

## Weekly Update

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

**For the week starting 6 July 2020**

### Environment weekly meeting Wednesday 8 July 11.30 – 12.15 pm

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

Shaun Lewis, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resource Efficiency and Water Policy

Glenn Wigley, Director, Waste and Resource Efficiency

Liz Butcher, Senior Analyst, Waste and Resource Efficiency

Nicky Wills, Principal Advisor, Waste and Resource Efficiency

Therese Anders, Senior Communications Advisor

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2	Rethinking Plastics – approach, opportunities and timeframes	Shaun Lewis	Paper/Verbal update	15
3	Phase out of hard-to-recycle plastics – agreement to consult	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
4	Announcements	Therese Anders	Verbal update	10
5	Infrastructure funding	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5

# 1. Updates for noting

## 1.1. Waste volumes to landfill for March, April and May 2020

Restrictions associated with COVID-19 were expected to have an impact on waste generated, waste sent to landfill and waste recycled. We have now reviewed data for waste tonnage disposed at Class 1 Landfills from pre-lockdown, during lockdown and one month post lockdown.

In summary;

- waste tonnage sent to landfill in April dropped by 30% (approx. 85,000 tonnes)
- waste material normally diverted from landfill for recycling or reuse dropped by 80% in April (approx. 14,500 tonnes).
- waste tonnage sent to landfill in May has returned to 'normal May' volumes (approx. 300,00 tonnes)
- Diverted waste from landfill has returned to volumes similar to March. (approx.17,000 tonnes).

Table 1 shows waste to landfill for the months of March, April and May since records began in 2010. Generally, waste volumes for March, April and May are similar. This year there is a noticeable decrease in volumes between March and April, with May returning back to similar volumes seen in previous years.

Table 2 shows waste sent from landfill for recycling or reuse activities for the months of March, April and May. A decrease in diverted material also occurred between March and April 2020. However, diverted tonnage has returned to volumes that were the same as March 2020.

Table 3 shows waste tonnage sent to landfill for the last 15 months, March 2019 – May 2020. This shows waste volumes before the lockdown and then the decrease in volumes in April, with volumes in May returning to a plateau of approx. 300,000 tonnes.

