



# Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Improving the Availability of Waste Data: Additional Proposals

Portfolio Environment

On 20 May 2021, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **agreed** that regulations be developed under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act) to:
  - 1.1 require operators of landfill class 1 municipal landfills and industrial monofills, class 2 construction and demolition fills, class 3 managed fills, class 4 controlled fills, and class 5 cleanfills to keep, and to provide to the Secretary for the Environment (the Secretary), information on the activity source of waste received at and diverted from the site;
  - 1.2 require operators of transfer stations to keep, and to provide to the Secretary, information on the activity source of waste received at the site, reused or recycled at the site, and sent from the site to a disposal facility;
  - 1.3 require territorial authorities to keep, and provide to the Secretary, information on:
    - 1.3.1 their spending of waste levy money;
    - 1.3.2 their performance in achieving waste minimisation with the services, facilities and activities provided or funded in accordance with their Waste Management and Minimisation Plan;
    - 1.3.3 their performance against standards for implementation of their Waste Management and Minimisation Plans, if a performance standard applies to the territorial authority;
- 2 **authorised** the Minister for the Environment to make final policy decisions and drafting changes in respect of:
  - 2.1 the types of information required to be kept and reported for site operators and territorial authorities, and the frequency of activity source reporting from site operators to the Secretary;

- 2.2 technical amendments to Schedule 1 of the Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulations 2009 and Schedule 2 of the Waste Minimisation (Information Requirements) Regulations 2021, to ensure the methods by which landfill sites and transfer stations can measure and report their quantities of waste are fit-for-purpose;
- 2.3 categories of activity source data for sites required to report data to the Secretary;
- 3 **noted** that the above proposals do not include the preparation of performance standards under section 49 of the Act;
- 4 **agreed** that the responsible Minister may take further decisions on minor and technical matters in line with the policy decisions agreed by Cabinet;
- 5 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft regulations under section 86 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008;
- 6 **agreed** that the Ministry for the Environment will seek feedback from a defined group of stakeholders on an exposure draft of the proposed regulations, to obtain technical input;
- 7 **noted** that this creates an opportunity to achieve improved understanding of New Zealand's waste creation and management by standardising the collection of, and improving the availability and quality of, waste data;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for the Environment to report back to the Cabinet Legislation Committee to present regulations for approval.

Vivien Meek  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon David Parker (Chair)  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Rino Tirikatene, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for ENV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister for the Environment