency consultation which is currently underway.

**1.4. Australia to ban waste exports**

The Prime Minister of Australia has announced a decision by the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) to establish a timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, while building Australia's capacity to generate high value recycled commodities and associated demand. COAG tasked Australian Environment Ministers to advise on a proposed timetable and strategy following consultation with industry and other stakeholders.

Leaders agreed the strategy must seek to reduce waste (especially plastics), decrease the amount of waste going to landfill and maximise the capability of the waste management and recycling sector to collect, recycle and recover waste.

We will provide further advice on this in our briefing note on implementing the amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the international trade of plastic waste (due early September).

s 9(2)(i)

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### **1.7. Informal discussions with National Resource Recovery stakeholders – Basel Convention**

In May 2019, at the biennial Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, all Parties to the Convention (including New Zealand) agreed by consensus a decision aimed at better managing international shipments of hard-to-recycle plastic waste (2019-B-05655 refers).

We are considering how the Basel decision will affect New Zealand. As part of this, we are talking with the National Resource Recovery Taskforce stakeholders to help inform our initial policy development. We will provide you with further advice on the Basel decision and possible options for implementation in early September.

### **1.8. Waigani Convention Conference of the Parties**

The biennial Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Waigani Convention will take place in Apia, Samoa on 30 August 2019. The New Zealand delegation will be made up of officials from the Ministry for the Environment, the Environmental Protection Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Waigani Convention is a regional agreement (linked to the Basel Convention) that controls movements of hazardous and radioactive waste within the Pacific. The Convention essentially bans developed countries (New Zealand included) from exporting hazardous waste to Pacific Island countries. Parties to the Convention are likely to discuss the recent decision to amend annexes to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade of plastic waste, and how the decision could be applied in the Pacific region. The final documents for the COP are yet to be released, at which point we may seek further direction.

### **1.9. Update - NZ Planetary Boundaries project**

The Ministry is collaborating with Johan Rockstrom and the Stockholm Resilience Centre to translate the planetary boundaries to a New Zealand context. The Planetary Boundaries framework is a valued international tool in building evidence that biophysical limits exist within the earth's system. It provides a framework for economic and social development that supports long-term global sustainability and accounts for intergenerational equity.

At the national level countries such as Sweden and Germany have used translated versions of the framework to raise awareness and action to tackle environmental challenges, including addressing environmental responsibility through the development of national environmental objectives.

This project is on track to deliver a draft report in November 2019 and we are considering a public launch in late-February 2020.

### **1.10. Update – Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme**

The Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) was set up under Consumer Information Standards (Water Efficiency) Regulations to promote water efficiency in homes and provide an incentive for industry to produce water efficient products. It requires star labels to be displayed on water using equipment (eg, taps, showers, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers) showing how water efficient they are.

The scheme was jointly developed by the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Consumer Affairs between 2008 and 2010. The Minister for the Environment at the time agreed to the Ministry having a role in the ongoing administration and promotion of WELS.

The Regulations were updated in 2017 and require that from 1 October 2019 all water-using equipment for sale in New Zealand display a new format of labels. The Ministry has contracted the development of a new set of label templates that will be published online before 1 October for manufacturers to print and attach to their products. This will ensure that businesses have a clear avenue to remaining compliant with the changing labelling requirements.

## 2. Briefing notes

19 August – 30 September

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05888 Vulnerable landfills	MfE	Briefing to support Cabinet Paper on vulnerable landfills.	22 August
2019-B-05832 Meeting note with Foodstuffs	MfE	This meeting note provides background on the Scion WMF project to with labels, NZ Plastic Packaging Declaration commitments and talking points.	22 August
2019-B-05730 Update on Productivity Commission inquiry into local government funding and financing	MfE	This briefing provides an overview of the inquiry's draft findings and their relationship to Environment and Climate Change work programmes.	22 August
2019-B-05831 Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) 2019 funding round recommendations	MfE	This briefing presents funding recommendations from the WMF assessment panel and requires your decision on the each of the applications.	23 August
2019-B-05870 Proactive Release of Cabinet paper for Resource recovery and circular economy work programme	MfE	This briefing provides you with recommendations for proactive release of cabinet paper for public release.	26 August
2019-B-05908 Draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and reclassification of the Advisory Board	MfE	This briefing provides you with the draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and seeks your approval to reclassify the Advisory Board.	27 August

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### 3. Cabinet material

19 August – 30 September

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-B-05869 Update on proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand	DEV	This paper informs Cabinet Committee members of the work underway on a project to design a comprehensive Container Refund Scheme in New Zealand. It is a companion paper to Minister Parker's paper <i>Options for a royalty on bottled water</i> (also due to committee on 28th Aug)	<b>Due to lodge</b> 22 August <b>Due to Committee</b> 28 August <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 2 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint Jacqui Forbes, Denise Roche, and Don Chittock to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	<b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 11 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 16 September
2019-C-05878 Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	ENV	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	<b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 12 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 16 September
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	ENV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	<b>Due to your office</b> 22 August <b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 26 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 30 September