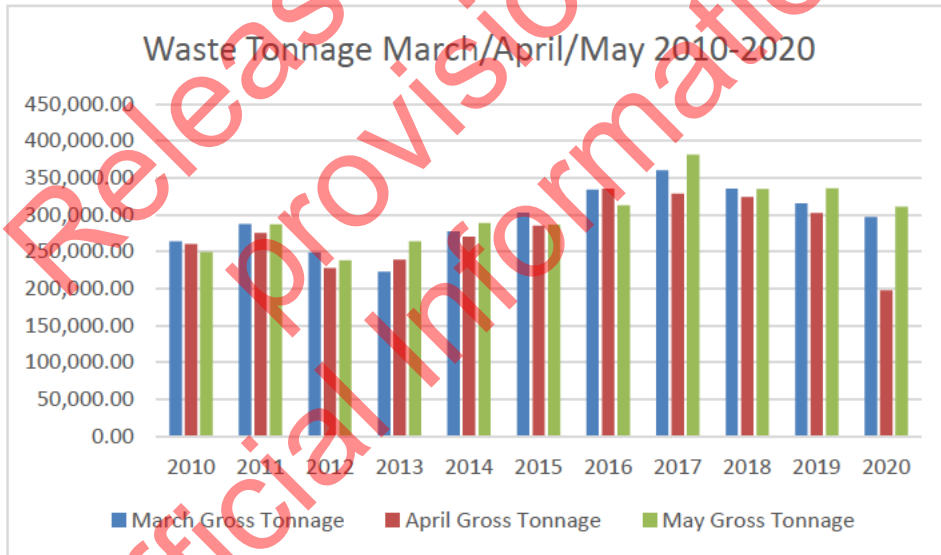
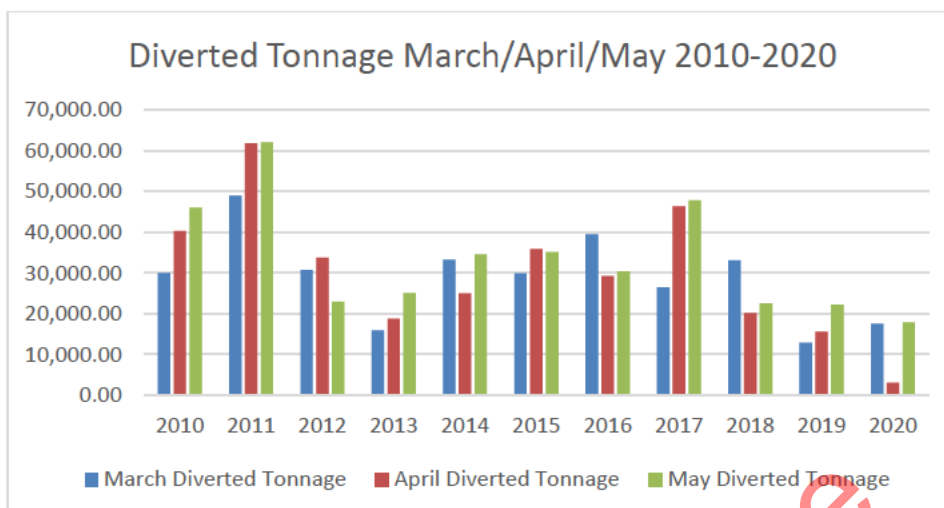
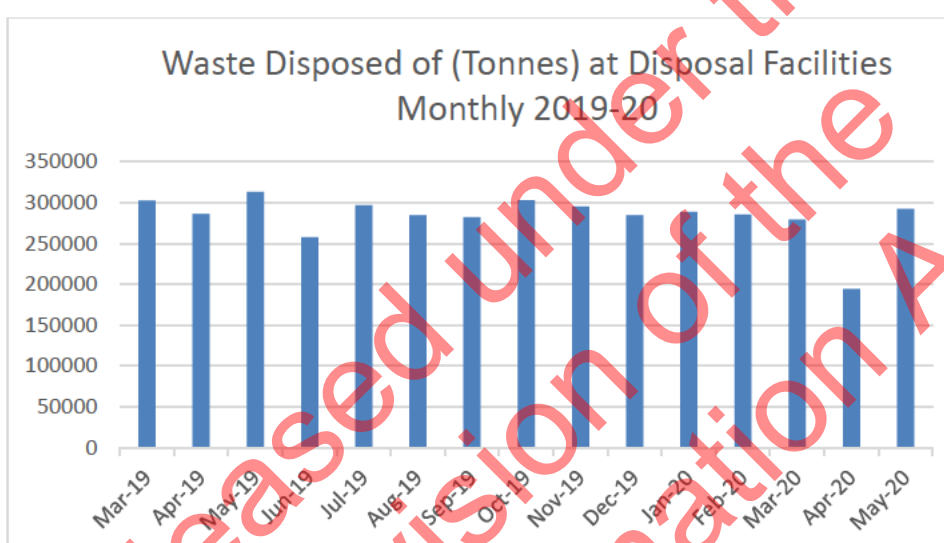


Table 1. Waste tonnage March / April / May 2020



**Table 2. Diverted tonnage March / April / May 2020**



**Table 3. Waste Tonnage March 2019 – May 2020**

## 1.2. Briefing in development: Government policies and actions to improve food security

This update is to let you know that DPMC is leading the development of a cross-government briefing entitled “Government policies and actions to improve food security”, and that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has been contributing to this briefing from a food waste perspective.

The briefing will be sent to the Prime Minister, and around seven further Ministers including yourself, Hon Damien O’Connor, Hon Carmel Sepuloni, and others; on 10 July or thereabouts.

DPMC has convened inter-agency meetings on food security since April, with participating agencies including the Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri, and MfE. These discussions have informed the briefing.

