

Waste Minimisation in New Zealand

General consultation workshop
session



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Purpose of session

- Introduce discussion document
- Provide background
- Clarify topics
- Encourage feedback – in written submissions not at meeting
- Submissions close 15 May 2009
 - electronic form, email or hardcopy



Waste Minimisation in New Zealand discussion document – topics

1. Revising New Zealand Waste Strategy targets
2. Identifying products that are priorities for further investigation for product stewardship
3. Criteria for the Waste Minimisation Fund
4. Monitoring waste in New Zealand – waste composition
5. Improving the operation of the waste levy – landfill cover material



Legislation and Waste



The Waste Minimisation Act

- Enacted in September 2008
- Purpose is to encourage waste minimisation and decrease disposal to:
 - protect the environment from harm
 - provide environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits
- Brings together the roles and responsibilities of TAs under a single Act



What's in the Act?

- 1 - Preliminary provisions
- 2 - Product stewardship
- 3 - Waste disposal levy
- 4 - Territorial authorities
- 5 - Offences and enforcement
- 6 - Reporting and audits
- 7 - Waste Advisory Board



Other Ministry work

- Administrative detail of levy collection and Waste Minimisation Fund
- Regulations: mechanics of levy collection
- Process for product stewardship accreditation
- Guidance on Waste Management and Minimisation Plans for Councils



Part 1: Revising New Zealand Waste Strategy targets



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Revising New Zealand Waste Strategy targets

- The Strategy sets government's policy to minimise waste
- A 2006 review of progress recommended revising the strategy targets
- We propose to replace the 30 existing targets with 14 specific targets



Proposed targets

- Volume of total waste disposed of
- Organic waste
- Construction and demolition waste
- Hazardous waste
- Contaminated land
- Management of waste disposal
- Monitoring and reporting.



Total waste disposed of

- **Target 1:** By 2015, reduce waste (tonnes) disposed to landfill per person per year by 20% relative to an established 2010 baseline
- **Target 2:** By 2010, have a system in place for the ongoing monitoring of the composition of waste to landfill



Organic waste

- **Target 3:** By 2012, have a system in place for the ongoing monitoring of the composition of organic waste, the amounts disposed of at landfills and diverted from the waste stream.



Construction and demolition waste

- **Target 4:** By 2012, have a system in place for the ongoing monitoring of the generation and composition of construction and demolition waste, the amount diverted from the waste stream and the amount disposed of.



Hazardous waste

- **Target 5:** By 2012, MfE to establish a national tracking system for all hazardous waste.
- **Target 6:** By 2011, MfE to investigate the need for, and if warranted propose, regulatory standards for storage, transport, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.



Hazardous waste

- **Target 7:** By 2012, specific industries to develop at least 3 accredited product stewardship schemes that increase the recovery or recycling of the hazardous components of waste.
- **Target 8:** By 2014, specific industries will develop at least two other accredited product stewardship schemes that result in a reduction in hazardous substance production at source.



Contaminated land

- **Target 9:** By 2015, regional councils to establish systems to record contaminated sites' information and assess which sites pose a high environmental risk.
- **Target 10:** By 2020, regional councils to investigate all contaminated sites assessed as high risk and implement an action plan for management/remediation.



Waste disposal

- **Target 11:** By 2015, all waste disposal facilities (including wastewater treatment plants, landfills, cleanfill and onsite wastewater systems) meet existing regulatory standards, and consented if required.
- **Target 12:** By 2010, the MfE will assess the need for a NES for environmental management of solid waste disposal facilities.



Monitoring and Reporting

- **Target 13:** By 2012, MfE to implement a waste monitoring and reporting programme to generate consistent data on national waste streams including waste to cleanfills and other disposal sites
- **Target 14:** By 2012, MfE to work with local authorities to develop a national reporting template for councils to report on progress against their Waste Management and Minimisation Plans and other waste activities.



Questions for submissions

1. Your views on the targets?
2. Timeframes realistic?
3. Any additional high level targets you would like to propose? Why, and what information is available to monitor progress?



Part 2: Identifying products that are priorities for product stewardship



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Product stewardship options under the Act

Voluntary product stewardship:

- Ministry will continue to encourage voluntary product stewardship
- Accreditation under the Act – government recognition of schemes
- Can develop regulations to support voluntary schemes



Mandatory product stewardship

Schemes must be developed for “priority products”:

- Product causes environmental harm when it becomes waste; or significant benefits from waste minimisation or treatment of product.
- Product can be effectively managed under a product stewardship scheme
- Consider the effectiveness of any relevant voluntary product stewardship scheme.



