



Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 2 September 2019

There is no meeting scheduled this week


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1. Updates for noting

1.1. Waste Advisory Board nominations and reclassification

This item is to update you on the progress towards your Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee (APH) paper for appointments to the Waste Advisory Board (the Advisory Board).

s 9(2)(g)(i)



1.2. Circular Economy and the Single Economic Market Ministerial Meeting

On 13 September 2019, Hon David Parker will be chairing a ministerial meeting for the Australia New Zealand Single Economic Market under his Minister for Trade responsibilities. The meeting will include several Australian and New Zealand Ministers and provide an opportunity for a strategic conversation on the future of Trans-Tasman economic cooperation.

Circular Economy is on the draft agenda with the aim of generating high-level discussion and further collaboration between New Zealand and Australia regarding our resource recovery systems, recycling markets and alignment of circular economy policy.

Ministry for the Environment officials are liaising with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support the agenda item. You may wish to consult with Hon David Parker in the lead up to the meeting to discuss key messages.

1.3. Schedule of upcoming consultations and public meetings – potential Ministerial involvement

As you know, there is a significant programme of public consultation scheduled for the next few months on a range of environmental matters. Most of these involve public meetings and we would welcome an indication of which, if any, you would like to attend. The schedule of consultations and public meeting opportunities is provided in Appendix One. Given the logistical complexity of this programme and need to pre-arrange the venues there is no scope to change the dates or venues listed.

Assuming you would like to attend some of these, we will discuss at our next meeting with you the nature of your involvement – do you wish to speak, answer questions etc. A range of senior and specialist officials from MfE and other relevant agencies will also be in attendance.

1.4. Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's review of the Environmental Reporting system

An independent system for reporting on the state of our environment was established under the Environmental Reporting Act 2015, and a full cycle of reports was completed with the publication of Environment Aotearoa in April 2019.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE), Simon Upton, is currently reviewing how the environmental reporting system as a whole has performed and how it might be improved. We have been working closely with the PCE's office since the start of their review to provide input and advice. We are aware of gaps in our knowledge, symptomatic of broader science and data system issues, and changes that could be made that would improve our understanding of how the environment works. The PCE's review offers an opportunity to further identify opportunities and respond in a way that will create the system shifts required, to improve the data collection and management systems underpinning decision-making. This multi-year undertaking is likely to require investment by Government.

We are currently fact checking the first draft of the PCE's review report, which the PCE expects to publish in November 2019. Following the report's release we will provide you with an update on the PCE's recommendations, and on the environmental reporting system in general.

1.5. Strategic partnership with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

On 20 August 2019 the Ministry and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a strategic partnership. The intent of the partnership is to support social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes for New Zealand, through better alignment of organisational expertise, activities, resources, and networks.

In the 2019-2020 year, the priority topics under the partnership include: strengthening capability at the science-policy interface; land use adaptation for a zero carbon economy; and resource management system performance.

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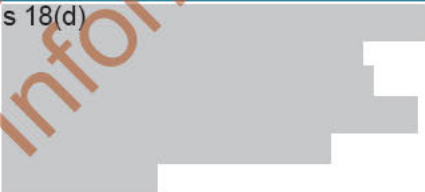
2. Briefing notes

2 September – 27 September

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05939 NES Tyres – supplementary advice	MfE	Advice in response to Minister's feedback on the June briefing note.	6 September
2019-B-05327 Waste to Energy report update	MfE	To provide you with advice on the Berl Waste to Energy report.	6 September
2019-B-05831 2019 WMF funding decisions	MfE	The briefing note seeks your decision on the projects that should be funded through the 2019 WMF funding round.	6 September
2019-B-05908 Draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and reclassification of the Advisory Board	MfE	This briefing provides you with the draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and seeks your approval to reclassify the Advisory Board.	13 September

3. Cabinet material

2 September – 27 September

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05878 Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	ENV	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	Due to lodge 5 September Due to Committee 12 September Due to Cabinet 16 September
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	s 18(d) 	Due to your office TBC Due to lodge TBC Due to Committee TBC Due to Cabinet TBC
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	DEV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	Due to your office 29 August Due to lodge TBC Due to Committee TBC Due to Cabinet TBC
2019-B-05869 Update on proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand	DEV	This paper informs Cabinet Committee members of the work underway on a project to design a comprehensive Container Refund Scheme in New Zealand. Note this is a companion paper to Minister Parker's paper <i>Options for a royalty on bottled water</i>	Due to Committee TBC Due to Cabinet TBC

