

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 2 March 2020

Environment weekly meeting 2.00pm – 2.45pm, Monday 2 March

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
 Kathy Bass, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 Stephen Goodman, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 David Stephen, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 Wes Patrick, Manager, Freshwater Investment

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	10
2.	Monthly programme update	David Stephen	Verbal update	5
3.	Basel Convention	Glenn Wigley	Paper	5
4.	Plastics	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update with paper	10
5.	Aluminium dross (By-product)	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
6.	Community Environment Fund – Funding options for Fiscal Year 20/21	Wes Patrick	Verbal update	10

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Compliance assurance programme for the plastic bag ban

The compliance assurance programme for the plastic bag ban has been underway for one month. The Ministry's Industry Engagement Liaison has been focussed on case management for the 427 total reports to date, which are in respect of 192 individual businesses. Of those 192, 21% are chain stores and 79% are independent retailers. Takeaway restaurants, fresh produce stores, convenience stores and fashion/shoe retailers are the most commonly reported businesses.

Case management involves the industry engagement liaison person making contact with businesses reported for alleged non-compliance, educating retailers about their obligations and discussing potential alternatives. The liaison is also able to take an indicative measurement of the thickness of the plastic to identify potentially deficient bags.

To date, the liaison person has made contact with 97 of 192 reported businesses. Reports received about 36 business have already been closed, either because the business is no longer supplying bags or could prove the bags being used are compliant with the Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations).

There is a high level of compliance and majority of retailers are aware of the Regulations. Conversations around the ban are proving to be a good catalyst for further thinking about each business' environmental footprint.

To date, 11 businesses have non-compliant bags due to retailers not being aware of their obligations, or they are under the impression their bags meet the requirements of the Regulations. The Ministry will be working closely with these businesses to ensure these bags are taken out of circulation, in favour of more environmentally friendly alternatives. The Ministry has the ability to take formal legal action if necessary. We will update you and share any insight about trends or industry sentiment as this work progresses.

1.2. Proposed priority products and priority product accreditation guidelines – next steps

The Ministry will advise you by 6 March on proposed priority products and priority product accreditation guidelines. Public consultation on this proposal ran from 9 August to 4 October 2019 and your office received a draft summary of submissions on 20 December 2019.


Our advice highlights:

- There is a broad mandate for taking forward the proposals
- There are minor amendments for consideration, based on public feedback.
- There are options for the Government to phase in different schemes depending on their readiness.

A cabinet paper based on feedback is on track for delivery in late March/early April, with a gazettal to follow.

1.3. Waste Minimisation Fund project transferred applicant

s 9(2)(j)



1.4. **Plastics advice on phase outs of hard-to-recycle plastics**

We will send you advice in the week of 4 March 2020 seeking your approval on the phasing out of hard-to-recycle plastics. Consistent with the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor's report on *Rethinking Plastics* our advice is around phasing out of PVC and polystyrene packaging, unnecessary single use items, and degradable plastics (oxo and photo-degradables). We will draft a Cabinet Paper and consultation document before the consultation phase outs begin in June 2020.

The phase-outs are the first steps in the Government's overall response to *Rethinking Plastics*, which also include:

- Developing innovative solutions to the soft plastic problem
- Accelerating work with local government and industry on more consistent kerbside collection of recyclables
- Continuing work with industry to develop a labelling scheme for packaging, including plastic packaging
- Developing an overall action plan.

We will provide you with an update on the response to *Rethinking Plastics* in March 2020. This will enable you and the Prime Minister to report back to Cabinet with an action plan.

1.5. **Waste Disposal Levy: Levy spend reporting by Territorial Authorities**

In early March you will receive a briefing which provides a high level overview of how territorial authorities (TAs) spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. This update provides an introduction to levy spending trends ahead of you receiving that briefing.

Half of all waste disposal levy money collected is distributed to TAs, to be spent on waste minimisation activities in accordance with their Waste Management and Minimisation Plans. At the end of each financial year, the Ministry asks TAs to report on how levy money is being spent.

Over 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, the Ministry has distributed \$53.258 million to the 67 TAs across New Zealand, \$51.3 million of which has been reported as spent. Spending has been most heavily weighted towards services (like kerbside recycling), education and communication (the Pare Kore workshops at Marae, for instance) and infrastructure. TAs are also asked to indicate which section of the waste hierarchy each project is focussed towards; with the top three most common being recycling, reduction and reuse.

Over the last three years, funding was directed toward existing projects rather than new ones. The briefing will provide more detailed analysis of these spending trends, their downstream impacts and other key insights.

A key challenge for the Ministry is that reporting currently is voluntary, which means that our ability to monitor levy spending relies on TA's. The proposed levy expansion might present a timely opportunity to develop mandatory reporting requirements through Regulations under the Act. This opportunity is being explored more fully with the Strategic Policy team.

1.6. Container Return Scheme (CRS) - update

The CRS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Tranche 1 review meeting took place on 27 February 2020.

The meeting went very well and feedback from the review process is being summarised. Following sign out from Chair Dave Brash, the TAG feedback and the Tranche 1 research will be presented to you.

The Draft Tranche 2 report is also due to be published to the Scheme Design Working Group on 11 March. Tranche 2 will likely generate a lot more interest as it will include the first scheme design considerations. This includes the scope of containers, collection points, the role of retailers and consumers in the scheme.

The final TAG membership is still being worked through and we will provide you with further update when this is resolved.

1.7. Australian Container Deposit Scheme update

News from Australia this week includes the announcement that the state of Victoria is now committed to implementing a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) as a part of a wider recycling industry overhaul. The article cites that the aim of the overhaul is to reduce the total waste from residents and industry going to landfill by 80 percent by 2030. Notably the overhaul also includes implementing a fourth kerbside bin for glass in 2021, alongside the commitment to a CDS.

All Australian states now have, or are committed to implementing a CDS. The article can be found here: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-02-24/victoria-introduces-container-deposit-scheme-bottles-and-cans/11993460>

New Zealand officials also attended (via video conference) the Australian National Waste Working Group CDS Committee meeting 13 February 2020. The agenda included two items of note:

- South Australia's CDS review which includes the consideration of whether wine bottles should be included
- Areas for standardisation across the Australian schemes

While there are many potential areas for standardisation, they are all challenging and technical in nature as the schemes have been designed and implemented at state level in very different ways. As this discussion evolves we will provide further updates.

2. Briefing notes

2 March –3 April

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06381 The Letter of Expectations to the Environmental Protection Authority 2020/21	MfE	This briefing provides you with the draft Letter of Expectations to the Environmental Protection Authority 2020/21.	5 March
2020-B-06492 Territorial authority spending of waste disposal levy money in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years	MfE	This briefing note informs you of how territorial authorities spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. We also highlight challenges with the current levy spend reporting process and how these challenges could be solved through the proposed levy expansion currently in progress.	TBC
2020-B-06506 Request to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign	MfE	Briefing to seek your approval to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign.	TBC

3. Cabinet material

2 March –3 April

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-06344 Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury	DEV	This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Due to lodge: 5 March Due to Committee: 12 March Due to Cabinet: 17 March
2019-C-06356 Public consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade in plastic waste	DEV	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement the Basel Convention amendments, and undertake public consultation on options to implement the Basel decision to better manage the trade in plastic waste.	Due to lodge: TBC Due to Committee: TBC Due to Cabinet: TBC

4. Cabinet material for proactive release (30 working days after confirmation by Cabinet)

Paper title and number	What this paper covers	Date confirmed by Cabinet	Date due to your office	Date due for proactive release	Date published
2019-C-05776 Consultation on increasing and expanding the landfill levy	Seeks approval to release a public consultation document which sets out proposals for increasing the rate and expanding the coverage of the waste disposal levy under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.	18 November	TBC	23 January	
Overseas Travel Report		25 November	5 February	30 January	25 February
2019-C-06400 Proposed National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres: Consultation	Seeks Cabinet approval to release discussion document for a second round of public consultation because of significant changes to the original proposal.	24 February	TBC	06 April	
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change.	18 November		Deferred till further decisions have been made	

