

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 11 June 2018

Environment weekly meeting 4.00pm – 4.30pm, Monday 11 June

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Vicky Robertson, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment

Shaun Lewis, Acting Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers

Glenn Wigley, Director Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

John Robertson, Manager, Science Stewardship

Gordon Tan, Senior Analyst, Science Stewardship

Mel Rae, Senior Analyst, Natural Resource Sector Support Unit

Apologies: Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Performance, Innovation & Climate;
James Walker Deputy Secretary Partnerships and Customers

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	National Sword	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
3.	Monitoring of EPA	Glenn Wigley	Verbal update	10

Upcoming meetings

Week 11 June – 22 June

14 June 10.30am – Minister Sage - Quarterly meeting with Paul Evans and Darren
11.00 am Patterson, WasteMINZ

Proposed meetings which are not yet confirmed

19 June Regular meeting with Minister Parker

25 June Visit to Flight Plastics

1. Actions and decisions

1.1. Litter (Increased Infringement Fee) Amendment Bill

This item seeks your approval for the Ministry to provide advisory services to the Environment Select Committee as it considers the Litter (Increased Infringement Fee) Amendment Bill. Hon Scott Simpson's Bill recommends increasing the maximum fine for a litter infringement offence from \$400 to \$1,000 (briefing note 18-B-04530 refers).

Deborah Russell, Chairperson of the Environment Committee, sent a letter to Hon David Parker requesting the assistance of advisors from the Ministry for the Environment. We suggested to Minister Parker's office that the letter be referred to you for reply.

The work expected from the Ministry for a Members' Bill is similar to a Government Bill. If you agree to the request, at the end of June we would provide the Committee with a first briefing. We may be asked to meet with the Committee, answer their questions, and attend oral hearings (which are likely to be in Wellington only).

We will keep you informed of the progress of the Bill and any significant changes to the amount of work involved.

Do you agree to the Ministry for the Environment providing advisory services to the Environment Committee on the Litter (Increased Infringement Fee) Amendment Bill?

Yes/No

2. Updates for noting

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

[Redacted content]

3.2 s 6(c)

[Redacted content]

3.3 **Ouvea Premix**

The Briefing Note for the Gore District Council (GDC) Minister Initiated Application (MIA) is going through an internal review process and will be with you on Friday, 8 June 2018.

3.4 **Mandatory product stewardship for tyres**

The Tyrewise Group reconvened this week with Ministry officials attending. Members are keen to work towards a mandatory scheme. There was discussion about learnings from the past because members believe that progress in 2014 was cut off at the Ministry and ministerial level in an unsatisfactory way. It would be beneficial if you met with representatives of the Group to provide reassurance of your commitment to a successful outcome and a 'no surprises' decision-making process. We can arrange a meeting through your office.

Proactively released

3. Briefing notes

11 June – 6 July

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
Public consultation on regulatory measures to ratify the Minamata Convention on mercury	MfE	To provide you with a draft Cabinet paper seeking approval to publicly consult on regulatory proposals required to ratify the Minamata Convention on mercury, and with a draft discussion document outlining these proposals.	13 June
Ministerial satisfaction survey 2017-18	MfE	Each year we ask Ministers to complete a satisfaction survey. The results of all Ministers are published in our Annual Report. The survey is Cabinet-mandated and most policy agencies are required to seek Ministers' feedback through it.	14 June
Biodiversity Collaborative Group Quarter 4 report	MfE	Provides information about the progress of the BCG as provided in its Q 4 report.	15 June
Circular Economy Approach to Plastics	MfE	Sets out a system view about the management of plastics to reduce the environmental impacts of plastics and to implement a circular economy approach. The work will lead to the development of a strategy and action plan that will document a coherent and comprehensive response to New Zealand's management of plastics.	22 June