The briefing provides information about the issue of food security in New Zealand, and the actions Government is taking to address it.

The briefing is for information purposes, and asks Ministers to note:

- the range of food security-related initiatives underway;
- that agency officials are working collaboratively on this topic; and
- that officials will provide a further update on food security to Ministers by December 2020.

## 2. Briefing notes

July 2020

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-06952 Next steps for hard-to-recycle plastics and single-use plastic items	MfE	Providing update on next steps for proposals on hard-to-recycle plastics and single-use items.	2 July
2020-B-06900 Appointments and Honours paper for the Environmental Protection Authority Board 2020	MfE	This briefing provides advice on the Appointments and Honours paper proposing to appoint a new member to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Board and to amend the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Committee's standing fee exception. A fee exception letter to the Minister of State Services is also attached to agree the member's fees and to agree a minor exceptional fee for the EPA's current Audit and Risk Committee Independent Chair.	2 July
2020-B-06938 Green Gorilla WMF Funding and Waste Levy Expansion Event note	MfE	Green Gorilla WMF Funding announcement and Waste Levy Expansion announcement Event note	2 July
2020-B-06823 Waste Minimisation Fund -Expression of Interest (EOI) Recommendations from May 2020 funding round	MfE	This briefing provides you with the EOI recommendations from May 2020 funding round.	6 July
2020-B-06905 Update and next steps for standardising kerbside collection	MfE	This briefing provides you with updates and next steps for standardising kerbside collection.	6 July
2020-B-06940 Ministerial satisfaction survey 2019/20 Assoc. Minister Sage	MfE	Requests Minister to complete the common satisfaction survey for policy advice, the results of which are reported in the annual report.	6 July

### 3. Cabinet Material

July 2020

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2020-C-06908 Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment - moving away from hard-to-recycle plastics and single-use items	ENV	This Cabinet paper seeks release of a consultation document that proposes a mandatory phase-out via the Waste Minimisation Act for some hard-to-recycle packaging materials and single-use plastic items.	<b>Draft due to your office:</b> 3 July <b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06909 Update on plastics initiatives and response to Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa New Zealand	ENV	This Cabinet paper responds to the Rethinking Plastics report by the Office of Prime Minister Chief Science Advisor and update on key related projects including kerbside, labelling and an action plan.	<b>Draft due to your office:</b> 3 July <b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06723 Final policy decisions on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention	ENV	This Cabinet paper provides final policy decisions on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06754 NES for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres - policy recommendations	ENV	This Cabinet paper provides you with a policy decision following consultation.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06899 Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointment	APH	This Cabinet paper proposes to appoint a new member to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Board. This paper also proposes to amend the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Committee's standing fee exception, to enable EPA Board members to receive additional fees for any work done on this Committee.	<b>Due to your office:</b> TBC <b>Due to lodge:</b> TBC <b>Due to Committee:</b> TBC <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 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	Status of paper	Date due for proactive release	Date published
2019-C-06400 Proposed National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres: Consultation	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to release a discussion document for a second round of public consultation because of significant changes to the original proposal.	24 February	19 June		TBC	
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	11 May	With office for review	TBC	
2020-C-06690 Government response to the Environment Committee Report on Food Waste	This Cabinet paper provides you with the Government response to the Environment Committee Report on Food Waste. The Ministry is the lead agency on the response.	8 June	TBC		20 July	
2020-C-06452 Proposals for a more effective waste levy	The Cabinet paper provides post-consultation policy advice on proposals to expand the waste disposal levy and increase its rate, for Cabinet approval for regulation making	8 June	TBC		20 July	
2020-C-06761 Improving our framework for managing environmentally harmful products in New Zealand	This Cabinet paper provides the invited report-back on public consultation in 2019 and seeks authorisation to declare priority products and publish ministerial guidelines under sections 9 and 12 of the Waste Minimisation Act.	29 June	TBC			