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Crown's approach to decommissioning the Tui Oil Field in response to operator Tamarind liquidation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>This DEV paper seeks to appropriate \$171.1 million to begin decommissioning the Tui oil field as a result of the Tamarind liquidation. It also outlines the legal options available to the Crown.</p> <p>* <i>Note: Paper published at https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11505-the-crowns-approach-to-decommissioning-the-tui-oil-field-in-response-to-operator-tamarind-liquidation-proactive-release-pdf - actual figure was \$154.641 million</i></p>	<p>MfE support MBIE exploring all legal avenues to hold Tamarind and its directors accountable for the costs of decommissioning.</p> <p>The paper sets out a plan to begin decommissioning. MBIE has addressed previous MfE concerns by noting that the marine consent process has the potential to extend their 2021/2022 timeline to begin decommissioning activities. MBIE has also confirmed that marine consenting costs to agencies are included in their costing.</p>
Refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri	TPK	MCR TBC	<p>This paper reports on the implementation of the refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri.</p>	<p>The Ministry supports a monitoring approach that increases transparency in state sector performance for Māori.</p> <p>We agree the state sector must draw on evidence of what works for Māori and whānau, and at the same time be prepared to innovate, and partner with Māori.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings Regulations	MBIE	LEG TBC	<p>This paper proposes to change the definition of a 'substantial' alteration to an earthquake prone building, to add a minimum dollar value of \$150,000, as the previous definition (25% of the building's dollar value) had a disproportionate impact on provincial and small towns with low value properties.</p>	<p>MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.</p>
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p><u>Marine risk & liability</u>: policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme.</p> <p>Mining policies are inconsistent for offshore and onshore areas of conservation value. MBIE has not addressed this issue or indicated that it will be reviewing permit processes for benthic protection areas.</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure mining restrictions in benthic protection areas <p>Greater liability for longer term cost, clean up and prosecution of future sites should be placed with</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<u>Onshore risk & liability</u> : the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.	industry rather than relying on the taxpayer-funded contaminated sites remediation fund. We have largely been providing technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.
New form for determination applications under new building emergency management powers, and updated form to modernise current determination applications	MBIE	LEG TBC	The Building Amendment Act 2019 will implement a new system to improve the management of buildings that are damaged or at risk of damage after an emergency event. This paper seeks authorisation to give effect to policy decisions made in that Act regarding applications for determinations, and also makes minor and technical updates to the Building (Forms) Regulations 2004.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Report back on proactive release of Cabinet material policy	SSC	GOV TBC	The paper notes that the policy is still embedding, but already producing results with regard to the number of papers released. § 9(2)(f)(iv)	MfE supports the paper and has been involved in cross agency discussions on the proposed reporting regime.

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Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
New Zealand's financial security regime for offshore installations- Proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules	MoT	DEV TBC	This noting paper reports back to Cabinet on the outcomes of public consultation on proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules Part 102 and 131. The changes strengthen the offshore financial security regime for offshore installations which includes increasing the maximum limit of insurance to \$1.2 billion and introducing a new scaled insurance framework with costs proportionate to the risk posed.	MfE broadly supports the changes that have been made since consultation in April. § 9(2)(g)(i)
Building Consent Exemptions in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004	MBIE	DEV TBC	This paper proposes amendments to Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 to include 12 additional exemptions for minor and low risk building work from the Building Consent process. The exemptions include short span bridges, carports, single storey detached pole sheds and hay barns, solar array panels, veranda, awnings, single storey detached buildings, pipe support structures and flexible water bladders. Guidance to TA's would also be updated.	MfE is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to the MBIE.
Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions Paper 2 - Official statistics system Paper 3 – Research and Analysis Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	New data and statistics legislation will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician • recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics • acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics • recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources) • enable Stats NZ to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (eg, joint collections) • expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (eg, reflecting tikanga 	The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to StatsNZ. We are discussing with StatsNZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (eg, for Environmental Reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			framework developed by Stats NZ in partnership with Māori) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches. 	

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6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
The title of all reports, memos, aide-memoires and other documents Minister Eugenie Sage has received from January 1 to February 20 (inclusive of those dates) relating to her role as Conservation Minister and/or Associate Environment Minister, arranged by date received and department/agency that authored the document. This is not requesting emails.	s 9(2)(a) Reporter/ Stuff	20-O-00309	3 March	11 March

6.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I'm aware the MfE is looking at some funding to remediate a historical Christchurch Landfill, and was hoping for some more info (the topic has become a bit of a hot button here as the cap on a former landfill on Council land is eroding and needs remediation to stop waste going into the estuary).</p> <p>I do not know which historical Christchurch landfill or landfills specifically the MfE is looking at funding out of the CSRF. Which ones are being considered? How much funding would it get? Who would it go to, and what is it for specifically? What are the risks the landfill or landfills pose? Is there anything else you want to add, or think I have missed?</p> <p>I know it has been discussed in a briefing sent to Minister Parker on November 18, if that is helpful. I'm seeking a response by the close of play today. Could I please request that briefing plus any other documents on the same topic under the OIA?</p>	s 9(2) (a) Reporter/Stuff	19-D-02771	10 March

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 9 March 2020

Environment weekly meeting 1.00pm – 1.45pm, Monday 9 March

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment
 Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency
 Natasha Lewis, Deputy Secretary Strategy and Stewardship
 Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System
 Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships
 Kathy Bass, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 Stephen Goodman, Manager, Investments and Partnerships

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Product Stewardship	Shaun Lewis	Paper	20
3.	Environmental Reporting Update	Natasha Lewis	Verbal update	10

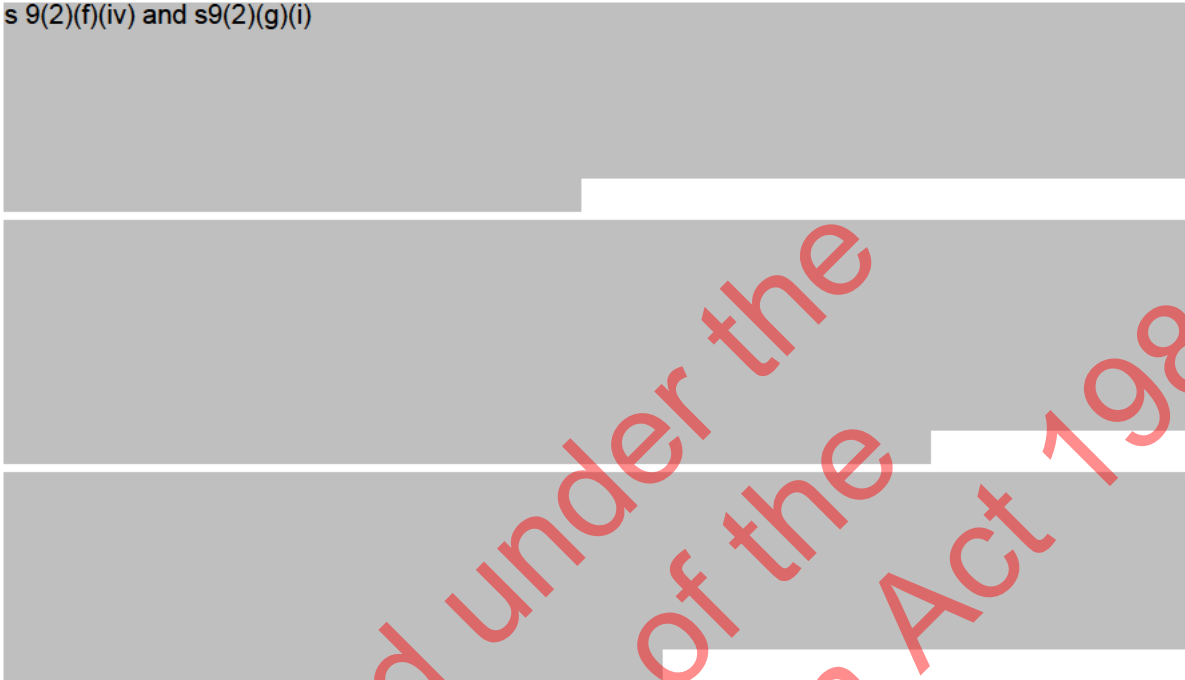
[CONTAINS BUDGET SENSITIVE INFORMATION]

1. Updates for noting

[IN CONFIDENCE BUDGET SENSITIVE]

1.1. Just Transitions Package – Budget 2020

s 9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i)



1.2. Community Environment Fund

Officials met with you on 2 March to discuss options for allocating funding from the next round of the Community Environment Fund (Briefing 2020-B-06402).

