



Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage

Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 15 July 2019

There is no meeting scheduled this week

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

1. Actions and decisions

1.1. Date for Waste Advisory Board meeting confirmed and nominations

The next Waste Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 5 August. We propose that the agenda cover:

- Early discussion on the waste disposal levy expansion
- Early discussion on Container Deposit Scheme
- Formal advice on the regulated product stewardship consultation document.

Would you like to meet with the Advisory Board on Monday 5 August?

Yes/No

Do you agree to the proposed agenda?

Yes/No

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

1.2. Essential Freshwater

You have received drafts of the Essential Freshwater Cabinet paper, discussion document, RIS summary analysis, and final reports from the Essential Freshwater advisory groups. Minister Parker and O'Connor have requested feedback on this package from you by 18 July.

After we receive your feedback we intend to prepare final drafts that will be circulated for ministerial and inter-party consultation on 24 July, with feedback sought by 29 July. This timing is necessary to allow for lodging on 1 August.

Do you wish to meet with officials to discuss this package of papers?

Yes/No

2. Updates for noting

2.1. Waste levy spending by territorial authorities

You requested an update on the ability of Territorial Authorities (TA) to fund compliance monitoring and enforcement through Waste Disposal Levy money received under section 31 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA).

s 9(2)(h)

2.2. National Resource Recovery (NRR) work programme and announcement

The NRR Stakeholder feedback and revised work programme (BN 2019-B-05412) was approved by your office in May 2019 and began on 1 July 2019. We propose that an NRR stakeholder feedback and final work programme announcement be considered for late July. A draft event note has been provided to your office for your consideration. It will become increasingly difficult to engage with the sector until the work programme is fully announced, as the priorities in year one include design of a New Zealand Container Deposit Scheme (NZ CDS) and undertaking cost benefit analysis on the options.

2.3. Report back to Cabinet on work programme

On 24 July you are taking a Cabinet paper on Regulatory Product Stewardship to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee.

You were due to report back to Cabinet on your priority work programme in March, but this was deferred due to budget decisions. We are preparing a Cabinet Paper and A3 to provide an update to Cabinet in addition to the paper on Regulatory Product Stewardship. We are consulting with DPMC, MBIE and Treasury and will inform them that the paper is substantially the same as in March when they were first consulted.

This paper is due for lodgement on 18 July.

Released under the provisions of
the Official Information Act 1982

3. Briefing notes

15 July – 16 August

Nil

4. Cabinet material

15 July – 16 August

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05547 Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines to achieve more effective product stewardship - draft consultation document	DEV	This paper seeks approval to publicly release the consultation document on proposed priority products and product stewardship guidelines.	Due to lodge: 18 July Due to Committee: 24 July Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05780 Report back on resource efficiency and waste work programme	DEV	This paper provides an update, as invited by the Cabinet Business Committee [CBC-18-MIN-0078 refers]. It also reports back on the implementation of the Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018, as invited by Cabinet [CAB-18-MIN-0635.01 refers].	Due to lodge: 18 July Due to Committee: 24 July Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05776 Waste 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.	Due to your office: 16 August Due to lodge: 19 September Due to Committee: 26 September Due to Cabinet: 30 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board nominations 2019	APH	This paper outlines my intention to appoint s 18(d) and s 18(d) to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	Due to your office: 3 September Due to lodge: 4 September Due to Committee: 11 September Due to Cabinet: 16 September

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Future of Rail Planning and Funding Framework	Ministry of Transport – Te Manatū Waka	DEV	This is the second Future of Rail Cabinet paper, following the first paper on The Future of Rail and Investment to Support a Resilient and Reliable Rail System. This subsequent paper covers the proposed new planning and funding framework for rail.	<p>The paper recommends a new planning and funding framework for rail in New Zealand and to give effect to that framework through changes to the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA). We recommend that you support this paper, subject to the following feedback we have provided to MoT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the objectives sought by integrating rail into the LTMA and National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) frameworks • Supported integration of rail planning into the Regional Land Transport Strategies for Auckland and Wellington, as this will help to achieve better land use and transport planning integration for these areas. • Suggested that Kiwirail be required to take into account relevant National and Regional Policy Statements and regional plans when preparing its Rail Network Programme. • Suggested that Kiwirail's Rail Network Programme should be required to contribute to the purpose of the LTMA and the Government Policy Statement on transport. <p>Noted the Cabinet Paper and Impact Summary do not mention climate change. Any new funding model for transport infrastructure must take into account exposure and resilience to climate change over the medium to long term, irrespective of mode, especially as climate change impacts will increase over the lifetime of the infrastructure.</p>