4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Resetting the Government Build Programme	HUD	SWC 28 August	<p>This draft paper recommends ways to reset the Government's Build Programme to better respond to housing need and the implementation issues with the KiwiBuild programme.</p> <p>It proposes to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate housing supply through Kāinga Ora including public housing, modest priced affordable homes and market-priced homes for rental and owner occupation 2. Increase deposit assistance to help more renting households into home ownership, eg, by doubling the KiwiSaver first home buyer support 3. Support the not-for-profit sector to deliver rent-to-buy schemes and subsidised rentals 4. Require new place-based assessments that consider the underlying drivers of housing cost and housing need for an area 5. Retain the price points for KiwiBuild, and replace the target of 100,000 homes with a range of indicators, such as volumes of homes delivered, the cost of construction and land, housing affordability measures, number of homeless, and the quality of housing. 	<p>MfE supports the paper. We have provided comments on the programme requesting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The price points reflect overall living costs (including transport, energy and water costs) rather than just home purchase costs. This will likely have environmental benefits, and require consideration of price point, typology and location more holistically. 2. The place-based assessments are aligned with the Housing and Business Assessments prepared under the NPS-UDC, and to progress these as part of (or in conjunction with) any spatial planning exercises underway. These could be prioritised in high growth urban areas that demonstrate housing shortages.
Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill: Approval for Introduction	Te Arawhiti	Cabinet 2 August	<p>Seeks to introduce the Ngāti Hinerangi Claims Settlement Bill, which gives effect to the Deed of Settlement signed with the mandated entity Ngāti Hinerangi Trust and PSGE Te Puāwaitaanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust on 4 May 2019.</p>	<p>MfE supports this paper. We noted that the accompanying Departmental Disclosure Statement stated that no steps had been undertaken to assess the legislation against New Zealand's international obligations.</p>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Approval of a Government strategy for aquaculture	MPI	DEV 11 September	Seeks agreement to a new government strategy for aquaculture that refreshes the previous 2012 government aquaculture strategy.	MfE supports the strategy and cabinet paper. The strategy sets government actions over the next seven years to support sustainable, productive, inclusive and resilient aquaculture growth towards a goal of \$3bn annual sales by 2035. The strategy has a strong focus on climate change, along with driving value growth and a push towards new open ocean (off shore) aquaculture space. The strategy couples climate change, and concerns about ocean acidification, with the need to transition to circular economy thinking. The strategy's actions will be implemented through an annual plan agreed between agencies (MPI, DOC and MfE). There are no legislative or financial implications from approving the strategy.
Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	MfE	ENV 12 September	This Cabinet paper will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.
Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV TBC	The RS&I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent. This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.	MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE. In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity. We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) Discussion Document	MBIE	DEV 16 October (Discussion Document)	<p>The Strategy sets the Government's vision for the minerals and petroleum sector over the next 10 years (2019-2029). It articulates objectives that build towards this vision. Achieving this vision requires collaboration across many groups. This Strategy articulates principles that should assist Government, iwi/hapū, industry and any other groups making decisions that affect the sector. Finally the Strategy contains action areas which the Government will focus on in the coming years.</p> <p>The Discussion Document seeks feedback on Tranche 2 of the review of the CMA.</p> <p>MBIE is seeking Cabinet approval to release both for public consultation.</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the Strategy and Discussion Document. We provided a number of comments which were largely technical.</p> <p>Key areas of comment covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine issues, particularly relating to decommissioning regulations in the marine environment, and the relationship between the minerals and petroleum system and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act • managing long-term liability for decommissioned onshore structures • the appropriateness of granting permits in benthic protected areas • compliance and enforcement issues, particularly related to regulatory regimes the MfE covers, such as the resource management and hazardous substances perspective. <p>We provided minor comments from a climate change perspective.</p>

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5. Official Information Act requests

5.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
A copy of any and all information in relation to the decision not to hold the Green Ribbon Awards in 2019. Please also include any information on the steps being taken to make the Green Ribbon Awards 'even better' (see https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/awards/green-ribbon-awards).	s 9(2)(a) Office of Sarah Dowie MP	19-D-01414	4 September

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Consultation and Engagement Series 2019 – September agenda*

Week tahi: 9 – 13 September

Week rua: 16 – 20 September

Week toru: 23 -27 September

<p>New Plymouth – Monday 9th 10:30am – 1:30pm Hui 2 - 4pm Council meeting 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Dunedin – Monday 9th 11:30am – 2:30pm Hui (TBC) 3 – 4:30 pm Council meeting 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Blenheim - Monday 16th 10:30am – 1:30pm Hui</p>	<p>Tauranga – Monday 16th 11:30am – 1:30pm Council meeting 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Gisborne – Monday 23rd 11:30am - 2:30pm Hui 3 - 5pm Council meeting 6 - 8pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Hamilton - Monday 23rd 9:30 – 11:30am Council meeting 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Hui - discuss policy proposals (consultation and others) with Iwi, learn about the proposals, discuss implications, and cover how to make a submission</p>
<p>Ohakune – Wednesday 11th 8:30 – 11:30am Hui</p>	<p>Christchurch – Tuesday 10th 12:30 – 3:30pm Hui (TBC) 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Nelson - Monday 16th 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Tauranga – Tuesday 17th 9am - 12pm Hui</p>	<p>Wairoa – Tuesday 24th 10:30am - 1:30pm Hui</p>	<p>Hamilton - Tuesday 24th 10am – 12pm Primary sector meeting 11am - 2pm Hui</p>	<p>Public meeting - A mixed town hall and expo-style meeting to learn about the proposals, discuss implications, and cover how to make a submission</p>
<p>Palmerston North – Wednesday 11th 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Christchurch – Wednesday 11th 10am – 12pm Primary sector meeting (Ashburton) 11:30am - 1:30pm Council meeting</p>	<p>Nelson - Tuesday 17th 8:30 – 10:30am Council meeting</p>	<p>Whakatane – Tuesday 17th 3 - 5pm Council meeting</p>	<p>Napier – Tuesday 24th 5.30-7.30 pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Pukekohe – Tuesday 24th 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Council meeting - enable council staff + elected officials to understand proposals and discuss the local implications, so they can prepare informed submissions</p>
<p>Palmerston North – Thursday 12th 9am – 12noon Hui 1:30 – 3:30pm Council meeting</p>	<p>Invercargill – Wednesday 11th 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Greymouth – Tuesday 17th 6 - 8pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Whakatane – Wednesday 18th 9am - 12pm Hui</p>	<p>Napier – Wednesday 25th 9 - 11am Council meeting 1 - 4pm Hui</p>	<p>Auckland – Wednesday 25th 9:30 – 11:30am Council meeting 12 - 3pm Hui 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Primary sector meetings (public) provide those interested the opportunity to learn about the proposals, discuss implications, and cover how to make a submission</p>
<p>Wellington Friday 13th 9:30am – 1:30pm Hui 4 - 6pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Invercargill – Thursday 12th 10am – 12pm Primary sector meeting (Winton) 11:30am – 2:30 pm Hui (TBC) 3:30 – 5:30pm Council meeting</p>	<p>Greymouth – Wednesday 18th 9 - 11am Council meeting 12 - 3pm Hui</p>	<p>Rotorua – Wednesday 18th 5:30 – 7:30pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Masterton – Thursday 26th 1 – 3pm Council meeting 5:30 -7:30 Primary sector meeting</p>	<p>Whangarei – Thursday 26th 10:30am - 1pm Hui 2-4pm Council meeting 5:30 -7:30pm Public meeting</p>	
	<p>Queenstown – Friday 13th 9-11am Council meeting 12 - 2pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Timaru – Thursday 19th 2 – 4pm Council meeting 6 - 8 pm Primary sector meeting</p>	<p>Wellington – Friday 20th Council meeting (time TBC)</p>		<p>Kaitiaki – Friday 27th 10:30am – 1:30pm Hui</p>	