You provided the following:

- to explore funding opportunities from past funding rounds
- to prioritise funding Environment Centres
- to partially fund the Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

Our next steps will be to investigate the appropriation requirements of the Community Environment Fund, and to continue to work with Environment Hubs Aotearoa (the umbrella organisation for Environment Centres) to develop a sustainable funding model for Environment Centres. The model will be based on the scenario you have agreed. We will provide you with a proposal for your approval by June 2020.

2. Briefing notes

9 March – 6 April

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06430 WMF Panel Nominations 2020	MfE	TBC	13 March
2020-B-06492 Territorial authority spending of waste disposal levy money in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years	MfE	This briefing note informs you of how territorial authorities spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. We also highlight challenges with the current levy spend reporting process and how these challenges could be solved through the proposed levy expansion currently in progress.	TBC
2020-B-06506 Request to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign	MfE	Briefing to seek your approval to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign.	TBC

3. Cabinet material

9 March – 6 April

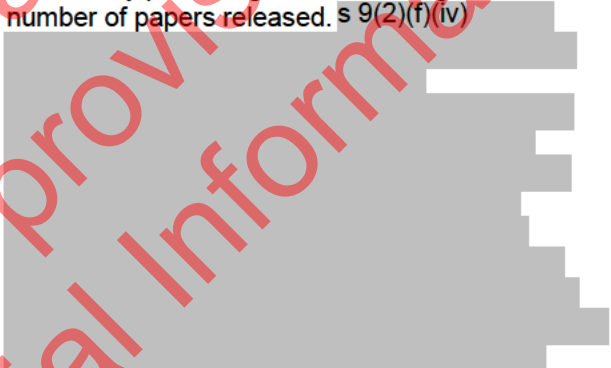
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2019-C-06356 Public consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade in plastic waste	ENV	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement the Basel Convention amendments, and undertake public consultation on options to implement the Basel decision to better manage the trade in plastic waste.	Due to lodge: 6 March Due to Committee: 12 March Due to Cabinet: 17 March
2019-C-06344 Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury	DEV	This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Due to Committee: 12 March Due to Cabinet: 17 March

4. Cabinet material for proactive release (30 working days after confirmation by Cabinet)

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[Title of Cabinet paper]	[Description of paper]	[DD Month]	[DD Month]	[DD Month]	[DD Month]

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

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Refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri	TPK	MCR TBC	<p>This paper reports on the implementation of the refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri.</p>	<p>The Ministry supports a monitoring approach that increases transparency in state sector performance for Māori. We agree the state sector must draw on evidence of what works for Māori and whānau, and at the same time be prepared to innovate, and partner with Māori.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings Regulations	MBIE	LEG TBC	<p>This paper proposes to change the definition of a 'substantial' alteration to an earthquake prone building, to add a minimum dollar value of \$150,000, as the previous definition (25% of the building's dollar value) had a disproportionate impact on provincial and small towns with low value properties.</p>	<p>MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.</p>
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p><u>Marine risk & liability</u>: policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme. Mining policies are inconsistent for offshore and onshore areas of conservation value. MBIE has not</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure mining restrictions in benthic protection

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>addressed this issue or indicated that it will be reviewing permit processes for benthic protection areas.</p> <p><u>Onshore risk & liability</u>: the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</p>	<p>areas</p> <p>Greater liability for longer term cost, clean up and prosecution of future sites should be placed with industry rather than relying on the taxpayer-funded contaminated sites remediation fund.</p> <p>We have largely been providing technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.</p>
New form for determination applications under new building emergency management powers, and updated form to modernise current determination applications	MBIE	LEG TBC	The Building Amendment Act 2019 will implement a new system to improve the management of buildings that are damaged or at risk of damage after an emergency event. This paper seeks authorisation to give effect to policy decisions made in that Act regarding applications for determinations, and also makes minor and technical updates to the Building (Forms) Regulations 2004.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
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Building Consent Exemptions in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004	MBIE	DEV TBC	This paper proposes amendments to Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 to include 12 additional exemptions for minor and low risk building work from the Building Consent process. The exemptions include short span bridges, carports, single storey detached pole sheds and hay barns, solar array panels, veranda, awnings, single storey detached buildings, pipe support structures and flexible water bladders. Guidance to TA's would also be updated.	MfE is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to the MBIE.
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Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>research and analysis (eg, reflecting tikanga framework developed by Stats NZ in partnership with Māori)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches. 	

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provision of the
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6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
Under the provisions of the Official Information Act (oia) can I request copies of any briefing notes or similar you have received as minister with responsibility for recycling and the like from your ministry which addresses the issue raised in the attached scan. Further I am seeking copies of any correspondence, including email your office has has with Foodstuff North Island about the imported of mineral water from northern Italy, which is then distributed in New World outlets.	s 9(2)(a)	20-O-00322	12 March	26 March

6.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I'm aware the MfE is looking at some funding to remediate a historical Christchurch Landfill, and was hoping for some more info (the topic has become a bit of a hot button here as the cap on a former landfill on Council land is eroding and needs remediation to stop waste going into the estuary).</p> <p>I do not know which historical Christchurch landfill or landfills specifically the MfE is looking at funding out of the CSRF. Which ones are being considered? How much funding would it get? Who would it go to, and what is it for specifically?</p> <p>What are the risks the landfill or landfills pose? Is there anything else you want to add, or think I have missed?</p> <p>I know it has been discussed in a briefing sent to Minister Parker on November 18, if that is helpful. I'm seeking a response by the close of play today. Could I please request that briefing plus any other documents on the same topic under the OIA?</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p> <p>Reporter/Stuff</p>	19-D-02771	10 March

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 16 March 2020

Environment weekly meeting 2.15pm – 3.00pm, Monday 16 March

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency
 Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships
 Amanda Baldwin, Manager, HSNO
 Stephen Goodman, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 Kathy Bass, Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 David Stephen, Programme Manager, Investments and Partnerships
 Jeremy Strickland, Senior Analyst, Finance
 Gordon Tan, Analyst, Natural and Built System

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Waste Levy proposed expansion	Kathy Bass	Paper	10
3.	Waste budget bid	David Stephen	Verbal update	5
4.	EPA budget bid	Jeremy Strickland	Verbal update	5
5.	Basel Consultation	Amanda Baldwin	Refer to item 1.5	10

1. Updates for noting

1.1. *Our Freshwater 2020* report and indicators used

The environmental domain report *Our Freshwater 2020* is due for public release on 8 April. On the day before the report is released, Ministers Parker and Shaw will host a pre-release briefing for you and other invited Ministers. We will provide you with a report summary and a copy of the embargoed report on this day.

On 11 March, Statistics NZ published online the list of environmental reporting indicators that will be used in the *Our Freshwater 2020* report. It is available on their website at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/outline-of-upcoming-indicators-for-our-freshwater-2020> We have informed our stakeholders about the list.