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982

6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Ministerial

Nil

6.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I am interested in MPDC's use of waste levy funding provided to them annually by Central Government. Council would have received approximately \$100,000 a year for approximately 10 years for a total of approximately \$1,000,000 received since the programme was instituted. I am interested in seeing documentation as to how these funds have been spent.</p> <p>Are there public records of this expenditure? If so, could the Ministry provide me with copies? I have downloaded the fact sheet ("Compliance Reviews of territorial Waste levy expenditure") from the Ministry's website. It notes there that the Ministry "aims to review each territorial authority at least once during a three year period". I am interested in the nature and extent of monitoring of MPDC's activities and expenditures over the 10-year period.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01161	19 July
<p>Records of all correspondence and communication where the words Container Deposit Scheme or Bottle Deposit Scheme (or any variation of those words) are mentioned.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01056	23 July
<p>Does MFE review the frequency and quantity of how much 1080 is dumped per year per landfill?</p> <p>Can all Class A Landfills receive 1080 to waste?</p> <p>Can you please list all Landfills that could legally receive 1080?</p> <p>What are the monitoring requirements when 1080 is dumped to landfill?</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01313	25 July

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 22 July 2019

Environment weekly meeting 2.45pm – 3.30pm, Monday 22 July

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	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	10
2.	Cabinet papers – check in	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
3.	Australia visit	Minister Sage	Verbal update	25

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

1. Actions and decisions

1.1. Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) announcements

We have been working with your office to compile a short list of Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) funding recipients for you to publically announce. These have been selected due to the type, scale, relevance, and location of the project. They align with the objectives of the communication plan for the waste programme.

We recommend the remaining funding recipients (approximately 20) self-announce. We have provided your office with the full of list of these funding recipients.

The terms within the Deed of Funding prevent organisations from making public statements about receiving WMF funding prior to any announcement from the Minister or Ministry. Consequently, many funding recipients are not able share the WMF support they are receiving or to progress elements of their project, particularly those that benefit from or are reliant on public exposure and marketing.

When you have confirmed which projects can self-announce we will inform the recipients.

Do you agree to the remaining WMF funding recipients self-announcing (details available on spreadsheet provided to your office)?

Yes/No

2. Updates for noting

2.1. Monitoring compliance - (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018

The Ministry is carrying out its compliance role by:

- undertaking education and engagement to promote voluntary compliance
- monitoring to identify potential non-compliance in a timely manner
- investigating significant non-compliance
- taking appropriate action when non-compliance is confirmed.

One hundred and thirty reports of non-compliance with the ban have been made through the Ministry's online portal since 1 July. There were 56 reports in the first week, 60 reports in the second week. Numbers have decreased this week with only 14 reports as at 18 July.

During the first week of July, the Ministry's reception desk had over 100 phone calls inquiries related to the ban. The number of calls has dropped since.

A total of 65 email inquiries have been made. When contacted retailers express concern and seek guidance on:

- the rationale to ban biodegradable and compostable bags
- the difficulty to assess the thickness of a bag (only bags under 70 microns are banned)
- the ability to comply with the ban by cutting off the bags handles.

The compliance priority has been education and engagement to promote voluntary compliance to ensure retailers understand the ban and the alternatives available, so they can do what is right for our environment.

We are recording and monitoring reports of retailers cutting of banned bag handles. We are engaging, educating and assisting the retailer in options for existing stock and sourcing of alternatives. This has been effective noting the media example of 'Paradise Takeaway' in Auckland who immediately sourced alternative paper bags after advice on the policy intent of the ban.

2.2. Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) waste projects

You have requested an update on the process and timeframes for assessment of waste projects by the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF).

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and MfE officials are working closely to assess waste projects that have come either directly to the PGF or were submitted to the May 2019 Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) round.

The parallel process outlined in the following table has been adopted to ensure that no matter where a project originates, it is adequately assessed the both processes.