* Times are approximate and subject to change

Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 9 September 2018

Environment weekly meeting 3.00pm – 3.45pm, Monday 9 September

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
Sam Buckle, Deputy Secretary Resource Efficiency
Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System
Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships
Kevin Guerin, Chief Advisor
Rod Boyes, Senior Investment Manager

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Sam Buckle	Verbal update	5 min
2.	Budget	Kevin Guerin	Verbal update	10 mins
3.	Construction and Demolition waste – input into MBIE Cabinet papers	Rod Boyes	Verbal update	5 mins
4.	International update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5 mins
5.	Product Stewardship update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5 mins
6.	WasteMINZ conference	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5 mins
7.	Circular Economy update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5 mins

1. Updates for noting

1.1. Legacy landfills and climate change

Environment Canterbury (ECan) are about to initiate a project to lead the development and application of a nationally applicable risk assessment of landfills vulnerable to climate change impacts. ECan have engaged Tonkin and Taylor for the initial phase which is being funded by the Ministry for the Environment. The initial scoping phase involves an eight-week exercise to:

- review and understand the natural hazard and landfill information currently held by councils
- develop a feasible approach and risk-screening and assessment tool that can be applied at a national scale.

Project phases 2&3, which are to be funded by Environment Canterbury, will see the application and piloting of the landfill risk-screening tool in Canterbury and the West Coast. At the completion of the project, the tool, supported by additional information, will be made available to other councils around New Zealand for them to complete the assessment of the landfills in their regions/districts.

Once completed nationally, these risk assessments could provide the basis for improving the resilience of high risk sites to potential natural hazards and associated climate change impacts by all levels of government. This project will also provide useful inputs for the Community Resilience Work Programme currently underway and the proposed National Climate Change Risk Assessment.

1.2. Consultation – Week beginning 9 September

Many Ministry staff will be out on the road this week consulting on a range of environmental reforms, including the fresh water package, highly productive land, urban development and product development. We have a team out in the North Island and the South Island this week:

North Island

New Plymouth (council meeting, public meeting and hui)

Ohakune (site visit with Ngati Rangi and a hui)

Palmerston North (public meeting, hui and council meeting)

Wellington (hui and public meeting)

South Island

Dunedin (council meeting and public meeting)

Christchurch (public meeting and council meeting)

Ashburton (public sector meeting)

Winton (primary sector meeting)

Invercargill (public meeting and council meeting)

Queenstown (council meeting and public meeting)

Early feedback from the primary sector indicates there may be interest in more face to face meetings through the consultation programme. We will assess demand as we go, and work with the industry on additional meetings if needed.

We have also been informed that because of the recent passing of Tahu Potiki our engagement with Ngāi Tahu has been postponed in Dunedin, Christchurch and Invercargill. The hui in Greymouth is still to be advised on. We are working with Ngāi Tahu to find an alternative date in late September.

Minister Mahuta has indicated an interest in attending some of the hui and we are working with her office on what is logistically possible.

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2. Briefing notes

9 September – 11 October

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05908 Draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and reclassification of the Advisory Board	MfE	This briefing provides you with the draft Cabinet paper Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019 and seeks your approval to reclassify the Advisory Board.	13 September
2019-B-05919 Implementing the decision to amend Annexes II, VIII, IX of the Basel Convention	MfE	This briefing to Minister Parker provides further advice on the international decision to better manage the trade of plastic waste, and seeks his agreement to consult with stakeholders on possible options to implement the decision domestically. You will also receive a copy of this briefing.	13 September
2019-B-05967 Event note for Sustainable Living Education Trust's WMF Funding Announcement	MfE	Event note for Sustainable Living Education Trust's WMF Funding Announcement	20 September
2019-B-05327 Waste to Energy report update	MfE	To provide you with advice on the Berl Waste to Energy report.	TBC

3. Cabinet material

9 September – 11 October

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-B-05869 Update on proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand	DEV	This paper informs Cabinet Committee members of the work underway on a project to design a comprehensive Container Refund Scheme in New Zealand. Note this is a companion paper to Minister Parker's paper <i>Options for a royalty on bottled water</i>	Due to Committee 11 September Due to Cabinet 16 September
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	DEV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	Due to lodge: 10 October Due to Committee: 16 October Due to Cabinet: 23 October
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	s 18(d) 	Due to your office TBC Due to lodge TBC Due to Committee TBC Due to Cabinet TBC

4. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Approval of a Government strategy for aquaculture	MPI	DEV 11 September	Seeks agreement to a new government strategy for aquaculture that refreshes the previous 2012 government aquaculture strategy.	MfE supports the strategy and cabinet paper. The strategy sets government actions over the next seven years to support sustainable, productive, inclusive and resilient aquaculture growth towards a goal of \$3bn annual sales by 2035. The strategy has a strong focus on climate change, along with driving value growth and a push towards new open ocean (off shore) aquaculture space. The strategy couples climate change, and concerns about ocean acidification, with the need to transition to circular economy thinking. The strategy's actions will be implemented through an annual plan agreed between agencies (MPI, DOC and MfE). There are no legislative or financial implications from approving the strategy.
Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	MfE	ENV 12 September	This Cabinet paper will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	MfE supports the paper that Minister Shaw will take to Cabinet providing an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.
Building System Legislative Reform Bill 1 – this includes 4 papers: 1. Overview, 2. Building products and methods, 3. Modern methods of construction and product certification, Building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification	MBIE	DEV 25 September	These papers seek agreement to a programme of reforms to the building regulatory system that will lift the efficiency and quality of building work and provide fairer outcomes if things go wrong. The proposed reform includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legislative changes to building methods and products, a framework for modern methods of construction, and changes to the building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification requirements. 	MfE supports the proposed reforms, and strongly supported the framework for modern methods of construction, as this has the potential to reduce construction waste and improve resource efficiency. We also suggested that the proposal to regulate building product information should include scope to include information about the efficiency, sustainability and thermal performance of products.