As discussed on Monday 9 March, we are leading a cross-sector process, working alongside other agencies (including the Department of Conservation, Stats NZ, the Treasury, Land Information New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment), to scope the work involved in implementing an integrated Environmental Monitoring and Reporting System. The need for this was outlined in *Environment Aotearoa 2019* and reinforced by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) report *Focusing Aotearoa New Zealand's Environmental Reporting System*, released in November 2019. This work is in its early stages and will consider operational improvements to New Zealand's monitoring and reporting system and potential changes to the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.

1.2. Rethinking Plastics broader response for June 2020

We sent you advice on 6 March 2020 regarding a plan to set goals to shift away from hard-to-recycle plastics (plastic types 3, 6 and degradable plastics), and single-use items. This is the first step of the Government's response to Rethinking Plastics and is part of a strategic shift to clean up our waste and shift towards high-value and recyclable plastics (types 1, 2, 5).

Other streams of work to come together for a full plastics package in June are:

- standardising Kerbside. Work has commenced with Waste Minimisation New Zealand to develop a solution for kerbside that could be adopted nationally over time to improve kerbside recycling.
- a national labelling approach. Supporting kerbside standardisation, we are developing options for ways in which labelling can help people sort their recycling better and incentivise manufacturers to develop sustainable packaging.
- an overall programme plan. We will convene a senior officials' group to oversee a sequenced and prioritised way of taking forward the Rethinking Plastics action plan.

In addition, we are working with your office and Minister Parker's office on Budget 2020 implications.

1.3. Container Return Scheme (CRS) status report 29 February – 8 March 2020

The CRS co-design project has submitted its latest status report, 29 February – 8 March. This update can be found as appendix 1 to this Weekly Update.

The project continues to progress well. Tranche 1 is now complete and a briefing is being prepared for you. The briefing will include the Tranche 1 design report and Technical Advisory Group feedback on Tranche 1. Following receipt of the briefing, we recommend you meet with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Chair, Dave Brash, to discuss Tranche 1.

On 11 March the project team released Tranche 2. This includes research and provisional recommendations on the proposed scheme's scope of containers, collection points and the role of retailers and consumers in the scheme. Tranche 2 also includes the release of a provisional estimate of single use beverage containers sold in New Zealand in 2019. The working group review process will test the assumptions behind this estimate. An updated estimate for the total number of beverage containers sold in New Zealand annually is likely to be available in April.

The project team has also begun preliminary investigations into designing critical areas for Tranches 3 and 4. This includes the infrastructure requirements needed to support a scheme and the structure and role of the managing agency in a New Zealand CRS, including the potential forms of governance.

1.4. Resource Efficiency Directorate changes

There have been some leadership changes at the Ministry that have led to some growth in the scope of the Ministry's Resource Efficiency Directorate.

Claire Richardson will be leaving her role as the Ministry's Chief Operating Officer (COO) to take up the COO role at Wellington City Council. In turn, Amanda Moran will be taking up the position of Acting COO at the Ministry, with Janine Smith assuming Amanda's previous role as Deputy Secretary Natural and Built Environment. This has created an opportunity to reconsider the scope of the Resource Efficiency Directorate. As a result, Director Glenn Wigley will move from the Natural and Built System division to work alongside Director Shaun Lewis, reporting to Deputy Secretary Sam Buckle. As you know, Glenn has already been working with the Resource Efficiency Directorate on the waste levy policy work. In addition, the Risk and Innovation team (managed by Amanda Baldwin) will move to the Resource Efficiency Directorate. There are a lot of synergies between that team's work and the Resource Efficiency work programme. For instance, the Risk and Innovation team is responsible for hazardous substances and new organisms and multi-lateral environment agreements, such as the Basel Convention.

These changes will take effect from 23 March. We will be updating our Directorate organisational chart and will send that to you when it is complete.

1.5. Communications plan for the upcoming consultation on managing the trade in plastic waste (Basel Amendment)

On 12 March the Cabinet paper and draft consultation document *Managing the trade in plastic waste: New Zealand's approach to implementing amendments to the Basel Convention* were considered at the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Change Committee meeting. Cabinet's approval was sought to release the consultation document.

Subject to Cabinet Committee approval on Monday 16 March, consultation on options to implement the Basel Amendment will run for six weeks, from 19 March to 30 April.

The consultation document will be published on the Ministry's website, and we will contact key stakeholders (local government, the waste sector, and NGOs) to invite them to submit feedback on the proposed options to implement the Amendment.

We have provided you with a draft press release on the consultation. We recommend that the press release is published on 19 March when consultation begins. We will also provide you with key messages and a question and answer document ahead of consultation.

2. Briefing notes

16 March – 13 April

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06545 Amendment to gazetted criteria for 2020 WMF funding round	MfE	This briefing seeks your approval to gazette the revised criterion for the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) following advice from Waste Advisory Board (the Board).	16 March
2020-B-06430 WMF Panel Nominations 2020	MfE	The briefing provides you with the WMF Panel Nominations for 2020.	TBC
2020-B-06492 Territorial authority spending of waste disposal levy money in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years	MfE	This briefing note informs you of how territorial authorities spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. We also highlight challenges with the current levy spend reporting process and how these challenges could be solved through the proposed levy expansion currently in progress.	TBC
2020-B-06506 Request to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign	MfE	Briefing to seek your approval to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign.	TBC

3. Cabinet material

16 March – 13 April

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-06356 Public consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade in plastic waste	ENV	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement the Basel Convention amendments, and undertake public consultation on options to implement the Basel decision to better manage the trade in plastic waste.	Due to Committee: 12 March Due to Cabinet: 17 March
2019-C-06344 Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury	ENV	This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Due to Committee: 12 March Due to Cabinet: 17 March