Note: WMF projects forwarded to PGF for consideration will not be removed from the WMF process until a funding decision is made.

Assessment activity	Timeframe
PGF eligibility assessment of waste projects	Ongoing
WMF Panel assessment of potential PGF projects (including applications received via the May 2019 WMF round)	Ongoing Late July (for WMF 2019)
MfE advice/assessment of waste projects	Ongoing
MfE advice to Minister Sage on 2019 WMF Funding Round	August
PDU advice/assessment on waste projects	Ongoing
PDU external panel assessment	Ongoing – typically a month before RED Ministers meeting.
Funding recommendations to Regional Economic Development (RED) Ministers.	RED Ministers meet every six weeks. Waste projects are likely to be packaged in tranches for their consideration following the PGF September application deadline.

The final decision to approve PGF projects over \$1m will sit with RED Ministers. Timelines are heavily dependent on PGF processes.

2.3. Environment Committee Communications and Engagement strategy

s 9(2)(g)(i) and s 9(2)(f)(iv)



2.4. Fox Landfill

We have received a letter from the Chief Executive of Westland District Council seeking a waiver of waste levy fees and New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) obligations for the Fox township landfill waste. Recovery of the waste is led by the Department of Conservation, and collected waste is being transported and deposited at Butler's Landfill outside Hokitika. This re-disposal is currently subject to both waste levy fees and NZ ETS obligations. Westland District Council has asked for waiver of those costs for the recoverable waste, and may also include waste currently still within the old Fox Landfill, should this need to be moved.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Secretary for the Environment has the power to waive the requirement to pay any amount of the waste levy, if satisfied that exceptional circumstances justify the waiver (under s29 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008). We are clarifying the request directly with Westland District Council to ensure accurate calculations of gross tonnage of waste involved and will provide regular updates.

The Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw, has the power to recommend exemptions from NZ ETS obligations under section 60 of the Climate Change Response Act 2002. Several tests need to be met before a decision occurs (including costs, benefits, and the impact on the environmental integrity of the NZ ETS). An exemption is implemented by way of amendment to the Climate Change Response (General Exemptions) Order 2009 and a recommendation to Minister Shaw is expected by late September.

2.5. EPA Board Appointments 2019

s 9(2)(a)

The EPA Board currently has seven members who collectively fulfil the statutory requirements of the EPA Act 2011 so it can operate with no immediate issues in its current state. We will advise you and Minister Parker on next steps and options for making a further appointment.

3. Briefing notes

22 July – 30 August

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05795 Briefing with talking points - Cabinet paper Update on resource efficiency and circular economy work programme	MfE	This briefing provides talking points for your presentation of the Cabinet paper Update on resource efficiency and circular economy work programme.	22 July

4. Cabinet material

22 July – 30 August

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05547 Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines to achieve more effective product stewardship - draft consultation document	DEV	This paper seeks approval to publicly release the consultation document on proposed priority products and product stewardship guidelines.	Due to Committee: 24 July Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05780 Report back on resource efficiency and waste work programme	DEV	This paper provides an update, as invited by the Cabinet Business Committee [CBC-18-MIN-0078 refers]. It also reports back on the implementation of the Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018, as invited by Cabinet [CAB-18-MIN-0635.01 refers].	Due to Committee: 24 July Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05776 Waste 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.	Due to your office: 16 August Due to lodge: 19 September Due to Committee: 26 September Due to Cabinet: 30 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board nominations 2019	APH	This paper outlines my intention to appoint s [redacted] and s 18(d) [redacted] to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	Due to your office: 3 September Due to lodge: 4 September Due to Committee: 11 September Due to Cabinet: 16 September

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	SWC or DEV 24 July	<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"> 1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation 2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support 3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals 4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area <p>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>	<p>MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.