Initial ideas

Three potential products for focus of early
Ministry further investigation:

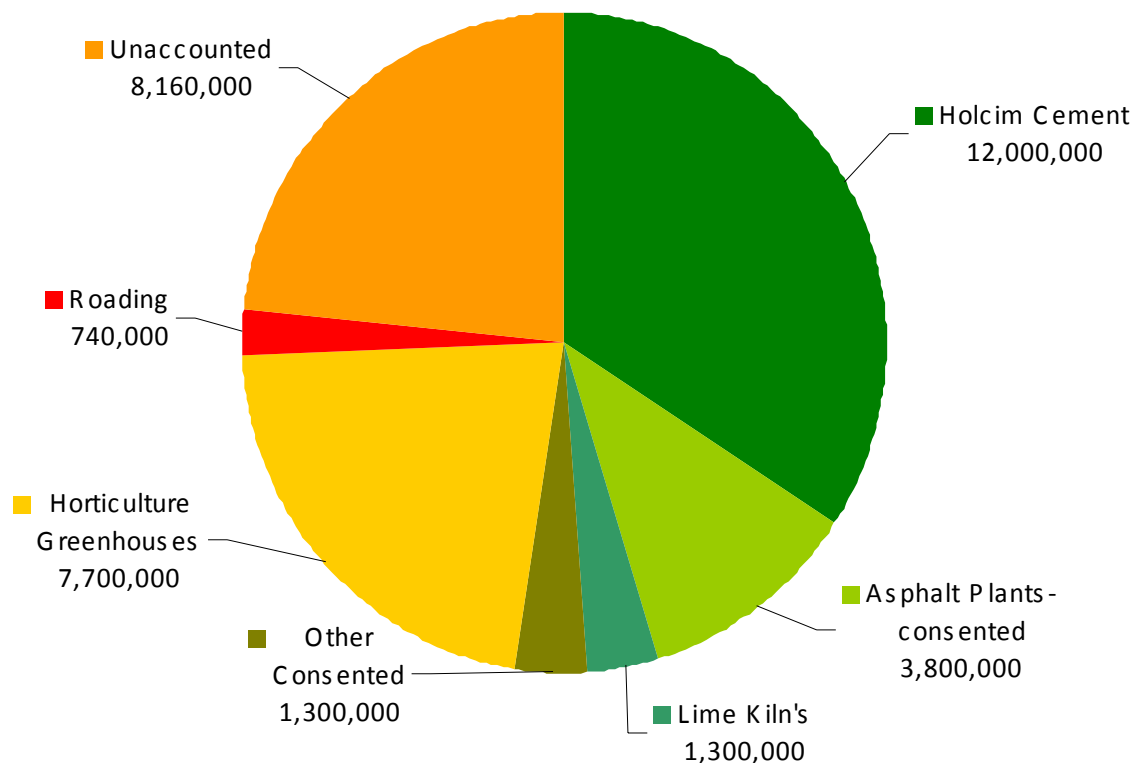
1. Agricultural chemicals
2. Waste oil
3. Refrigerant gases



Used Oil

Unaccounted and low temperature burning a concern

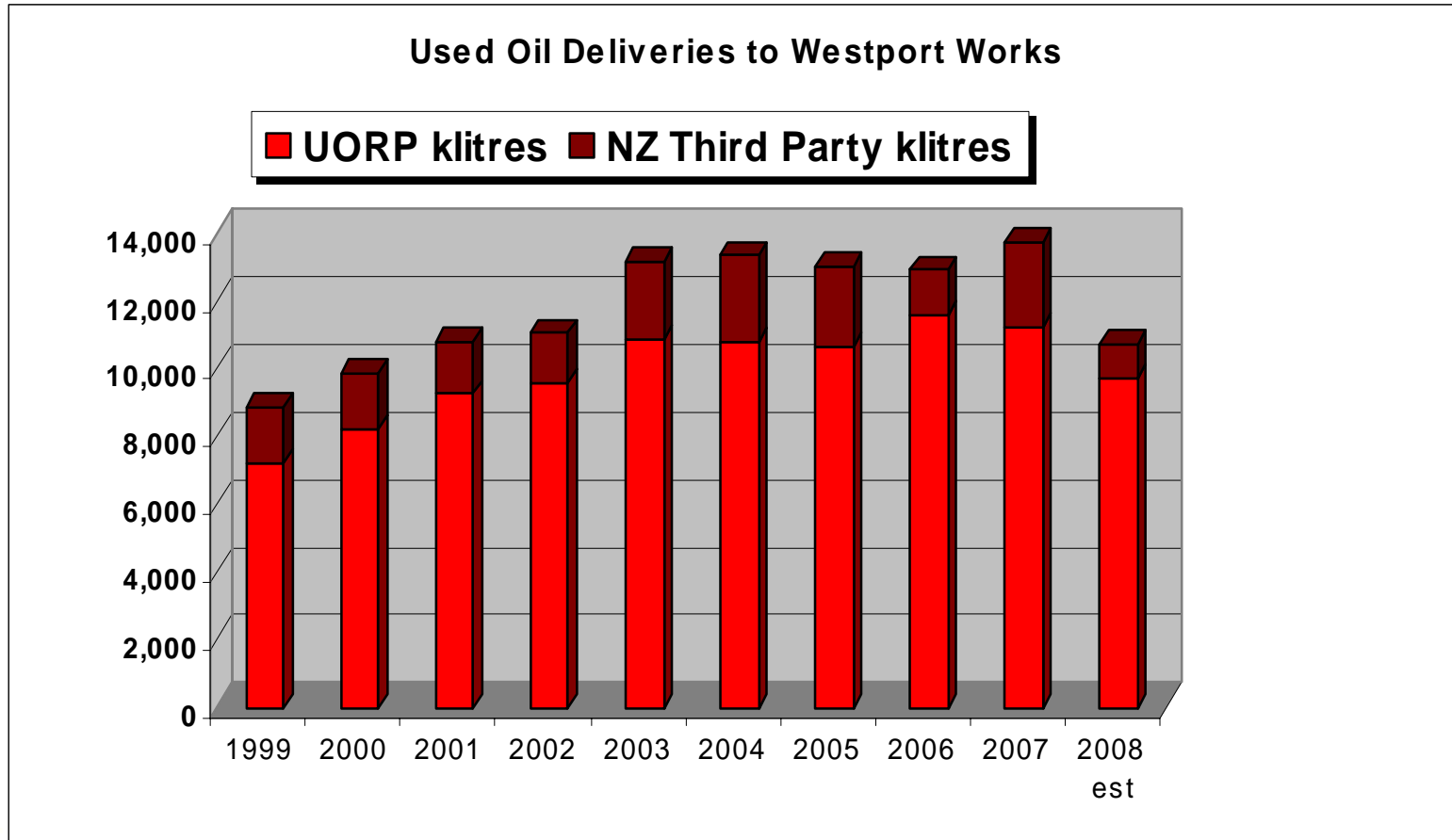
Estimated Used Oil Use in New Zealand by Industry 2007 (litres)