4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Crown's approach to decommissioning the Tui Oil Field in response to operator Tamarind liquidation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>This DEV paper seeks to appropriate \$171.1 million to begin decommissioning the Tui oil field as a result of the Tamarind liquidation. It also outlines the legal options available to the Crown.</p> <p><i>* Note: Paper published at https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11505-the-crowns-approach-to-decommissioning-the-tui-oil-field-in-response-to-operator-tamarind-liquidation-proactive-release-pdf - actual figure was \$154.641 million</i></p>	<p>MfE support MBIE exploring all legal avenues to hold Tamarind and its directors accountable for the costs of decommissioning.</p> <p>The paper sets out a plan to begin decommissioning. MBIE has addressed previous MfE concerns by noting that the marine consent process has the potential to extend their 2021/2022 timeline to begin decommissioning activities. MBIE has also confirmed that marine consenting costs to agencies are included in their costing.</p>
Refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri	TPK	MCR TBC	This paper reports on the implementation of the refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri.	<p>The Ministry supports a monitoring approach that increases transparency in state sector performance for Māori.</p> <p>We agree the state sector must draw on evidence of what works for Māori and whānau, and at the same time be prepared to innovate, and partner with Māori.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings Regulations	MBIE	LEG TBC	This paper proposes to change the definition of a 'substantial' alteration to an earthquake prone building, to add a minimum dollar value of \$150,000, as the previous definition (25% of the building's dollar value) had a disproportionate impact on provincial and small towns with low value properties.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p><u>Marine risk & liability</u>: policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme.</p> <p>Mining policies are inconsistent for offshore and onshore areas of conservation value. MBIE has not addressed this issue or indicated that it will be reviewing permit processes for benthic protection</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure mining restrictions in benthic protection areas <p>Greater liability for longer term cost, clean up and</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>areas.</p> <p><u>Onshore risk & liability</u>: the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</p>	<p>prosecution of future sites should be placed with industry rather than relying on the taxpayer-funded contaminated sites remediation fund.</p> <p>We have largely been providing technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.</p>
New form for determination applications under new building emergency management powers, and updated form to modernise current determination applications	MBIE	LEG TBC	The Building Amendment Act 2019 will implement a new system to improve the management of buildings that are damaged or at risk of damage after an emergency event. This paper seeks authorisation to give effect to policy decisions made in that Act regarding applications for determinations, and also makes minor and technical updates to the Building (Forms) Regulations 2004.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Report back on proactive release of Cabinet material policy	SSC	GOV TBC	The paper notes that the policy is still embedding, but already producing results with regard to the number of papers released. § 9(2)(f)(iv)	MfE supports the paper and has been involved in cross agency discussions on the proposed reporting regime.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
New Zealand's financial security regime for offshore installations- Proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules	MoT	DEV TBC	This noting paper reports back to Cabinet on the outcomes of public consultation on proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules Part 102 and 131. The changes strengthen the offshore financial security regime for offshore installations which includes increasing the maximum limit of insurance to \$1.2 billion and introducing a new scaled insurance framework with costs proportionate to the risk posed.	MfE broadly supports the changes that have been made since consultation in April. § 9(2)(g)(i)
Building Consent Exemptions in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004	MBIE	DEV TBC	This paper proposes amendments to Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 to include 12 additional exemptions for minor and low risk building work from the Building Consent process. The exemptions include short span bridges, carports, single storey detached pole sheds and hay barns, solar array panels, veranda, awnings, single storey detached buildings, pipe support structures and flexible water bladders. Guidance to TA's would also be updated.	MfE is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to the MBIE.
Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions Paper 2 - Official statistics system Paper 3 – Research and Analysis Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	New data and statistics legislation will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician • recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics • acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics • recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources) • enable Stats NZ to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (eg, joint collections) • expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (eg, reflecting tikanga) 	The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to StatsNZ. We are discussing with StatsNZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (eg, for Environmental Reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>framework developed by Stats NZ in partnership with Māori)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches. 	
Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review – Fisheries Measures	MPI	DEV	<p>This paper provides measures that the Minister of Fisheries considers necessary to support a revised Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan. It provides a suite of new restrictions on set netting and trawl fisheries in areas of dolphin habitat, and seeks the authorisation of Cabinet to draft new regulations. It also notes the Minister's intention to consult on aspects of the proposals (for the South Island Hector's population) that were not previously consulted on.</p>	9(2)(g)(i)
Mangatū Crown Forest Licenced land remedies inquiry: s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	The Ministry does not have any comments on this paper at this stage.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

5. Official Information Act requests

5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
Under the provisions of the Official Information Act (OIA) can I request copies of any briefing notes or similar you have received as minister with responsibility for recycling and the like from your ministry which addresses the issue raised in the attached scan. Further I am seeking copies of any correspondence, including email your office has had with Foodstuff North Island about the imported of mineral water from northern Italy, which is then distributed in New World outlets.	s 9(2)(a)	20-O-00322	30 March	6 April

Released under the
provision of the
Official Information Act 1982

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 23 March 2020

Environment weekly meeting 1.00pm – 1.45pm, Monday 23 March

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.	Waste investment	Sam Buckle/Shawn Lewis	Verbal update	15
3.	Covid update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	15

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Community Environment Fund

You directed us to prioritise funding from the Community Environment Fund (CEF) to environment centres, and offer the remaining funding to projects proposed in the 2017 contestable funding round (Briefing 2020-B06402 refers).

Environment Hubs Aotearoa (EHA) is developing a proposal for a new funding model for environment centres. The new model is intended to replace existing funding arrangements between the Ministry and nine environment centres, which expire on 31 July 2020. EHA is currently working with its members on the proposal and intends to submit it in May. This ongoing work is funded through a one-year CEF-funded project to build EHA's capability and capacity (e.g., recruitment plan, reporting framework, etc) that ends August 2020. Should you approve this model, a deed of funding between EHA and the Ministry could come into effect in August 2020.

In the 2017 contestable round, all proposals recommended for funding by the independent assessment panel were funded. However, the amount requested exceeded the amount available, so projects were funded at a reduced amount. Other proposals were not recommended by the panel because they were either of poor quality or were a better fit with the criteria of other funds.

We will provide you with recommendations for the unallocated funds once we have identified if proposals could benefit from additional funding.

1.2. Waste disposal levy proposals

We are now consulting with other departments on the draft waste disposal levy Cabinet paper. Comments have been requested by end of Thursday 26 of March. It is proposed to incorporate agency comments and provide you with an updated draft Cabinet paper by the end of next week or start of the following week. Cross-party consultation is proposed to run from 2 to 17 April (this is 10 working days, allowing for the Easter break), in order to meet our goal of lodging on the 23 April for ENV on the 30 April.

1.3. Investing in waste and resource recovery

We are investigating investment opportunities in waste and recycling infrastructure to inform decisions on further possible economic stimulus in response to COVID-19. These include:

- scaling or investing further in currently-funded Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) projects, plus revisiting viable projects that missed out on funding in the most recent WMF round.
- investing in viable waste and resource recovery projects that were not recommended for funding as part of the \$40m Provisional Growth Fund package.
- Bringing forward investment in the immediate infrastructure investment priorities identified as part of the recently commissioned Waste Levy Investment Plan report (e.g. optical sorters, HDPE recycling plant(s), fibre, organics and C&D recovery).

1.4. National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres

Submissions are due on 25 March for the National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres. We have had two submissions so far, both from district councils and they support the proposed changes. One regional public health organisation emailed us brief comments but has indicated they will be unable to make a formal submission as they are prioritising policy work in order to deal with Covid-19. If it is decided to extend the

deadline for submissions or delay the process in light of the pressures of the immediate situation, that should be communicated promptly to the sector.

2. Briefing notes

23 March – 20 April

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06545 Amendment to gazetted criteria for 2020 WMF funding round	MfE	This briefing seeks your approval to gazette the revised criterion for the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) following advice from Waste Advisory Board (the Board).	16 March
2020-B-06580 Update on PGF waste allocation	MfE	This briefing provides you with an update on proposals due to be considered for PGF funding by RED ministers (meeting on 23 March).	19 March
2020-B-06430 WMF Panel Nominations 2020	MfE	The briefing provides you with the WMF Panel Nominations for 2020.	TBC
2020-B-06492 Territorial authority spending of waste disposal levy money in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years	MfE	This briefing note informs you of how territorial authorities spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. We also highlight challenges with the current levy spend reporting process and how these challenges could be solved through the proposed levy expansion currently in progress.	TBC
2020-B-06506 Request to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign	MfE	Briefing to seek your approval to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign.	TBC

3. Cabinet material for proactive release (30 working days after confirmation by Cabinet)

Paper title and number	What this paper covers	Date confirmed by Cabinet	Date due to your office	Date due for proactive release	Date published
2019-C-06356 Public consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade in plastic waste	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement the Basel Convention amendments, and undertake public consultation on options to implement the Basel decision to better manage	16 March	TBC	28 April	TBC

	the trade in plastic waste.				
2019-C-06344 Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury	This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	16 March	TBC	28 April	TBC

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4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