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 30 July	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 31 July	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.
Responding to the Ngai Tai ki Tamaki Decision	DOC	MCR	This paper outlines implications for DOC of the Supreme Court ruling on s4 of Conservation Act 1987 reiterating 'This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to <i>give effect</i> to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi'. This applies to all enactments in Schedule 1 of Conservation Act. The case pivoted around DOC applying s4 in its decision making process for awarding concessions on Motutapu and Rangitoto Islands, but has broader implications.	MfE support the paper in terms of DOC amending its policies and approaches to be consistent with its legislation and its responsibilities for those under the Conservation Act. There may need to be further advice on implications for wider Crown-Māori relationship and cross-Crown work including the natural resource sector, given the different way Treaty of Waitangi principles are incorporated in different legislation. As Minister for the Environment, the interpretation of Treaty of Waitangi principles may come up as part of the comprehensive review of the RMA.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
Records of all correspondence and communication where the words Container Deposit Scheme or Bottle Deposit Scheme (or any variation of those words) are mentioned.	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01056	23 July
Does MFE review the the frequency and quantity of how much 1080 is dumped per year per landfill? Can all Class A Landfills receive 1080 to waste? Can you please list all Landfills that could legally receive 1080? What are the monitoring requirements when 1080 is dumped to landfill?	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01313	25 July
Our local Transition Towns group is doing work with Matamata Piako District Council, most recently carrying out a series of business waste audits throughout the district. I am interested in MPDC's use of waste levy funding provided to them annually by Central Government. Council would have received approximately \$100,000 a year for approximately 10 years for a total of approximately \$1,000,000 received since the programme was instituted. I am interested in seeing documentation as to how these funds have been spent. Are there public records of this expenditure? If so, could the Ministry provide me with copies? I have downloaded the fact sheet ("Compliance Reviews of territorial Waste levy expenditure") from the Ministry's website. It notes there that the Ministry "aims to review each territorial authority at least once during a three year period". I am interested in the nature and extent of monitoring of MPDC's activities and expenditures over the 10-year period.	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01161	2 August

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982



Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 29 July 2019

There is no meeting scheduled this week.

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

1. Strategic priorities

1.1. Essential Freshwater – Update on Cabinet timeframes

The Essential Freshwater Cabinet timeframes have been rescheduled due to Minister availability on the original date of 7 August. The Cabinet package will now be lodged on 8 August and will go to Cabinet Business Committee on 12 August. It is then intended to be discussed in Cabinet on 19 August. We are still aiming to publically launch the package for consultation on 21 August.

2. Updates for noting

2.1. Waste levy operation, quarterly levy payments and annual permissions

Waste disposal levy payments, under section 31 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, were completed on 20 July with \$4.47 million dollars paid to the 67 territorial authorities. This payment relates to waste disposed of in levied disposal facilities during the months April, May and June 2019. The next payment will be made on Monday 21 October 2019 for the months July, August and September 2019.

Annual permission applications, under clause 9 of the Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulation 2009, closed on 20 July. Approved applications enable small disposal facility operators, where the expected net annual tonnage to be deposited at the facility is 1,000 tonnes or less, to supply annual reports of waste received at the facility rather than monthly reports through the online waste levy system.

We have received applications from four councils, for five sites:

- Palmerston Landfill (Waitaki District Council)
- Pongaroa Landfill (Taranaki District Council)
- Karamea Refuse Tip (Buller District Council)
- Maruia/Springs Junction (Buller District Council)
- Te One Landfill (Chatham Islands)

Overall, waste deposited at these small facilities historically equates to approximately 0.05% of total waste disposal levy collected. The facilities have a limited impact on the amount of levy received. Assessment of the applications is currently underway and will be finalised on or before 1 August.

2.2. s 9(2)(f)(iv)



2.3. Sustainable Coastlines' involvement in Fox Landfill clean-up

Sustainable Coastlines (SC) runs a litter awareness programme that includes volunteer-run clean-up events along our coastlines. They also train the volunteers to be citizen scientists to collect data that helps monitor the litter for the location.

Two members of the SC team (Co-founder Camden Howitt and Programmes Manager Dan Downing) visited Franz Josef from 20-23 May. They spent the majority of this time with volunteers from South Westland Clean-up (led by Mike Bilodeau) and with staff from the Fox Glacier Department of Conservation (DoC) office to understand the problem and figure out where they most needed help. SC provided them with advice based on SC's disaster volunteer management experience with Maritime New Zealand following the Rena oil spill.

