



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Basel Convention to Better Manage the International Trade in Plastic Waste: Public Consultation

Portfolio Associate Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)

On 12 March 2020, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV):

- 1 **noted** that in May 2019, Parties to the Basel Convention agreed, by consensus, to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX of the Convention to better manage the international trade in plastic waste;
- 2 **noted** that the amendments to the Basel Convention will come into effect for all Parties that have not opted out of the amendments on 1 January 2021;
- 3 **noted** that New Zealand will be legally bound to implement the amendments to the Basel Convention by 1 January 2021 if it does not opt out before 24 March 2020;
- 4 **noted** that opting out of the amendments to the Basel Convention will have negative impacts for industry, the environment and New Zealand, and that accordingly New Zealand will not opt out;
- 5 **noted** that as the amendments will enter into force through a process of tacit acceptance, the amendments are not subject to the Parliamentary treaty examination process and will not be presented to Parliament;
- 6 **noted** that New Zealand implements its obligations under the Basel Convention through the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004;
- 7 **noted** that while the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs has parliamentary responsibility for the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order (No 2) 2004, the Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage) has policy responsibility and can recommend changes to the Order;

- 8 **noted** that two feasible policy options have been identified to implement the Basel Amendment which will enable New Zealand to meet the new international obligations under the Basel Convention:
- 8.1 Option 1: Permits for imports and exports of mixed plastic waste, without specifications (preferred option):
- 8.2 Option 2: Permits for imports and exports of mixed plastic waste, with specifications;
- 9 **agreed** to a public consultation on the above proposed options;
- 10 **approved** the consultation document *Managing the trade in plastic waste – New Zealand’s approach to implementing amendments to the Basel Convention* for release;
- 11 **authorise** the Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage) to make minor technical and editorial changes to the consultation document prior to its public release;
- 12 **invited** the Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage) to report back to ENV by 30 June 2020 following public consultation for final policy decisions.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Hard-copy distribution:

Associate Minister for the Environment (Hon Eugenie Sage)