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Crown's approach to decommissioning the Tui Oil Field in response to operator Tamarind liquidation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>This DEV paper seeks to appropriate \$171.1 million to begin decommissioning the Tui oil field as a result of the Tamarind liquidation. It also outlines the legal options available to the Crown.</p> <p><i>* Note: Paper published at https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11505-the-crowns-approach-to-decommissioning-the-tui-oil-field-in-response-to-operator-tamarind-liquidation-proactiverelease-pdf - actual figure was \$154.641 million</i></p>	<p>MfE support MBIE exploring all legal avenues to hold Tamarind and its directors accountable for the costs of decommissioning.</p> <p>The paper sets out a plan to begin decommissioning. MBIE has addressed previous MfE concerns by noting that the marine consent process has the potential to extend their 2021/2022 timeline to begin decommissioning activities. MBIE has also confirmed that marine consenting costs to agencies are included in their costing.</p>
Refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri	TPK	MCR TBC	This paper reports on the implementation of the refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri.	<p>The Ministry supports a monitoring approach that increases transparency in state sector performance for Māori.</p> <p>We agree the state sector must draw on evidence of what works for Māori and whānau, and at the same time be prepared to innovate, and partner with Māori.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings Regulations	MBIE	LEG TBC	This paper proposes to change the definition of a 'substantial' alteration to an earthquake prone building, to add a minimum dollar value of \$150,000, as the previous definition (25% of the building's dollar value) had a disproportionate impact on provincial and small towns with low value properties.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p><u>Marine risk & liability</u>: policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme.</p> <p>Mining policies are inconsistent for offshore and onshore areas of conservation value. MBIE has not addressed this issue or indicated that it will be reviewing permit processes for benthic protection</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure mining restrictions in benthic protection areas <p>Greater liability for longer term cost, clean up and</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>areas.</p> <p><u>Onshore risk & liability</u>: the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</p>	<p>prosecution of future sites should be placed with industry rather than relying on the taxpayer-funded contaminated sites remediation fund.</p> <p>We have largely been providing technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.</p>
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Report back on proactive release of Cabinet material policy	SSC	GOV TBC	The paper notes that the policy is still embedding, but already producing results with regard to the number of papers released. § 9(2)(f)(iv)	MfE supports the paper and has been involved in cross agency discussions on the proposed reporting regime.

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New Zealand's financial security regime for offshore installations- Proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules	MoT	DEV TBC	This noting paper reports back to Cabinet on the outcomes of public consultation on proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules Part 102 and 131. The changes strengthen the offshore financial security regime for offshore installations which includes increasing the maximum limit of insurance to \$1.2 billion and introducing a new scaled insurance framework with costs proportionate to the risk posed.	MfE broadly supports the changes that have been made since consultation in April. § 9(2)(g)(i)
Building Consent Exemptions in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004	MBIE	DEV TBC	This paper proposes amendments to Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 to include 12 additional exemptions for minor and low risk building work from the Building Consent process. The exemptions include short span bridges, carports, single storey detached pole sheds and hay barns, solar array panels, veranda, awnings, single storey detached buildings, pipe support structures and flexible water bladders. Guidance to TA's would also be updated.	MfE is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to the MBIE.
Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions Paper 2 - Official statistics system Paper 3 – Research and Analysis Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	New data and statistics legislation will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician • recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics • acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics • recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources) • enable Stats NZ to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (eg, joint collections) • expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (eg, reflecting tikanga 	The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to StatsNZ. We are discussing with StatsNZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (eg, for Environmental Reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>framework developed by Stats NZ in partnership with Māori)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches. 	
Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review – Fisheries Measures	MPI	DEV	<p>This paper provides measures that the Minister of Fisheries considers necessary to support a revised Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan. It provides a suite of new restrictions on set netting and trawl fisheries in areas of dolphin habitat, and seeks the authorisation of Cabinet to draft new regulations. It also notes the Minister's intention to consult on aspects of the proposals (for the South Island Hector's population) that were not previously consulted on.</p>	9(2)(g)(i)
Mangatū Crown Forest Licenced land remedies inquiry: s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	The Ministry does not have any comments on this paper at this stage.
Improving the allocation and transfer process provided in the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004		DEV 8 April	<p>This paper seeks Cabinet approval to amend the Act that enables settlement under regional agreements between iwi and the Crown. In some cases, some iwi of a region refuse to enter the negotiations, or the court cannot resolve disputes raised in the negotiation. In these cases, the Trustee can still receive the settlement assets but cannot currently transfer them to any of the iwi. The amendment enables the assets to be transferred to iwi who claim them.</p>	MfE supports the paper to enable settlement assets to be transferred to iwi who claim the assets within a reasonable timeframe. Iwi submitters and the Trustee (Te Ohu Kai Moana Limited) also support the amendment.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Te Korowai O Wainuiarua: s 9(2)(j), s 9(2)(k)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	
Overhaul of the Biosecurity Act: Cabinet paper and attached Discussion Document	MPI	DEV	<p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval to release a public discussion document as part of overhauling the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).</p> <p>The purpose of the discussion document is to test MPI's preliminary analysis and understanding of the issues with the Act and the biosecurity system. The document does not present options for change.</p> <p>The proposed consultation period is from 7 May 2020 to 18 June 2020.</p>	<p>The Ministry considers the discussion document provides a good summary of the state of our biosecurity system and the key issues that a review should address. We commented that the discussion on legislative alignment was overly simplistic, and focused almost exclusively on the interaction of the Biosecurity Act and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act. This was also raised by other agencies, and MPI has acknowledged the need to resolve this issue.</p>
Facilitation of Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement	DPMC	DEV 8 April	<p>The paper seeks cabinet's approval to draft an Order in Council (OiC) under the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017</p> <p>The proposal would substitute for the normal resource consent processes under district and regional plans an expedited process that removes local agency discretion and curtails public notification and appeals. The activities that would ordinarily be discretionary activities under the existing plans include the removal of a heritage-scheduled war memorial and three scheduled heritage trees. The proposal also suggests unspecified overrides to any discretionary consents under the NES-Contaminated Soil.</p>	<p>The Ministry broadly supports the use of an OiC to facilitate the reinstatement works, as was envisioned in the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017.</p> <p>However, we expressed concerns with a number of details and cautioned against using the OiC to enable activities with significant adverse effects to occur without meaningful public engagement or management by the consent authority.</p> <p>DPMC have come back and noted that the minister is now considering public engagement at the OiC drafting stage and will agree consent timeframes and process with CCC and ECan. The Ministry will see a revised cabinet paper and are on the panel to evaluate the RIS.</p>

5. Official Information Act requests

5.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
Under the provisions of the Official Information Act (OIA) can I request copies of any briefing notes or similar you have received as minister with responsibility for recycling and the like from your ministry which addresses the issue raised in the attached scan. Further I am seeking copies of any correspondence, including email your office has had with Foodstuff North Island about the imported of mineral water from northern Italy, which is then distributed in New World outlets.	s 9(2)(a)	20-O-00322	30 March	6 April

5.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I request under the Official Information and Meetings Act -the following</p> <p>Advice in the form of formal reports along with emails from MFE directly to Minister Ms Sage as Associate Minister for the Environment on the subject of genetic modification of pest animals such as stoats, ferrets, rabbits, possums, but not limited to the pests as mentioned during her time as Minister</p> <p>What was the Ministry's last advice to Minister Sage on the subject of the potential of all genetic techniques to reduce /eliminate introduced animal pests into NZ</p> <p>The date when Minister Sage prohibited further time and study by mfe staff on the potential of genetic modification and or the use of CRISPA technology, along with reason given by Ms Sage for the prohibition along with a copy of the directive</p> <p>The reason /explanation why such a directive was given by Minister Sage in her directive to MfE staff</p> <p>How many tonnes of toxic bait is used annually to control target species of animal pests in NZ including urban rat populations</p>	s 9(2)(a)	20-D-00408	9 April

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 30 March 2020

Environment weekly meeting (TBC), Monday 30 March

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment
 Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency
 Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships
 Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System
 Stephanie Hill, Senior Analyst, Investments and Partnerships

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Current work programme	Glenn/Shاون	Verbal update	15
3.	Waste Policy response	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	15

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1. Actions and decisions

1.1. Consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention

We seek direction from you on how to progress the consultation on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the international trade in plastic waste. We have flexibility on how, and even if, we undertake consultation. But (at this stage) we do not have flexibility on the 1 January 2021 implementation date. We consider that, in light of the COVID-19 circumstances, a change to this deadline may be possible. However we think this is unlikely as it is a formal decision under the Basel Convention, and we understand that a new date would need to be re-agreed by Parties. We have not been able to confirm this with MFAT's legal team as officials are prioritising support for issues relating to COVID-19 at this time.