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Three Waters Review: institutional arrangements for a drinking water regulator	DIA	DEV 25 September	<p>This paper seeks agreements on proposals for the form, location, costs and funding for the new drinking water regulator.</p> <p>The paper proposes the regulator is established as a new standalone Crown agent with a primary focus on drinking water, and that this entity would deliver discreet regulatory functions for wastewater and stormwater. It also proposes that an Establishment Unit is set up within the Department of Internal Affairs to design and build the new regulator, subject to the approval of additional operating funding.</p>	<p>MfE was consulted on the proposals in this paper and have worked with DIA and MoH to prepare the business case for the new central regulator. We broadly support the proposals in the Cabinet paper as they provide an opportunity for central government to drive improvements in the regulation and performance of the Three Waters sector to achieve better public health and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>We note that decisions to locate the wastewater and stormwater regulatory functions within the new drinking water regulator may need to be reconsidered by Cabinet once future decisions are made on the location of the new central regulatory functions being developed through wider freshwater and RM reform programmes. We do not consider that decisions sought in this Cabinet paper would preclude these future decisions. However, some Maori groups may raise concerns that these decisions are being taken in advance of wider governance matters raised in the WAI2358 report (including a possible Water Commission). Should this occur, the Government may need to be explicit that the decisions it is taking now do not prejudice any future decisions on institutional arrangements for managing water.</p>
Review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) Discussion Document	MBIE	DEV 16 October	<p>The Strategy sets the Government's vision for the minerals and petroleum sector over the next 10 years (2019-2029). It articulates objectives that build towards this vision. Achieving this vision requires collaboration across many groups. This Strategy articulates principles that should assist Government, iwi/hapu, industry and any other groups making decisions that affect the sector. Finally the Strategy contains action areas which the Government will focus on in the coming years.</p> <p>The Discussion Document seeks feedback on Tranche 2 of the review of the CMA.</p> <p>MBIE is seeking Cabinet approval to release both for public consultation.</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the Strategy and Discussion Document. We provided a number of comments which were largely technical.</p> <p>Key areas of comment covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> marine issues, particularly relating to decommissioning regulations in the marine environment, and the relationship between the minerals and petroleum system and the Exclusive Economic Zone Act managing long-term liability for decommissioned onshore structures the appropriateness of granting permits in benthic protected areas compliance and enforcement issues, particularly related to regulatory regimes the MfE covers, such as the resource management and hazardous substances perspective. <p>We provided minor comments from a climate change perspective.</p>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>The RS&I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.</p>	<p>MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE.</p> <p>In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity.</p> <p>We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.</p>

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Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 16 September 2019

Environment weekly meeting 9.30 - 10.00am, Wednesday 18 September

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Shaun Lewis, Director, Investments and Partnerships

Kevin Guerin, Principal Advisor

Bruce Croucher, Principal Analyst

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	Consultation update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	5
3.	PFAS update	Bruce Croucher	Verbal update	5
4.	Waste Disposal Levy - Update	Kevin Guerin	Verbal update	5

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1. Strategic priorities

1.1. Consultation Roadshow – Freshwater and other Reform Packages

The joined-up consultation programme is underway and interest so far has been high, particularly in freshwater. The number of people attending continues to gather momentum, with over 300 at Ashburton last week.

Turnout has been high, particularly from farming communities and venues are often oversubscribed. Concerns have been expressed that the consultation is too short and not genuine, as the details have been decided. We have been careful to highlight that nothing has been decided and we are keen to hear people's views. Concerns have also been raised as to the number of meetings and we are working to add more meetings with the primary sector and increase venue capacity in key rural areas.

We are also using digital channels, like webinars targeted at specific audiences (including the primary sector, and local government) to supplement the face-to-face meetings.

The teams on the road are adapting content to suit the audience, but most of the time is being spent on the freshwater package. There is also interest in urban development and highly productive land and the interaction between these policies.

Week beginning 16 September

Once again many Ministry staff will be out on the road this week consulting on a range of environmental reforms, particularly the fresh water package. For the week beginning 16 September we have the following meetings planned:

North Island

- Tauranga (Council meeting and public meeting)
- Whakatane (hui)
- Rotorua (public meeting and a hui)
- Wellington (Council meeting)

South Island

- Blenheim (hui)
- Nelson (public meeting and council meeting)
- Greymouth (public meeting and council meeting)
- Timaru (primary sector meeting and council meeting)

2. Updates for noting

2.1. Contracting Parties to the London Protocol

Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, London Convention

The Ministry is sending one of its officials to represent New Zealand at the meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention (LC) and the London Protocol (LP) from 7-11 October 2019 at the International Maritime Organisation Headquarters in London, England. These meetings are held annually to discuss progress on issues relating to the prevention of marine pollution by the dumping of waste at sea, to consider any proposed amendments to the Protocol (the more modern and comprehensive of the two treaties), and to recommend measures that improve the overall effectiveness of the Protocol in preventing marine pollution. The Ministry is the lead agency on LC/LP matters.

Issues of particular interest to New Zealand at this year's meeting include marine geoengineering (including ocean fertilisation), CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations, and work to combat marine litter and microplastics. We have prepared a Credentials Submission for the Minister of Foreign Affairs that includes a summary of the key issues and New Zealand's approach to the meeting. A copy of the submission will be provided to you following approval by the Minister.