4. Cabinet material being prepared for you

11 June – 6 July

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Proposed Waste Advisory Board Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This Cabinet paper proposes appointments to the waste advisory board following the nominations process. There are three vacancies including a Chairperson.	Due to lodge 14 June Due to APH: 20 June
Waste and Resource Efficiency work priorities	(DEV) Cabinet Economic Development Committee or (ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	This paper informs Cabinet of the intended Waste and Resource Efficiency work programme.	Due to lodge: 7 June(DEV) 14 June (ENV) Due to DEV Committee: 13 June (DEV) 19 June (ENV)
Minamata Convention: Approval to consult on Mercury Regulations	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	This Cabinet Paper seeks Cabinet agreement to publicly consult on a proposed package of regulatory measures to control the use and release of mercury in New Zealand. These measures are required in order for New Zealand to be able to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Due to you: 13 June Minister Parker due to lodge: 26 July Due to ENV Committee: 31 July Due to Cabinet: 6 August

Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This is a joint paper for proposing your intention to make five appointments to the EPA Board during the 2018 round.	Due to you: 13 June Minister Parker due to lodge: 28 June Due to APH Committee: 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Proposal to phase-out single-use plastic shopping bags	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	The papers seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags.	Due to you: 20 June Due to lodge: 21 June Due to DEV: 27 June Due to Cabinet: 2 July

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Paper name	Agency	Committee	Our advice on the paper
Using a wellbeing approach to improve strategic decision making	Statistics New Zealand and Treasury	Priorities Committee	Ministers of Finance and Statistics propose to develop a suite of indicators (StatsNZ) that will be used to analyse the living standards of New Zealanders (Treasury – using a Capitals approach) to generate strategic advice to Government on investment needs to improve wellbeing (Treasury – budget advice). s9(2)(g)(i) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ We understand the paper is currently being amended before it is lodged with Cabinet Office.

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 18 June 2018

Environment weekly meeting 4.00pm – 4.30pm, Monday 18 June

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
 Vicky Robertson, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment
 James Walker Deputy Secretary Partnerships and Customers
 Shaun Lewis, Director, Mana Honohono
 Glenn Wigley, Director, Marine, Environmental Risk & Science
 Mel Rae, Senior Analyst, Natural Resource Sector Support Unit

Apologies: Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary, Environmental Performance, Innovation & Climate;

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Vicky Robertson	Verbal update	10
2.	Cabinet papers – feedback on consultation	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
3.	National Resource Recovery project	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
4.	Feedback from agencies on cabinet papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to a circular economy • Proposal to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags. 	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
5.	Using a Wellbeing Approach – MfE views	Mel Rae	Verbal update	5

Upcoming meetings

Week 18 June – 29 June

19 June	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
20 June	4.30pm	Kerry Prendergast EPA Board Chair
25 June	1.00pm 5.00pm	– Visit Flight Plastics
26 June	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
29 June	2.30pm 4.00pm	– Nelson Environment Centre
3 July	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
4 July	7.30am 8.30am	- The Hugo Group, Auckland
	5.30pm	Tonkin and Taylor, NZ EcoLabelling Trust

Proposed meetings which are not yet confirmed

25 June Visit to Flight Plastics

1. Updates for noting

1.1. National Resource Recovery Project

The formation of the Ministry Task force for 'National Sword' is under way. The project is to be called the National Resource Recovery Project. Detailed project planning is now being carried out and procurement for consultancy staff to provide additional support to the Ministry is being fast-tracked. Once we have finalised the scope and budget, we will send you application for project funding under section 38 of the Waste Minimisation Act.

An independent economic analysis of the resource recovery sector is being procured and this will provide the platform for further feedback and advice to the Taskforce. A working group formed from industry experts as well as a local government advisory group will meet following the establishment of the Taskforce.

3.2 Sustainable Coastlines

You have asked for information on the amount of funding for the Sustainable Coastlines WMF project 'A grass roots solution to litter in New Zealand'.

This project followed on from their previous successful WMF project which resulted in data on litter and litter interventions being collated and reviewed. A framework for future analysis was developed.