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Volume dropping for recovery for high temperature use



Other products

- Computers, computer accessories and televisions
- Packaging
- Mercury-containing lamps
- Lead acid batteries
- Mobile phones
- Paint
- Plasterboard
- Tyres



Questions for submission on Part 2

- Which products should be the highest priority for a mandatory product stewardship scheme?



And why...?

- The nature of the problem associated with the product (volume, harm, life cycle etc.)
- How we should manage it? (What's not working at present? What are the alternatives? Are regulations needed?)
- What are we trying to achieve? (What targets need to be set?)



Consider...

- Who are the affected stakeholders?
- What are the costs and benefits of a new scheme?
- What are the barriers to establishing a new scheme?
- Anything else MfE needs to know
(Full list of questions on pg 24-25 of discussion document)



Part 3: Identifying funding criteria for the Waste Minimisation Fund



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Waste levy – use of the revenue

- Levy is \$10/tonne - provides revenue for promoting and achieving waste minimisation
- Split:
 - 50% to councils on population basis
 - 50% less admin costs to Waste Minimisation Fund
- Administration costs – levy collection and costs of administering funding pool



Scope could include projects to:

- Promote or achieve waste minimisation
- Help establish waste infrastructure
- Encourage innovation, development of new technology for product design, production, reuse and recycling
- Provide opportunities for businesses operating in or entering waste minimisation sector



Funding :

- Sec 38 –
“the Minister may approve funding of any project to promote or achieve waste minimisation”
- Must consider and Gazetted **criteria** for approving funds



Your input

- Feedback on proposed **criteria** for assessing which proposals should receive funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund
- Pages 27-28 discussion document



Questions for submission on Part 3

- Are the proposed criteria appropriate?
- What changes would you suggest?
- Should additional items be included?
- Anything else?



Part 4: Monitoring waste in New Zealand



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Monitoring waste

- NZ Waste Strategy revised targets require better information on waste
- Need to improve and standardise waste data collection in NZ
- Information currently based on voluntary surveys
- Seeking feedback on proposed regulations requiring landfill operators to collect compositional data on waste disposed of at landfills (trial going on now)



Suggested categories

- Cover
- Kerbside collection
- Transfer station
- Special
- Construction and demolition
- Landscape waste
- Residential



Questions for submissions on Part 4

- Should waste facility operators be required to supply data on composition of waste?
- Are the waste classifications the right ones?
- What are the practical implications of gathering this compositional data? Additional costs? Are the costs reasonable?
- Better options for obtaining this data?



Part 5: Improving the operation of the levy – cover material



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Waste disposal levy

- Levy of \$10/tonne on all waste disposed of at municipal landfills from 1 July
- How should material that is required as cover for environmental management be treated under the levy?



Cover material and levy issues

- What is cover material? What is suitable and not suitable for cover?
- Need cover for landfill safety, environmental management - How much cover is needed?
- Only some landfills need to import cover material
- Is the levy just part of the operating cost of a landfill?
- If levy not charged on cover, scope for levy-avoidance



Considering:

- Setting a zero levy rate for cover material used for environmental management purposes for up to 10% of the weight of material deposited in the landfill
- Are there any other options for avoiding the potential perverse effects of applying the levy to cover?



Questions for submissions on Part 5

- Should material used for environmental management be subject to the waste levy? If not, why not?
- If not:
 - what should be the maximum percentage of cover material? e.g. 10%
 - what are the benefits of not applying the levy to cover material?
 - would this impose any additional operational costs?



How to give us your feedback

- Online form available on the Ministry's website at: www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/consultation.html
- Printed submission form in Appendix A of the discussion document. Ministry's postal details on page 1
- Email your submission to: waste@mfe.govt.nz
- Closing date for submissions is **15 May 2009**