SC also ran a training session at Okarito for the local community and DoC rangers. This allowed them to deliver the ongoing monitoring, and set-up two official litter monitoring sites (one south of the Cook River mouth, and one north of the river mouth at Okarito). They also provided a Citizen Science equipment kit for the local community to continue this monitoring.

Finally, they assisted with creating a registration form to better manage volunteer enquiries and logistics, and have helped on-board volunteers by widely promoting DoC's Operation Tidy Fox through their volunteer network and social media channels.

2.4. Update on 9Wire Environmental Innovation Project

As previously advised, the Ministry for the Environment is a partner in the new 9Wire project, which is led by the World Wildlife Fund and also supported by Akina Foundation, Department of Conservation, Auckland Council, MPI and Callaghan Innovation.

9Wire supports environmental innovation of all kinds, offering wrap-around, bespoke support that helps innovators along their journey to get their solutions from the blackboard to the world.

The initial round of 9Wire applications closed on Monday 8 July and received strong interest. The goal was to receive 60 high-quality applications in the first year but 240 applications have already been received and early indications are that most are of a high quality. Applications are being reviewed over the next month or so.

You may be interested to note that 56 applications related to recycling/reuse/upcycling innovations. Note that some applications related to more than one area.

Proportionally, most of applications have come from the regions (especially Tasman, Nelson, West Coast, Gisborne and Northland). In terms of the cities, Wellington was 6th on the list, Canterbury 13th and Auckland 16th.

A side benefit is that 9Wire has created the first national database of environmental innovation.

We will continue to keep you updated on 9Wire progress.

3. Cabinet material

29 July – 30 August

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05547 Declaring priority products and issuing guidelines to achieve more effective product stewardship - draft consultation document	DEV	This paper seeks approval to publicly release the consultation document on proposed priority products and product stewardship guidelines.	Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05780 Report back on resource efficiency and waste work programme	DEV	This paper provides an update, as invited by the Cabinet Business Committee [CBC-18-MIN-0078 refers]. It also reports back on the implementation of the Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018, as invited by Cabinet [CAB-18-MIN-0635.01 refers].	Due to Cabinet: 29 July
2019-C-05776 Waste 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.	Due to your office: 16 August Due to lodge: 19 September Due to Committee: 26 September Due to Cabinet: 30 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board nominations 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint s [redacted] (and s 18(d) [redacted]) to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	Due to your office: 3 September Due to lodge: 4 September Due to Committee: 11 September Due to Cabinet: 16 September

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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 30 July	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 31 July	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"> 1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation 2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support 3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals 	MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area 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. 	
Responding to the Ngai Tai ki Tamaki Decision	DOC	MCR	<p>This paper outlines implications for DOC of the Supreme Court ruling on s4 of Conservation Act 1987 reiterating 'This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to <i>give effect</i> to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi'. This applies to all enactments in Schedule 1 of Conservation Act.</p> <p>The case pivoted around DOC applying s4 in its decision making process for awarding concessions on Motutapu and Rangitoto Islands, but has broader implications.</p>	<p>MfE support the paper in terms of DOC amending its policies and approaches to be consistent with its legislation and its responsibilities for those under the Conservation Act. There may need to be further advice on implications for wider Crown-Māori relationship and cross-Crown work including the natural resource sector, given the different way Treaty of Waitangi principles are incorporated in different legislation. As Minister for the Environment, the interpretation of Treaty of Waitangi principles may come up as part of the comprehensive review of the RMA.</p>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

5. Official Information Act requests

5.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>Our local Transition Towns group is doing work with Matamata Piako District Council, most recently carrying out a series of business waste audits throughout the district.</p> <p>I am interested in MPDC's use of waste levy funding provided to them annually by Central Government. Council would have received approximately \$100,000 a year for approximately 10 years for a total of approximately \$1,000,000 received since the programme was instituted. I am interested in seeing documentation as to how these funds have been spent. Are there public records of this expenditure? If so, could the Ministry provide me with copies? I have downloaded the fact sheet ("Compliance Reviews of territorial Waste levy expenditure") from the Ministry's website. It notes there that the Ministry "aims to review each territorial authority at least once during a three year period". I am interested in the nature and extent of monitoring of MPDC's activities and expenditures over the 10-year period.</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01161	2 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 www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards).</p>	s 9(2)(a)	19-D-01414	7 August

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982