2.2. Circular Economy Sector Analysis – update

Ministry officials received the full draft version of the Ōhanga Āmiomio Circular Economy Sectoral and Regional Analysis report from Ricardo Environment Consultants this week. The draft report highlights the following headline net benefits of a transition to a circular economy:

- \$2.1 billion boost to GDP (net increase of 0.6%)
- 14,000 new jobs created by 2035
- 1mt CO₂ equivalent emissions savings per year by 2035

The report also highlights the benefits to specific regions and sectors, including the Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti/Gisborne, which could collectively see over 1000 new jobs. Next steps identified include creating an aligned vision for the circular economy, integrating circular activity into public sector procurement, funding new innovation and research, and developing materials action plans.

We expect to have a final version of the report by early October.

2.3. WasteMINZ conference

The 31st annual WasteMINZ Conference is due to be held in Hamilton at Claudelands from 23-26 September 2019 (this includes the Territorial Authorities' Officers Forum on 23 September). The theme for this year's conference is *'the land remains when people have disappeared'*.

We are working with your office to finalise the details for your speech at the conference. As previously discussed, we are anticipating you will be able to make a high-level announcement on the container refund scheme (pending Cabinet decisions) as well as discussing your broader waste work programme.

Ministry officials are hosting several presentations and workshops at the WasteMINZ conference. The details are as follows:

- 23 September, 12 00pm, Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Transition work programme update.
- 24 September, 1.30pm, Getting to a Circular Economy: the power of product stewardship and you.
- 24 September, 1.30pm, Contaminated Land Management: future directions.
- 25 September, 9.00am, Hon Eugene Sage Keynote address. Note: s 9(2)(a) will be presenting on 'Best Practice Container Deposit Schemes: lessons from over the ditch' immediately following the Minister's speech.
- 25 September, 11.00am, Presentation by s 9(2)(a) on the 'waste disposal levy considerations' followed by a panel discussion. An MfE representative will sum up following the panel session which offers the opportunity to address any key questions and invite stakeholders to continue the conversation at the MfE open house later that afternoon.

- 25 September, 3.30pm, MfE 'open house' session with MfE subject leads on National Resource Recovery, Product Stewardship, Plastics/Basel, the Waste Levy and Landfill Classification Guidelines. MC: Shaun Lewis.
- 26 September, 9.00am, Waste Minimisation Act Compliance Assurance Programme: 'Where the C.A.P. fits'.

2.4. Update on Provincial Growth Fund waste allocation

We are continuing to work with officials from the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on the allocation of \$40 million from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) for waste-related projects.

As noted in a recent update to Regional Development Ministers, MBIE considers that investing in 1-2 major plants that provide substantial closed-loop recycling facilities for fully recyclable plastics, as well as several smaller projects which convert non-recyclable waste plastic and other materials in to other valuable products, could be an appropriate use of the \$40 million PGF waste allocation.

A number of potential participants who are speaking to MBIE have not reached the point of submitting a full application.

2.5. Waste to energy

The report by commissioned from Berl to provide insights into the operation to extract energy from waste incineration has been received and reviewed by officials. The report highlights the following key considerations for any future energy from waste incineration proposals:

- the incineration of waste as an option to produce heat and electricity may have lower benefits to New Zealand than other countries operating waste to energy incineration facilities, since 81% of New Zealand's electricity is generated from renewable sources
- while waste to energy processes have a role to play in the circular economy, it is a much lower option on the waste hierarchy and preference for any waste minimisation or management initiatives should be given to waste avoidance, reuse and recycling, and
- there are different types of waste to energy technologies, each with varying feedstocks and emissions (or residual wastes), therefore New Zealand should not rule out all forms of waste to energy, but should look to creating guiding principles or standards for best available technologies that are aligned with our circular economy principles.

A review of the Australian approach to investment in waste to energy and their associated national guiding principles is currently underway. Advice on the review of the Berl report and the Australian guidelines will be consulted on with other government agencies and you will be provided with this feedback in the next few weeks.

2.6. PFAS – release of New Zealand Defence Force comprehensive site investigation reports

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has completed a comprehensive site investigation report for Base Ohakea, and a Waitematā Harbour report for Bases Whenuapai and Devonport. The reports collate all the information gathered on PFAS at the sites to date, assess the likely current status of PFAS at each location and predict how the situation might change in the future.

For Base Ohakea the investigation found that the majority of PFAS source remains within the Base, and as such the overall mass of PFAS in the wider plume is expected to increase by 20-30 per cent in the next 20-50 years before eventually depleting in the long

term. The PFAS plume is expected to persist for many decades in groundwater at concentrations exceeding the drinking water guidance levels. The worst case scenario is that it will be around for more than 125 years. It is expected that the maximum extent of the plume will be constrained by the topography of the area.

The Waitematā Harbour investigation confirmed the presence of PFAS in biota and sediment both adjacent to known 'point sources' of PFAS (ie, firefighting training areas at NZDF sites), and elsewhere in the harbour. The concentration of PFAS compounds were higher with closer proximity to the 'point sources' at NZDF sites.

The report notes that there was limited sampling, that PFAS compounds are very common in urban environments, and it is likely that there are many sources of PFAS to the Waitematā Harbour.

The reports are scheduled for release on Monday 16 September. We are working with NZDF, the relevant Councils and agencies to communicate this information to local iwi and communities in advance where possible. We will make the reports available on the PFAS area of our website later in the day. Following the release of the reports, as per best practice for contaminated sites, NZDF and the relevant councils will need to work together to decide what, if any, further action is needed to manage or monitor PFAS at each of the respective sites.

A similar report is being prepared for Base Woodbourne, and is expected to be completed in October.

2.7. Business Case for the Kaipara Moana Restoration project

You will shortly be receiving a copy of the business case for the Kaipara Moana Restoration project. A copy is being forwarded to other Ministers who have interests in Northland and/or with the restoration of the Kaipara Harbour. The business case provides a robust analysis of the historical and current situation and, more importantly, outlines the sought investment, actions, timeframes and collaboration required to restore the Kaipara Harbour.

Following receipt of the Business Case, the Ministry will be preparing a briefing note with input from other government agencies involved with Kaipara, outlining their respective roles and strategic investment opportunities to support work in the Kaipara.