## 5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Dam Safety Regulations: Policy Decisions	MBIE	DEV 1 July	s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]
Proposal to establish an aquaculture subsidiary to Provincial Growth Fund Limited (PGFL)	MBIE	DEV 2 July	This paper seeks agreement to establish a subsidiary, with initial funding, to the PGFL to support development of the aquaculture industry in New Zealand. The proposal supports a number of government priorities including the Government's Economic Plan. The subsidiary would actively seek to invest in a number of projects including the Southland salmon hatchery, an oyster hatchery and the redevelopment of Tarakohe Wharf in Tasman.	The Ministry provided only minor comments on this paper and has no significant concerns with its proposals.
Proposal to amend the Building Act 2004 to provide for a building levy holiday	MBIE	DEV 6 July	This paper seeks agreement to amend the Building Act 2004 to provide for a targeted 12 month building levy holiday for some successful building consent applicants. A time limited change to the Building Act 2004 would be required to achieve this.	The Ministry does not have any comments or concerns on this paper.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
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 &amp; liability: 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>Onshore risk &amp; liability: the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</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"> <li>residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure</li> <li>mining restrictions in benthic protection areas</li> </ul> <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>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
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.
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.	The Ministry is comfortable with this paper and has provided comments to the MBIE.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
<p>Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions</p> <p>Paper 2 - Official statistics system</p> <p>Paper 3 – Research and Analysis</p> <p>Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions</p>	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	<p>New data and statistics legislation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician</li> <li>• recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics</li> <li>• acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics</li> <li>• recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources)</li> <li>• enable Statistics NZ to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (e.g. joint collections)</li> <li>• expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (e.g., reflecting tikanga framework developed by Statistics NZ in partnership with Māori)</li> <li>• modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches.</li> </ul>	<p>The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to Statistics NZ. We are discussing with Statistics NZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (e.g. for Environmental Reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.</p>
<p>Mangatū Crown Forest Licenced land remedies inquiry: s 9(2)(j)</p>	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(j)	<p>The Ministry does not have any comments on this paper at this stage.</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Te Korowai O Wainuiārua: s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(j)	The Ministry supports the proposed changes in this paper.

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provision of the  
Official Information Act 1982

## 6. Official Information Act requests

### 6.1. Departmental

Reference	Requester	Request	Due to send
20-D-00818	<b>Stuart Smith</b> MP Kaikoura	<p>Copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to, internal and external email communications, records of phone communications, briefings, reports, and advice, sent or received by the Ministry for the Environment regarding any applications made during the Waste Minimisation Fund expression of interests funding round from 1 May 2020 and 22 May 2020 with regards to the cleaning up of tyres at a Racecourse Road property in Amberley, North Canterbury.</p> <p>As part of my request, please include the following information from any applications made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Parties details involved in the application,</li><li>II. Proposed method of dealing with the tyre pile,</li><li>III. Time frame to deliver the proposal,</li><li>IV. Total cost of any proposal received.</li></ul>	10 July
20-D-00958	s 9(2)(a)	I would like data about the amount of plastic waste stored in the different NZ stockpiles over time from 1970 - Now. Could you provide this, or the appropriate source/dataset to find it.	10 July



## Weekly Update

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

**For the week starting 20 July 2020**

### **Environment weekly meeting Monday 20 July 1.00-1.45pm**

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment

Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary, Resource Efficiency and Water Policy

Glenn Wigley, Director, Resource Efficiency

Shaun Lewis, Director, Resource Efficiency

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Plastics Discussion	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	10
3.	Waste Levy Discussion	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10

## 1. Updates for noting

### 1.1. July 2020 Quarterly Waste Levy Payments to Territorial Authorities

There are three matters of note regarding the next quarterly waste levy payments, due to be paid to territorial authorities (TAs) on Monday 20 July 2020:

- Impact of COVID-19 and waste volume. July waste levy payments, in comparison to April payments, have experienced a reduction of between 9 and 19% for all TAs. This is due to an overall reduction in waste sent to landfill during the COVID-19 lockdown period, which has resulted in less levy income for the Ministry to distribute on a population basis to each TA. The total levy funds available for TA distribution this quarter (April, May and June) were \$3,963,658.21, compared with the previous quarter \$4,740,812.53. This is an overall reduction of \$777,154.32 (-16%). Now that waste activities have largely returned to a pre-COVID state, it is expected that the next quarterly levy payments in October 2020 will return to normal.
- Population change and levy payments. In line with section 31 requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act (the Act), for the purposes of calculating the amount of levy funds distributed to each TA, the population of each TA's district has been updated to reflect the 2018 census data (following the commencement of a new financial year). TAs who have experienced a change in population size since the previous census will receive more or less levy funds. Population variances range from between +6% to -6%.
- TA compliance with the Act. As required under section 31 of the Act, in April 2020 the Ministry was required to retain levy payments to six TAs who had not reviewed their Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMPs) within the six yearly statutory timeframe. <sup>§ 9(2)(i)</sup>



Ministry staff continue to work with these TAs to provide assistance with progressing their reviews so they may qualify for future levy payments.

1.2. Waste Management Limited. – Tyre Recovery Plan Wiri: Response to Recent Letter

9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(j)

[Redacted content]

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Official Information Act 1982

## 2. Briefing notes

July 2020

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2020-B-07010 Talking points for Cabinet ENV Committee 23 July 2020 (Phasing out low-value plastics and implementing the Basel Amendment)	MfE	This briefing provides you with talking points for two papers being considered by the Environment, Energy and Climate Committee on 23 July 2020. The first paper seeks Cabinet approval to release a consultation document on phasing out low-value plastic in packaging. The second paper seeks Cabinet approval on final policy decisions to implement the Basel Amendment to better manage the trade in plastic waste.	21 July
2020-B-07016 Environmental Protection Authority Board - Letter of Appointment	MfE	This briefing provides you with the letter of appointment to send to the new EPA Board appointee, following Cabinet confirmation. Following the appointee's written acceptance, public announcements will be made.	30 July

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### 3. Cabinet Material

July 2020


Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2020-C-06908 Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment - moving away from hard-to-recycle plastics and single-use items	ENV	This Cabinet paper seeks release of a consultation document that proposes a mandatory phase-out via the Waste Minimisation Act for some hard-to-recycle packaging materials and single-use plastic items.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06909 Update on plastics initiatives and response to Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa New Zealand	ENV	This Cabinet paper responds to the Rethinking Plastics report by the Office of Prime Minister Chief Science Advisor and update on key related projects including kerbside, labelling and an action plan.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06723 Final policy decisions on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention	ENV	This Cabinet paper provides final policy decisions on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06754 NES for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres - policy recommendations	ENV	This Cabinet paper provides you with a policy decision following consultation.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 16 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 23 July <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 27 July
2020-C-06968 Appointments to the Waste Advisory Board	APH	On 3 June you put the call for nominations out, with the nomination period ending 3 July. A briefing went over last week seeking your confirmation on the appointments.	<b>Due to lodge:</b> 28 July <b>Due to Committee:</b> 5 August <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 5 August
2020-C-06899 Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointment	APH	This Cabinet paper proposes to appoint a new member to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Board. This paper also proposes to amend the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Committee's standing fee exception, to enable EPA Board members to receive additional fees for any work done on this Committee.	<b>Due to your office:</b> TBC <b>Due to lodge:</b> TBC <b>Due to Committee:</b> TBC <b>Due to Cabinet:</b> 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	Status of paper	Date due for proactive release	Date published
2019-C-06400 Proposed National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres: Consultation	This paper seeks Cabinet approval to release a discussion document for a second round of public consultation because of significant changes to the original proposal.	24 February	19 June		TBC	
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	11 May	With office for review	TBC	
2020-C-06690 Government response to the Environment Committee Report on Food Waste	This Cabinet paper provides you with the Government response to the Environment Committee Report on Food Waste. The Ministry is the lead agency on the response.	8 June	TBC		20 July	
2020-C-06452 Proposals for a more effective waste levy	The Cabinet paper provides post-consultation policy advice on proposals to expand the waste disposal levy and increase its rate, for Cabinet approval for regulation making	8 June	TBC		20 July	
2020-C-06761 Improving our framework for managing environmentally harmful products in New Zealand	This Cabinet paper provides the invited report-back on public consultation in 2019 and seeks authorisation to declare priority products and publish ministerial guidelines under sections 9 and 12 of the Waste Minimisation Act.	29 June	TBC			