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#### 4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

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Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	SWC or DEV	<p>This draft paper recommends ways to reset the Government's Build Programme to better respond to housing need and the implementation issues with the KiwiBuild programme.</p> <p>It proposes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation</li> <li>2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support</li> <li>3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals</li> <li>4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area</li> <li>5. Retain the price points for Kiwibuild, and replace the target of 100,000</li> </ol>	<p>MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The price points reflect overall living costs (including transport, energy and water costs) rather than just home purchase costs. This will likely have environmental benefits, and require consideration of price point, typology and location more holistically.</li> <li>2. The place-based assessments are aligned with the Housing and Business Assessments prepared under the NPS-UDC, and to progress these as part of (or in conjunction with) any spatial planning exercises underway. These could be prioritised in high growth urban areas that demonstrate housing shortages.</li> </ol>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			homes with a range of indicators, such as volumes of homes delivered, the cost of construction and land, housing affordability measures, number of homeless, and the quality of housing.	
Minerals and Petroleum Strategy  Review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) Discussion Document	MBIE	DEV 21 August (Strategy)  16 October (Discussion Document)	The Strategy sets the Government's vision for the minerals and petroleum sector over the next 10 years (2019-2029). It articulates objectives that build towards this vision. Achieving this vision requires collaboration across many groups. This Strategy articulates principles that should assist Government, iwi/hapū, industry and any other groups making decisions that affect the sector. Finally the Strategy contains action areas which the Government will focus on in the coming years. The Discussion Document seeks feedback on Tranche 2 of the review of the CMA. MBIE is seeking Cabinet approval to release both for public consultation.	MfE broadly supports the Strategy and Discussion Document. We provided a number of comments which were largely technical. Key areas of comment covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• marine issues, particularly relating to decommissioning regulations in the marine environment, and the relationship between the minerals and petroleum system and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act</li> <li>• managing long-term liability for decommissioned onshore structures</li> <li>• the appropriateness of granting permits in benthic protected areas</li> <li>• compliance and enforcement issues, particularly related to regulatory regimes the MfE covers, such as the resource management and hazardous substances perspective.</li> </ul> We provided minor comments from a climate change perspective.
Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV Late August	The RS&I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent. This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.	MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE. In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity. We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.

## 5. Official Information Act requests

### 5.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I request information around the spending of funding received from the waste minimization fund or any other government grant. In particular, I want to know if there is any stipulation on buying from New Zealand suppliers before going offshore to purchase with any government funding?</p> <p>I want to know if New Zealand manufacturers are protected by the government to ensure that any government funded projects be supplier by New Zealand made product where possible as a first requirement.</p> <p>Please forward me any information around the rules of spending government funding for NZ projects.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01509	21 August
<p>A copy of any and all information in relation to the decision not to hold the Green Ribbon Awards in 2019. Please also include any information on the steps being taken to make the Green Ribbon Awards 'even better' (see <a href="https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards">https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards</a>).</p>	s 9(2)(a) Office of Sarah Dowie MP	19-D-01414	4 September

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## Weekly Update

**Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment**

**For the week starting 26 August 2019**

**There is no meeting scheduled this week.**

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the Official Information Act 1982

## **1. Updates for noting**

### **1.1. Update on Select Committee's food waste enquiry**

Dr Miranda Miroso (independent advisor to the Environment Select Committee) has reported back to the Committee with her findings and recommendations on food waste in New Zealand. This follows the Committee receiving written submissions and holding hearings. The Committee now needs to decide next steps. It may produce a briefing, or simply document and make public the information gathered (ie. submissions received and Dr Miroso's report).

To help them make that decision, the Committee decided that it would be helpful to hear from MPI and MfE on how Dr Miroso's recommendations fit with our work programme.

We expect a request to talk with the Committee about the end of October 2019 (at the earliest).

### **1.2. Redirection of unallocated funds from the Community Environment Fund to Department of Conservation's Community Fund**

You will have received a copy of a joint ministerial letter to Minister Parker and Minister Robertson, drafted by the Department of Conservation (DOC), to approve the redirection of \$1.6 million from the Ministry for the Environment's Community Environment Fund (CEF) to DOC's Community Fund.

The redirection of funds is recommended as it will reduce administration costs for two funds that fund similar projects and allow more projects to be funded from the heavily oversubscribed DOC Community Fund.

This redirection is in accordance with your earlier decision, (refer BNs 2019-B-05505 and 2019-B05818) and is only for this financial year (FY19/20).

### **1.3. National Reporting under the Waigani Convention**

On 22 August 2019, the Ministry submitted New Zealand's National Report under the Waigani Convention. The Waigani Convention is a regional agreement, linked to the Basel Convention, which controls movements of hazardous and radioactive waste within the South Pacific region.