2.8. Basel Convention decision on regulation of plastic wastes

You will receive a copy of a briefing to Minister Parker which seeks his approval for the Ministry to consult on implementing amendments to the Basel Convention agreed to at the Conference of the Parties earlier this year.

Parties adopted amendments to require exporting countries or exporters to obtain prior informed consent from receiving countries before shipping most mixed and/or contaminated plastic wastes. The amendments enter into force 1 January 2021.

New Zealand implements its obligations under the Basel Convention through the Imports and Exports (Restrictions) Prohibition Order No. 2 2004 (Imports and Exports Order). All imports and exports of Basel Convention wastes require a permit from the Environmental Protection Authority under the Imports and Exports Order.

Pending Cabinet agreement to implement the decision, we will need to amend the Imports and Exports Order to include mixed and/or contaminated plastic wastes.

The Ministry is considering options to implement the amendments domestically. We have been working with Customs, EPA, MBIE and MFAT. We would like to undertake public

consultation early in 2020 to ensure that a permitting system can be in place before the decision comes into force.

The briefing notes that there may be new costs to the EPA to issue permits for mixed and/or contaminated plastic wastes. The issue of cost recovery is not limited to permits relating to the import and export of plastic wastes, and applies to all permits issued by the EPA under the Imports and Exports Order. Cost recovery, and other broader policy issues, relating to New Zealand's implementation of the Basel Convention may be considered under a separate work stream.

3. Briefing notes

16 September – 18 October

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05967 Event note for Sustainable Living Education Trust's WMF Funding Announcement	MfE	Event note for Sustainable Living Education Trust's WMF funding announcement.	20 September
2019-B-05327 Waste to Energy report update	MfE	To provide you with advice on the Berl Waste to Energy report.	25 September

4. Cabinet material

16 September – 18 October

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-B-05869 Update on proposed Container Refund Scheme for New Zealand	DEV	This paper informs Cabinet Committee members of the work underway on a project to design a comprehensive Container Refund Scheme in New Zealand. Note this is a companion paper to Minister Parker's paper <i>Options for a royalty on bottled water</i> .	Due to Cabinet 16 September
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	DEV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	Due to lodge: 10 October Due to Committee: 16 October Due to Cabinet: 23 October
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	This paper outlines your intention to appoint Jacqui Forbes, Denise Roche, and Don Chittock to the Waste Advisory Board for a term of three years from the date of appointment.	Due to your office 9 October Due to lodge 10 October Due to Committee 16 October Due to Cabinet 21 October

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Government strategy for aquaculture	MPI	Cabinet 16 September	Seeks agreement to a new government strategy for aquaculture that refreshes the previous 2012 government aquaculture strategy.	MfE supports the strategy and cabinet paper. The strategy sets government actions over the next seven years to support sustainable, productive, inclusive and resilient aquaculture growth towards a goal of \$3bn annual sales by 2035. The strategy has a strong focus on climate change, along with driving value growth and a push towards new open ocean (off shore) aquaculture space. The strategy couples climate change, and concerns about ocean acidification, with the need to transition to circular economy thinking. The strategy's actions will be implemented through an annual plan agreed between agencies (MPI, DOC and MfE). There are no legislative or financial implications from approving the strategy.
Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme	MfE	Cabinet 16 September	This Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide an assessment of policy options and recommendation to issue drafting instructions for an NZ ETS exemption for waste removed from the Fox Glacier Landfill.
Building System Legislative Reform Bill 1 – this includes 4 papers: 1. Overview, 2. Building products and methods, 3. Modern methods of construction and product certification, 4. Building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification	MBIE	DEV 25 September	These papers seek agreement to a programme of reforms to the building regulatory system that will lift the efficiency and quality of building work and provide fairer outcomes if things go wrong. The proposed reform includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislative changes to building methods and products, • a framework for modern methods of construction, and • changes to the building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification requirements. 	MfE supports the proposed reforms, and strongly supported the framework for modern methods of construction, as this has the potential to reduce construction waste and improve resource efficiency. We also suggested that the proposal to regulate building product information should include scope to include information about the efficiency, sustainability and thermal performance of products.

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Three Waters Review: institutional arrangements for a drinking water regulator	DIA	DEV 25 September	<p>This paper seeks agreements on proposals for the form, location, costs and funding for the new drinking water regulator.</p> <p>The paper proposes the regulator is established as a new standalone Crown agent with a primary focus on drinking water, and that this entity would also deliver discreet regulatory functions for wastewater and stormwater. It also proposes that an Establishment Unit is set up within the Department of Internal Affairs to design and build the new regulator, subject to the approval of additional operating funding.</p>	<p>MfE was consulted on the proposals in this paper and have worked with DIA and MoH to prepare the business case for the new central regulator. We broadly support the proposals in the Cabinet paper as they provide an opportunity for central government to drive improvements in the regulation and performance of the Three Waters sector to achieve better public health and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>We note that decisions to locate the wastewater and stormwater regulatory functions within the new drinking water regulator may need to be reconsidered by Cabinet once future decisions are made on the location of the new central regulatory functions being developed through wider freshwater and RM reform programmes. We do not consider that decisions sought in this Cabinet paper would preclude these future decisions. However, some Maori groups may raise concerns that these decisions are being taken in advance of wider governance matters raised in the WAI2358 report (including a possible Water Commission). Should this occur, the Government may need to be explicit that the decisions it is taking now do not prejudice any future decisions on institutional arrangements for managing water.</p>
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings (EPB) Regulations	MBIE	LEG 15 October	<p>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.</p>	<p>MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.</p>
Ngāti Rangitihī Deed of Settlement	Te Arawhiti	MCR 15 October	<p>Seeks Cabinet agreement to the final Ngāti Rangitihī redress package, including new Tarawera River natural resources redress & establishment costs, to enable the Crown to make a settlement offer and initial a deed of settlement. Seeks delegation to vary final aspects of redress (incl costs decisions) by Ministers (within their relevant portfolios).</p>	<p>MfE supports the proposed redress, and the proposed approach to delegate final decisions on costs to relevant Ministers – since agencies are still working with local authorities to determine these costs.</p>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV 16 October	<p><u>Marine risk & liability</u>: policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme. 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><u>Onshore risk & liability</u>: the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.</p>	<p>MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure • mining restrictions in benthic protection areas <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. We have been providing largely 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>
Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions	MfE	LEG 12 November	This Cabinet paper that will provide Regulations to exempt persons from NZ ETS obligations for disposing waste from the Fox Glacier Landfill	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide Regulations to exempt persons from NZ ETS obligations for disposing waste from the Fox Glacier Landfill
Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>The RS&I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.</p>	<p>MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE.</p> <p>In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity.</p> <p>We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.</p>