## 5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
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.
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.

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
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.
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.	The Ministry 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>Data and Statistics Legislation: Paper 1 – Overview of policy decisions</p> <p>Paper 2 - Official statistics system</p> <p>Paper 3 – Research and Analysis</p> <p>Paper 4 – Obligations and sanctions</p>	Statistics NZ	GOV TBC	<p>New data and statistics legislation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modernise roles and responsibilities for the Minister and Government Statistician</li> <li>• recognise the Māori-Crown relationship and what this means for Māori data and statistics</li> <li>• acknowledge the role and responsibilities other agencies play in collecting and sharing data for production of official statistics</li> <li>• recognise the variety of data sources for official statistics (surveys, administrative data, other data sources)</li> <li>• enable Statistics NZ to continue sharing data collected for official statistics with other government agencies for specific purposes (e.g. joint collections)</li> <li>• expand provisions that enable data access for research and analysis (e.g., reflecting tikanga framework developed by Statistics NZ in partnership with Māori)</li> <li>• modernise obligations and sanctions with new lower level enforcement tools and sanctions for less serious breaches.</li> </ul>	<p>The Ministry is generally comfortable with this paper and provided comments to Statistics NZ. We are discussing with Statistics NZ the operational implications proposed changes might have for data reuse (e.g. for Environmental Reporting or our policy work) and continuing the strength of the independence of the Government Statistician.</p>
<p>Mangatu Crown Forest Licenced land remedies inquiry: s 9(2)(j)</p>	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(j)	<p>The Ministry does not have any comments on this paper at this stage.</p>

Paper title	Agency	Committee and date due	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Te Korowai O Wainuiārua: s 9(2)(j)	Te Arawhiti	MCR TBC	s 9(2)(j)	The Ministry supports the proposed changes in this paper.
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.

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## 6. Official Information Act requests

### 6.1. Ministerial

Reference	Requester	Request	At your office	Due to send
20-O-01258	s 9(2)(a)	The document entitled 'Meeting Note – WtE discussion with Albert Barr' (10 December 2019) per WQ – Reply 9736 2. The document entitled 'Draft Waste to Energy Guidelines' (14 February 2020) per WQ – Reply 9736 3. Any other briefings, reports, aides-memoire or other documents/information received by the Associate Environment Minister relating to waste-to-energy between 17 June 2020 and 6 July 2020.	27 July	3 August

### 6.2. Departmental

Reference	Requester	Request	Due to send
20-D-01236	s 9(2)(a)	Any information on the percentage of New Zealand plastic bags that end up in the sea.	29 July
20-D-01306	s 9(2)(a)	1. How much plastic by weight is being used each year to wrap bales of hay or silage? If you don't have accurate numbers, what is your best estimate? 2. How much of that plastic is recycled via the Plasback product stewardship scheme? If you don't have accurate numbers, what is your best estimate? 3. If you don't have the information I have asked for above, why is that the case? Have you asked the producers of agricultural packaging for the data and have you asked Plasback for the data? 4. How do you propose to respond to the problem exposed in this story? <a href="https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/rafting-guides-one-nz-s-longest-rivers-pull-half-tonne-plastic-buller-gorge">https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/rafting-guides-one-nz-s-longest-rivers-pull-half-tonne-plastic-buller-gorge</a>	11 August