COVID-19 and the four week lockdown will impact key stakeholders such as local government and the waste management sector. As such we do not consider we should proceed with the public consultation as planned, the consultation document has not yet been released. Significantly delaying some form of engagement with stakeholders (for more than 3 weeks) is not advised as it will impact our ability to complete regulatory changes before the new requirements come into effect on 1 January 2021.

We recommend that this work stream continues to progress as New Zealand is bound by the timeframes agreed by Parties to the Basel Convention and will need to have regulations in place by 1 January 2021. If New Zealand does not have the necessary regulatory settings in place at this time, businesses would likely be prevented from exporting some plastic waste to countries we currently export to. It is likely that New Zealand exporters could only export mixed plastic waste to those countries that have not implemented the Basel Amendment. Where trade is possible, there will be a lack of regulation and a risk that residual waste will continue to enter the environment as a result.

There are two feasible options to proceed with implementing amendments under the Basel Convention:

- undertake an informal, Ministry led targeted consultation with stakeholders via webinars or direct video conference meetings
- not undertake any consultation, noting that we are not required to undertake formal consultation.

Both these options should enable regulations to be amended in time for the new global rules for the trade in plastic waste to come into effect on 1 January 2021. We are well-placed to work with targeted stakeholders. If we do not consult at all, we will need to carefully manage stakeholder's expectations and work with them to inform them of any upcoming changes.

Consultation was proposed to begin on Thursday 19 March for six weeks, finishing on Thursday 30 April. Stakeholders include local government, the waste management sector, plastics manufacturers, producers and retailers (such as Countdown and Foodstuffs) and Non-Governmental Organisations.

Local government and the waste management sector are key stakeholder groups for this consultation as they will be most impacted by changes to export requirements for plastic waste. However both groups are also working to support essential services over the next four weeks.

There is no statutory requirement to consult on amendments to the Imports and Exports Order, however the management and export of plastic waste for recycling is of direct interest to a number of stakeholders and it would be beneficial to engage with these key stakeholders

2. Updates for noting

2.1. COVID-19 Waste and Resource Efficiency Response

As discussed at our weekly meeting on 23 March, the Ministry is undertaking the following streams of work in response to COVID-19:

Operational Response.

We are connected into the national crisis management system every day through:

- MBIE-led Infrastructure Pillar – this is the key senior connection into the National Crisis Management Centre (Shaun Lewis/Stephen Goodman)
- DIA-led Local Government Solid Waste Working Group – this is the key connection across agencies and into the sector on Waste (Roderick Boys).

We have focused on ensuring that waste and recycling recovery continues to operate (e.g. kerbside collection), providing flexibility to the sector (e.g. where recycling is possible or not possible to continue), and balancing the Government imperative to prevent COVID-19 spread (e.g. agreeing advice with the sector on protective equipment use).

We are updating your office by email throughout the week.

Work Programme Review.

We aim to progress our core work programme as much as possible and are reviewing:

- approach to Waste Minimisation Fund (current projects, projects in deed negotiations, and the role of 2020 WMF round)
- compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (including obligations under the Waste Minimisation Act that are potentially affected by COVID-19)
- the policy programme including the proposed Waste Levy Expansion, Container Return Scheme, Regulatory Product Stewardship, Rethinking Plastics response, etc.

2.2. Waste Minimisation (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulations 2018 compliance assurance programme and COVID-19

Engagement with retailers as part of the compliance assurance programme for the plastic bag ban has been temporarily suspended due to the escalation of the COVID-19 alert level to level 4. Retailers are now facing significant uncertainty with an unknown period of disruption to trade, with many of them facing significant revenue loss, staff redundancies and store closures due to serious downturn in the retail trade. Australian jurisdictions have recently witnessed this downturn being particularly pronounced in the business categories that are normally targeted for spot checks (takeaway food, cafes, restaurants, fresh produce and small, independent businesses). We will maintain inbound communication lines so that retailers can call or email for advice about the bag ban if needed and advise you regarding resumption of the programme subject to central governments evolving response to COVID-19.

2.3. Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) – Revised Approach to 2020 Funding Round

The WMF has been considering options for a revised funding approach for 2020 WMF funds in light of COVID-19 situation. It will take into account the Government's economic stimulus package provided to support essential social sector services, communities and businesses during COVID-19, which will offer relief in the short-term during lockdown. It will also consider the role the WMF 2020 contestable process has in complementing the stimulus package and ensuring New Zealand has a functioning resource recovery sector post COVID-19. Issues being considered include:

- gaps in the short-term economic stimulus package that WMF funding could support;
- the longer term economic challenges in the post COVID 19 environment;
- supporting strategic relationships with key community organisations and businesses necessary to maintaining the resource recovery sector;
- key project areas like to require support such as food rescue services and reuse and repair services in the post COVID 19 environment (for example Kaibosh and Trademe Green);
- projects previously recommended for funding by the WMF Assessment Panel that were not funded from the 2019 round; and
- Agile approaches to assessing applications, project approval and Deed negotiation (for example a reconsideration of maintaining the current panel and a rolling approach to project approvals).

3. Briefing notes

30 March – 27 April

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06545 Options for WMF funding 2020 in light of level 4 alert for COVID-19	MfE	This briefing seeks your approval for options for WMF funding in light of level 4 alert for Covid-19	31 March
2020-B-06430 WMF Panel Nominations 2020	MfE	The briefing provides you with the WMF Panel Nominations for 2020.	TBC
2020-B-06492 Territorial authority spending of waste disposal levy money in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years	MfE	This briefing note informs you of how territorial authorities spent the waste disposal levy money allocated to them in the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. We also highlight challenges with the current levy spend reporting process and how these challenges could be solved through the proposed levy expansion currently in progress.	TBC
2020-B-06506 Request to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign	MfE	Briefing to seek your approval to progress national recycling behaviour change campaign.	TBC

4. Cabinet Material

30 March – 27 April

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
2020-C-06452 Proposals for a more effective waste levy	ENV	Provides post-consultation policy advice on proposals to expand the waste disposal levy (waste levy) and increase its rate, for Cabinet	Draft due to your office: 22 April Due to lodge: 23 April Due to Committee:

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
		approval for regulation making.	30 April Due to Cabinet: 4 May

5. Cabinet material for proactive release (30 working days after confirmation by Cabinet)

Paper title and number	What this paper covers	Date confirmed by Cabinet	Date due to your office	Date due for proactive release	Date published
2019-C-06356 Public consultation on options to implement amendments to the Basel Convention to better manage the trade in plastic waste	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement the Basel Convention amendments, and undertake public consultation on options to implement the Basel decision to better manage the trade in plastic waste.	16 March	TBC	28 April	TBC
2019-C-06344 Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury	This Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	16 March	TBC	28 April	TBC