This new project is a nationwide, multifaceted project and therefore requires a large investment. The Ministry is confident that Sustainable Coastlines are able to complete a project of this size.

The two main objectives of Sustainable Coastline's three year project are to understand the problem of litter and optimise solutions. This work will include:

- designing and building an open-sourced national litter database
- training and supporting citizen scientists to gather beach litter data throughout New Zealand
- designing and building litter education for a curriculum; and
- training and supporting educators to deliver education

The project, worth a total of \$2.8 million (WMF is contributing just under \$2.7 million), can be roughly divided into thirds in terms of the allocation of funds— 1/3 for the creation of the litter database, 1/3 for the education component, and 1/3 for the roll out and training of Citizen scientists.

The Sustainable Coastlines project is part of a suite of projects aimed at making progress in better managing litter in New Zealand. The other projects are run by Keep New Zealand Beautiful, The Packaging Forum and Marlborough District Council. Combined, the projects are intended to support a shift in littering behaviours by our communities, inform decisions on where to place litter services and provide good evidence for any changes that we may need for litter policy.

2. Briefing notes

18 June – 13 July

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
Protecting and restoring wetlands, progress on policy work	MfE/DOC	Updates you on progress of joint DOC and MfE work on wetlands policy.	21 June
Circular Economy Approach to Plastics	MfE	Sets out a system view about the management of plastics to reduce the environmental impacts of plastics and to implement a circular economy approach. The work will lead to the development of a strategy and action plan that will document a coherent and comprehensive response to New Zealand's management of plastics.	22 June
Aide Memoire	MfE	Provides you with talking points for the two Cabinet papers (supporting New Zealand's transition to a circular economy and proposal to phase out single-use plastic bags) going before the Economic Development Committee on 27 June.	25 June
Proposed process and timeline for mandatory product stewardship	MfE	Updates you on the proposed process and timeline for proposals for mandatory product stewardship of four groups of products (e-waste, agrichemicals, tyres, and refrigerants)	28 June

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
New Zealand's international efforts on marine debris	MfE	Provides you with an overview of our international engagement on marine debris, including countries and forums/organisations to work with and why.	2 July

3. Cabinet material being prepared

18 June – 13 July

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Proposed Waste Advisory Board Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This Cabinet paper proposes appointments to the waste advisory board following the nominations process. There are three vacancies including a Chairperson.	Due to APH: 20 June Due to Cabinet: 24 June
Supporting New Zealand's transition to a circular economy.	(DEV) Cabinet Economic Development Committee	This paper informs Cabinet of the intended Waste and Resource Efficiency work programme.	Due to lodge: 21 June Due to DEV Committee: 27 June Due to Cabinet: 2 July
Proposal to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags	(DEV) Cabinet Economic Development Committee	The papers seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags.	Due to you: 13 June Due to lodge: 21 June Due to DEV Committee: 27 June Due to Cabinet: 2 July
Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This is a joint paper for proposing your intention to make five appointments to the EPA Board during the 2018 round.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 28 June Due to APH Committee: 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July

Paper name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our Suggested timeframes
Approval to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	Seeks Cabinet's agreement to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 1 October 2019. To achieve this, the paper seeks agreement to undertake parliamentary treaty examination and draft proposed amendments to the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations required to implement the Amendment.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 26 July Due to ENV Committee: 31 July Due to Cabinet: 6 August
Minamata Convention: Approval to consult on Mercury Regulations	(ENV) Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee	This Cabinet Paper seeks Cabinet agreement to publicly consult on a proposed package of regulatory measures to control the use and release of mercury in New Zealand. These measures are required in order for New Zealand to be able to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 8 August Due to ENV Committee: 14 August Due to Cabinet: 20 August

Proactively reviewed

Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 25 June 2018

Environment weekly meeting 12.00pm – 12.30pm, Monday 25 June

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Shaun Lewis, Director, Mana Honohono