6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
I'm wondering if you can provide me the most recent figures on generation and recovery of various recyclable materials, for both households and commercial, Under the Official Information Act.	s 9(2)(a) Radio NZ, Reporter	19-D-02020	10 Oct

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Weekly Update

Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 23 September 2019

Environment weekly meeting 3.00pm – 3.30pm, Monday 23 September

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

Amanda Moran, Deputy Secretary, Natural and Built System

Shaun Lewis, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resource Efficiency

Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural and Built System

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper / verbal update	Mins
1.	Discuss Weekly Update	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
2.	Waste MINZ Conference	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10
3.	Container Return Scheme	Shaun Lewis	Verbal update	10

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1. Strategic priorities

1.1. Joined up consultation on Proposed Environmental Reforms

Week 2

We have had another busy week in both the North and South Island consulting on proposed environmental reform (particularly the Freshwater package, National Direction on Urban Development and Highly Productive Land). Attendance at all meetings has been high and attendees are keen to ensure the Government listens to their views. Some of our observations of common concerns include:

- Council and iwi had really strong informed discussions on the detail of the policy which was very beneficial
- Iwi have raised concern over the lack of early engagement and involvement in scoping of the policies
- Councils have raised concerns about timeframe and capacity to implement the proposals.

The consultation by numbers:

Attendance at meetings

Approximate numbers for the first week:

- 7 x Public meeting: 1350
- 2 x Primary sector meetings: 670
- 4 x Hui: on average 10 per meeting
- 6 x local council: on average 35 per meeting

We are tracking towards similar numbers for the week 16 September.

Social media

Since Monday 9 August, the Ministry has been using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn almost exclusively to communicate the consultations and advertise the meetings. As at 16 September, we have had:

- over 1.7 million impressions (amount of time our content has been seen)
- 29,000 engagements (interactions with our content – 'likes', re-tweets)
- 6,549 link clicks

Across all four channels we have:

- increased followers by 1,483
- had over 1,900 comments
- received over 550 messages.

Website

Seven of our top nine pages viewed are related to our freshwater package.

Week 3

In the week beginning 23 September we continue to run meetings around the North Island:

- Hamilton – council meeting, a couple of primary sector meetings, hui and a River Authority Meeting
- Pukekohe – public meeting
- Auckland – council meeting, public meeting and a hui
- Whangarei – council meeting, public meeting and a hui
- Kaitia – hui

- Gisborne – hui, council meeting and a public meeting
- Wairoa – hui
- Napier – public meeting, council meeting and a hui
- Carterton – council meeting and a primary sector meeting.

2. Updates for noting

2.1. Seeking input from the Government Statistician on waste data proposals

As part of the landfill levy expansion project, we are currently preparing proposals for regulations that would significantly improve our access to data on waste production and disposal. These regulations are proposed under section 86 of the Waste Minimisation Act, which also requires that you consult the Government Statistician (the Chief Executive of Statistics New Zealand) before recommending the making of regulations.

We have drafted a letter for you to sign and send to Statistics New Zealand. Given the timeline for lodging proposals with Cabinet, we have requested that the Government Statistician provide a response by Friday 27 September.

2.2. Release of *Our marine environment 2019*

The release date for the *Our Marine Environment (OME2019)* report is Thursday 17 October. OME2019 is part of the joint Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand Environmental Reporting programme.

This report is the second report on the marine domain and brings together previous material with new and updated data and emerging issues. We are working with Minister Parker's office to arrange a time for an embargoed briefing for all Environment Ministers in advance of the release.

Also in advance of the report's release, Statistics New Zealand will publish an outline of the new and updated data OME2019 will contain. Your office will be provided with that outline as soon as it becomes available.

2.3. Basel Convention - Ban Amendment

The Basel Convention Ban Amendment (Ban Amendment), adopted by parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, prohibits the export of hazardous wastes from OECD countries to non-OECD countries. A total of 97 parties have now ratified the Ban Amendment meaning that it will enter into force for those parties on 5 December 2019.

The Ban Amendment is strongly opposed by a block of non-European developed countries (including New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States). New Zealand has not ratified the Ban Amendment.

New Zealand's long-standing position on the Ban Amendment is that overall it would not lead to efficient or environmentally sound management of wastes, as criteria for OECD membership is not necessarily an indication of a country's ability to process waste in an environmentally sound manner. New Zealand remains dependent on overseas facilities for specialised waste facilities, some of which are in non-OECD countries. For example, Singapore has advanced waste processing facilities but is not a member of the OECD.

New Zealand also considers that the Ban Amendment is unnecessary as the Basel Convention already provides mechanisms for parties to take steps unilaterally to ban the import of hazardous wastes, creating legal obligations on other parties to prevent the export of those wastes.

We are considering how the adoption of the Ban Amendment may impact New Zealand and will provide you with further advice on this.

2.4. Kaipara Harbour remediation strategy business case

To clarify advice provided to you last week; the Indicative Business Case for the remediation of Kaipara Harbour will be sent directly to several Ministers by the mayors/chairs of Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council, Kaipara and Whangarei District Councils, Northland Regional Council and the Kaipara Uri. You will receive a copy in your capacity as Minister of Conservation.