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6. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Crown's approach to decommissioning the Tui Oil Field in response to operator Tamarind liquidation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>This DEV paper seeks to appropriate \$171.1 million to begin decommissioning the Tui oil field as a result of the Tamarind liquidation. It also outlines the legal options available to the Crown.</p> <p><i>* Note: Paper published at https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11505-the-crowns-approach-to-decommissioning-the-tui-oil-field-in-response-to-operator-tamarind-liquidation-proactive-release-pdf-actual-figure-was-\$154.641-million</i></p>	<p>The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) supports the Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) exploring all legal avenues to hold Tamarind and its directors accountable for the costs of decommissioning.</p> <p>The paper sets out a plan to begin decommissioning. MBIE has addressed previous Ministry concerns by noting that the marine consent process has the potential to extend their 2021/2022 timeline to begin decommissioning activities. MBIE has also confirmed that marine consenting costs to agencies are included in their costing.</p>
Refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri	TPK	MCR TBC	This paper reports on the implementation of the refreshed monitoring approach of Te Puni Kōkiri.	<p>The Ministry supports a monitoring approach that increases transparency in state sector performance for Māori.</p> <p>We agree the state sector must draw on evidence of what works for Māori and whānau, and at the same time be prepared to innovate, and partner with Māori.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings Regulations	MBIE	LEG TBC	This paper proposes to change the definition of a 'substantial' alteration to an earthquake prone building, to add a minimum dollar value of \$150,000, as the previous definition (25% of the building's dollar value) had a disproportionate impact on provincial and small towns with low value properties.	The Ministry is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>Marine risk & liability: Policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme.</p>	<p>The Ministry broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>Mining policies are inconsistent for offshore and onshore areas of conservation value. MBIE has not addressed this issue or indicated that it will be reviewing permit processes for benthic protection areas.</p> <p>Onshore risk & liability: The discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mining restrictions in benthic protection areas. <p>Greater liability for longer term cost, clean up and prosecution of future sites should be placed with industry rather than relying on the taxpayer-funded contaminated sites remediation fund.</p> <p>The Ministry has largely provided technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.</p>
New form for determination applications under new building emergency management powers, and updated form to modernise current determination applications	MBIE	LEG TBC	The Building Amendment Act 2019 will implement a new system to improve the management of buildings that are damaged or at risk of damage after an emergency event. This paper seeks authorisation to give effect to policy decisions made in that Act regarding applications for determinations, and also makes minor and technical updates to the Building (Forms) Regulations 2004.	The Ministry is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Report back on proactive release of Cabinet material policy	SSC	GOV TBC	The paper notes that the policy is still embedding but already producing results with regard to the number of papers released. s 9(2)(f)(iv)	The Ministry supports the paper and has been involved in cross agency discussions on the proposed reporting regime.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
New Zealand's financial security regime for offshore installations- Proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules	MoT	DEV TBC	This noting paper reports back to Cabinet on the outcomes of public consultation on proposed amendments to Marine Protection Rules Part 102 and 131. The changes strengthen the offshore financial security regime for offshore installations which includes increasing the maximum limit of insurance to \$1.2 billion and introducing a new scaled insurance framework with costs proportionate to the risk posed.	The Ministry broadly supports the changes that have been made since consultation in April. § 9(2)) (g)
Building Consent Exemptions in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004	MBIE	DEV TBC	This paper proposes amendments to Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 to include 12 additional exemptions for minor and low risk building work from the Building Consent process. The exemptions include short span bridges, carports, single storey detached pole sheds and hay barns, solar array panels, veranda, awnings, single storey detached buildings, pipe support structures and flexible water bladders. Guidance to TAs would also be updated.	The Ministry is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to MBIE.
Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions Paper 2 - Official statistics system Paper 3 – Research and Analysis Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	New data and statistics legislation will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician • recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics • acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics • recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources) • enable Statistics NZ (StatsNZ) to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (eg joint collections) • expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (eg reflecting tikanga) 	The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to StatsNZ. We are discussing with StatsNZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (eg for environmental reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
			<p>framework developed by Stats NZ in partnership with Māori)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches. 	
Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review – Fisheries Measures	MPI	DEV	<p>This paper provides measures that the Minister of Fisheries considers necessary to support a revised Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan. It provides a suite of new restrictions on set netting and trawl fisheries in areas of dolphin habitat, and seeks the authorisation of Cabinet to draft new regulations. It also notes the Minister's intention to consult on aspects of the proposals (for the South Island Hector's population) that were not previously consulted on.</p>	9(2)(g)(i)
Mangatū Crown Forest Licenced land remedies inquiry: s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	The Ministry does not have any comments on this paper at this stage.
Improving the allocation and transfer process provided in the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004		DEV 8 April	<p>This paper seeks Cabinet approval to amend the Act that enables settlement under regional agreements between iwi and the Crown. In some cases, some iwi of a region refuse to enter the negotiations, or the court cannot resolve disputes raised in the negotiation. In these cases, the Trustee can still receive the settlement assets but cannot currently transfer them to any of the iwi. The amendment enables the assets to be transferred to iwi who claim them.</p>	The Ministry supports the paper to enable settlement assets to be transferred to iwi who claim the assets within a reasonable timeframe. Iwi submitters and the Trustee (Te Ohu Kai Moana Limited) also support the amendment.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Te Korowai O Wainuiārua: s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(h), s 9(2)(j)	s 9(2)(j), s 9(2)(h)
Overhaul of the Biosecurity Act: Cabinet paper and attached Discussion Document	MPI	DEV	<p>This paper seeks Cabinet's approval to release a public discussion document as part of overhauling the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).</p> <p>The purpose of the discussion document is to test the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) preliminary analysis and understanding of the issues with the Act and the biosecurity system. The document does not present options for change.</p> <p>The proposed consultation period is from 7 May to 18 June 2020.</p>	<p>The Ministry considers the discussion document provides a good summary of the state of our biosecurity system and the key issues that a review should address. We commented that the discussion on legislative alignment was overly simplistic, and focused almost exclusively on the interaction of the Biosecurity Act and the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act. This was also raised by other agencies, and MPI has acknowledged the need to resolve this issue.</p>
Facilitation of Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement	DPMC	DEV 8 April	<p>The paper seeks cabinet's approval to draft an Order in Council (OiC) under the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017.</p> <p>The proposal would substitute for the normal resource consent processes under district and regional plans an expedited process that removes local agency discretion and curtails public notification and appeals. The activities that would ordinarily be discretionary activities under the existing plans include the removal of a heritage-scheduled war memorial and three scheduled heritage trees. The proposal also suggests unspecified overrides to any discretionary consents under the NES-Contaminated Soil.</p>	<p>The Ministry broadly supports the use of an OiC to facilitate the reinstatement works, as was envisioned in the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017.</p> <p>However, we expressed concerns with a number of details and cautioned against using the OiC to enable activities with significant adverse effects to occur without meaningful public engagement or management by the consent authority.</p> <p>The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has noted that the Minister is now considering public engagement at the OiC drafting stage and will agree consent timeframes and process with CCC and ECan. The Ministry will see a revised cabinet paper and are on the panel to evaluate the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Dam Safety Regulations: Policy Decisions	MBIE	s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

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7. Official Information Act requests

7.1. Ministerial

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
Under the provisions of the Official Information Act (OIA) can I request copies of any briefing notes or similar you have received as minister with responsibility for recycling and the like from your ministry which addresses the issue raised in the attached scan. Further I am seeking copies of any correspondence, including email your office has had with Foodstuff North Island about the imported of mineral water from northern Italy, which is then distributed in New World outlets.	s 9(2)(a)	20-O-00322	30 March	6 April

7.2. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
<p>I request under the Official Information and Meetings Act -the following</p> <p>Advice in the form of formal reports along with emails from MFE directly to Minister Ms Sage as Associate Minister for the Environment on the subject of genetic modification of pest animals such as stoats, ferrets,rabbits ,possums, but not limited to the pests as mentioned during her time as Minister</p> <p>What was the Ministrys last advice to Minister Sage on the subject of the potential of all genetic techniques to reduce /eliminate introduced animal pests into NZ</p> <p>The date when Minister Sage prohibited further time and study by mfe staff on the potential of genetic modification and or the use of CRISPA technology, along with reason given by Ms Sage for the prohibition along with a copy of the directive</p> <p>The reason /explanation why such a directive was given by Minister Sage in her directive to MfE staff</p> <p>How many tonnes of toxic bait is used annually to control target species of animal pests in NZ including urban rat populations</p>	s 9(2)(a)	20-D-00408	9 April