Glenn Wigley, Director, Marine, Environmental Risk & Science

Apologies: Vicky Robertson, Chief Executive, Ministry for the Environment

James Walker, Deputy Secretary, Partnerships and Customers

Penny Nelson, Deputy Secretary Sector Strategy, Executive Management

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	National Resource Recovery Taskforce	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
3.	Waste to Energy	Shaun Lewis	Meeting note	10

Actions from last meeting:

- MfE to provide briefing on whether a product stewardship approach can be taken to managing hazardous substances – timing to be confirmed.
- Resource Efficiency data framework: MfE to provide briefing on data framework including analysis of WasteMINZ data framework – timing to be confirmed.
- MfE to consider how Wanaka Wastebusters model can be duplicated in other parts of New Zealand – timing to be confirmed.

Upcoming meetings

Week 25 June – 6 July

25 June	3.00pm	Mr Cao, CEO of China Tianying, Waste to Energy plant
26 June	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
27 June	12.30pm	EPA with Minister Shaw: Emissions Trading Scheme register
29 June	2.30pm	Nelson Environment Centre
3 July	3.30pm	Regular meeting with Minister Parker
4 July	7.00am	Hugo Group breakfast meeting – Wellington
	3.30pm	Meeting with Sandra Pringle (RATA Cert Ltd) and Sharon Humphreys (CEO, Packaging Council) and Minister Shaw - circular economy
5 July	11.00am	Meeting with Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment: waste issues
6 July	7.00am	Hugo Group breakfast meeting – Auckland
	5.00pm	Meeting with Francesca Lipscombe, NZ Ecolabelling Trust

Proposed meetings which are not yet confirmed

TBC Visit to Flight Plastics

1. Briefing notes

25 June – 20 July

Title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Due to office
A Circular Economy Approach for Plastics	MfE	Seeks your agreement on the scope of the proposed work programme on plastics	25 June
Proposed process and timeline for mandatory product stewardship	MfE	Updates you on the proposed process and timeline for proposals for mandatory product stewardship of four groups of products (e-waste, agrichemicals, tyres, and refrigerants)	28 June
Aide Memoire	MfE	Provides you with talking points for the two Cabinet papers (supporting New Zealand's transition to a circular economy and proposal to phase out single-use plastic bags) going before the Economic Development Committee on 4 July	29 June
New Zealand's international efforts on marine debris	MfE	Provides you with an overview of our international engagement on marine debris, including countries and forums/organisations to work with and why.	2 July

2. Cabinet material being prepared

25 June – 20 July

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Environmental Protection Authority Board - Appointments	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This is a joint paper for proposing your intention to make five appointments to the EPA Board during the 2018 round.	Minister Parker due to lodge: 28 June Due to APH Committee: 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Proposal to phase-out single-use plastic shopping bags	(DEV) Economic Development Committee	The papers seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on options to phase out single-use plastic shopping bags.	Due to DEV 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Supporting the transition toward a circular economy	(DEV) Economic development Committee	This paper informs cabinet of the intended waste and resource portfolio work programme which supports the transition toward a circular economy.	Due to DEV 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July
Proposed Waste Advisory Board Appointments 2018	(APH) Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee	This paper informs cabinet of intended appointments to the waste advisory board. There are currently 3 vacancies including Chairperson.	Due to APH Committee: 4 July Due to Cabinet: 9 July

3. Official Information Act requests

3.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	At your office	Due to send
<p>Documents obtained under the OIA from the Environmental Protection Authority indicate that MfE has established and is leading a cross-agency forum on gene technologies and that, according to the EPA, the initiative is "to get alignment across relevant government agencies on advice to Ministers, and to ensure the successful delivery of preparatory work for a public conversation on development in genetic technologies."</p> <p>Under the Official Information Act I request all documents generated and received by MfE in relation to the cross-agency forum on new gene technologies/new biotechnologies since its began, including conception and approval of the initiative.</p>	<p>s 9(2)(a)</p> <p>Sustainability Council</p>	18-D-00932	N/A	12 July

Proactively released