The submission of a National Report is a requirement of parties to the Waigani Convention. This will be New Zealand's first report under this Convention and covers the period 2011-2018. The data submitted to the Waigani Convention is based on the reporting information New Zealand already submits under the Basel Convention on an annual basis. In the report we have summarised New Zealand's regulatory framework that implements the Waigani Convention and provided aggregated data on imports and exports of hazardous waste, provided by the Environmental Protection Authority. Data on radioactive waste was provided by the Ministry of Health.

The Convention's biennial Conference of the Parties will be held on 30 August 2019.

## 2. Briefing notes

26 August - 30 September

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05870 Proactive Release of Cabinet paper for Resource recovery and circular economy work programme	MfE	This briefing provides you with recommendations for proactive release of cabinet paper for public release.	26 August
2019-B-05908 Draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and reclassification of the Advisory Board	MfE	This briefing provides you with the draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and seeks your approval to reclassify the Advisory Board.	27 August
2019-B-05327 Waste to Energy report update	MfE	To provide you with an update on the Waste to Energy report	28 August
2019-B-05888 Vulnerable landfills	MfE	Briefing to support Cabinet Paper on vulnerable landfills.	29 August

## 3. Cabinet material

26 August - 30 September

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-B-05869 Update on proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand	DEV	This paper informs Cabinet Committee members of the work underway on a project to design a comprehensive Container Refund Scheme in New Zealand. It is a companion paper to Minister Parker's paper <i>Options for a royalty on bottled water</i> (also due to committee on 28th Aug)	<b>Due to Committee</b> 28 August <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 2 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint Jacqui Forbes, Denise Roche, and Don Chittock to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	<b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 11 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 16 September
2019-C-05878 Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	ENV	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	<b>Due to lodge</b> 5 September <b>Due to Committee</b> 12 September <b>Due to Cabinet</b> 16 September
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	DEV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	<b>Due to your office</b> 29 August <b>Due to lodge</b> TBC <b>Due to Committee</b> TBC <b>Due to Cabinet</b> TBC

#### 4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	Cabinet 26 August (Strategy)	The Strategy sets the Government's vision for the minerals and petroleum sector over the next 10 years (2019-2029). It articulates objectives that build towards this vision. Achieving this vision requires collaboration across many groups. This Strategy articulates principles that should assist Government, iwi/hapū, industry and any other groups making decisions that affect the sector. Finally the Strategy contains action areas which the Government will focus on in the coming years.	MfE broadly supports the Strategy and Discussion Document. We provided a number of comments which were largely technical. Key areas of comment covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>marine issues, particularly relating to decommissioning regulations in the marine environment, and the relationship between the minerals and petroleum system and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act</li> <li>managing long-term liability for decommissioned onshore structures</li> <li>the appropriateness of granting permits in benthic protected areas</li> <li>compliance and enforcement issues, particularly related to regulatory regimes the MfE covers, such as the resource management and hazardous substances perspective.</li> </ul>
Review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) Discussion Document		DEV 16 October (Discussion Document)	The Discussion Document seeks feedback on Tranche 2 of the review of the CMA. MBIE is seeking Cabinet approval to release both for public consultation.	We provided minor comments from a climate change perspective.
Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	DEV 28 August	This draft paper recommends ways to reset the Government's Build Programme to better respond to housing need and the implementation issues with the KiwiBuild programme. It proposes to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation</li> <li>Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support</li> <li>Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and</li> </ol>	MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The price points reflect overall living costs (including transport, energy and water costs) rather than just home purchase costs. This will likely have environmental benefits, and require consideration of price point, typology and location more holistically.</li> <li>The place-based assessments are aligned with the Housing and Business Assessments prepared under the NPS-UDC, and to progress these as part of (or in conjunction with) any spatial planning exercises underway. These could be prioritised in high growth urban areas that demonstrate housing shortages.</li> </ol>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>subsidised rentals</p> <p>4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area</p> <p>5. Retain the price points for Kiwibuild, and replace the target of 100,000 homes with a range of indicators, such as volumes of homes delivered, the cost of construction and land, housing affordability measures, number of homeless, and the quality of housing.</p>	
Draft Research , Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV Late August	<p>The RS&amp;I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent. This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.</p>	<p>MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE.</p> <p>In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity.</p> <p>We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.</p>
Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction	Te Arawhiti	LEG	<p>Seeks to introduce the Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill, which gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed with the mandated entity Ngāti Hinerangi Trust and PSGE Te Puāwaitaanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust on 4 May 2019.</p>	<p>MfE supports this paper. We noted that the accompanying Departmental Disclosure Statement stated that no steps had been undertaken to assess the legislation against New Zealand's international obligations; in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have asked Te Arawhiti to advise when it considers it should start assessing proposed legislation for consistency with international obligations such as the UNDRIP, and providing Ministers with this advice.</p>

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## 5. Official Information Act requests

### 5.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
A copy of any and all information in relation to the decision not to hold the Green Ribbon Awards in 2019. Please also include any information on the steps being taken to make the Green Ribbon Awards 'even better' (see <a href="https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards">https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards</a> ).	s 9(2)(a), Office of Sarah Dowie MP	19-D-01414	4 September

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