At an initial meeting on 30 August, officials from Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation and Te Arawhiti agreed that the Ministry for the Environment will lead a joint agency briefing to Ministers on a proposed Crown response to the indicative business case proposal.

We will consult with the Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Internal Affairs and other agencies as necessary (once all the Ministerial recipients are known), to ensure a fully joined-up approach to the provision of this advice.

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3. Briefing notes

23 September – 25 October

Reference number and title	Lead agency	What this briefing covers	Date due to your office
2019-B-05992 Our Marine Environment 2019	MfE	Briefing to Ministers two weeks prior to the Our Marine Environment 2019 release date.	30 September
2019-B-06017 Proactive release of Cabinet paper Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship	MfE	The purpose of this briefing is to seek your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper Priority products and guidelines for priority product stewardship and Cabinet minute.	30 September
2019-B-05327 Waste to Energy report update	MfE	To provide you with advice on the Berl Waste to Energy report.	4 October

4. Cabinet material

23 September – 25 October

Paper number and name	Committee	What this paper covers	Our suggested timeframes
2019-C-05889 Vulnerable Landfills	DEV	Vulnerable landfill - risks from climate change	Due to lodge: 10 October Due to Committee: 16 October Due to Cabinet: 23 October
2019-C-05775 Waste Advisory Board appointments 2019	APH	s 9(2)(a), s 18(d) 	Due to your office 9 October Due to lodge 10 October Due to Committee 16 October Due to Cabinet 21 October

5. Cabinet material we have been consulted on

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
<p>Building System Legislative Reform Bill 1 – this includes 4 papers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview, 2. Building products and methods, 3. Modern methods of construction and product certification, 4. Building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification 	MBIE	DEV 25 September	<p>These papers seek agreement to a programme of reforms to the building regulatory system that will lift the efficiency and quality of building work and provide fairer outcomes if things go wrong. The proposed reform includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislative changes to building methods and products, • a framework for modern methods of construction, and • changes to the building levy, offences and penalties, and public notification requirements. 	<p>MfE supports the proposed reforms, and strongly supported the framework for modern methods of construction, as this has the potential to reduce construction waste and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>We also suggested that the proposal to regulate building product information should include scope to include information about the efficiency, sustainability and thermal performance of products.</p>
Three Waters Review: institutional arrangements for a drinking water regulator	DIA	DEV 25 September	<p>This paper seeks agreements on proposals for the form, location, costs and funding for the new drinking water regulator.</p> <p>The paper proposes the regulator is established as a new standalone Crown agent with a primary focus on drinking water, and that this entity would also deliver discreet regulatory functions for wastewater and stormwater. It also proposes that an Establishment Unit is set up within the Department of Internal Affairs to design and build the new regulator, subject to the approval of additional operating funding.</p>	<p>MfE was consulted on the proposals in this paper and have worked with DIA and MoH to prepare the business case for the new central regulator. We broadly support the proposals in the Cabinet paper as they provide an opportunity for central government to drive improvements in the regulation and performance of the Three Waters sector to achieve better public health and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>We note that decisions to locate the wastewater and stormwater regulatory functions within the new drinking water regulator may need to be reconsidered by Cabinet once future decisions are made on the location of the new central regulatory functions being developed through wider freshwater and RM reform programmes. We do not consider that decisions sought in this Cabinet paper would preclude these future decisions. However, some Maori groups may raise concerns that these decisions are being taken in advance of wider governance matters raised in the WAI2358 report (including a possible Water Commission). Should this occur, the Government may need to be explicit that the decisions it is taking now do not prejudice any future decisions on institutional arrangements for managing water.</p>

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Substantial Alterations: Amendments to Earthquake-prone Buildings (EPB) Regulations	MBIE	LEG 15 October	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.	MfE is comfortable with the proposal and had no comments on this paper.
Ngāti Rangitihi Deed of Settlement	Te Arawhiti	MCR 15 October	Seeks Cabinet agreement to the final Ngāti Rangitihi redress package, including new Tarawera River natural resources redress & establishment costs, to enable the Crown to make a settlement offer and initial a deed of settlement. Seeks delegation to vary final aspects of redress (incl costs decisions) by Ministers (within their relevant portfolios).	MfE supports the proposed redress, and the proposed approach to delegate final decisions on costs to relevant Ministers – since agencies are still working with local authorities to determine these costs.
Consultation on discussion document for Crown Minerals Act review and Minerals and Petroleum Strategy	MBIE	DEV 16 October	<u>Marine risk & liability</u> : policy development for decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations is out of scope. MBIE intends this to be a separate programme. 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. <u>Onshore risk & liability</u> : the discussion document does not test policy settings for the long term liability for abandoned onshore wells.	MfE broadly supports the strategy and discussion document. We consider that the review scope should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residual liability for offshore oil and infrastructure • mining restrictions in benthic protection areas 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. We have been providing largely technical advice to MBIE on compliance and enforcement issues such as setting penalties, court functions and other regulatory mechanisms. Engagement with MBIE is ongoing.
Exempting Fox Glacier Landfill Waste from the New Zealand Emissions	MfE	LEG 12 November	This Cabinet paper that will provide Regulations to exempt persons from NZ ETS obligations for disposing waste from the Fox Glacier Landfill	Minister Shaw will take this Cabinet paper that will provide Regulations to exempt persons from NZ ETS obligations for disposing waste from the Fox Glacier Landfill.

Reference number and paper name	Agency	Committee and date due there	Risk/issue/opportunity	MfE comments
Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy for public consultation	MBIE	DEV TBC	<p>The RS&I strategy sets the direction of the Government's funding for science. Previously it has primarily focussed on excellence and impact. New to this version is additional emphasis on connectivity and talent.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to help re-balance the research system towards applied research end of the science spectrum.</p>	<p>MfE has been consulted throughout this review, and will provide further feedback to MBIE.</p> <p>In general MfE supports the directions of the Strategy, particularly the new focus on connectivity.</p> <p>We note the importance of research at the applied end of the science spectrum, and we believe the emphasis on connectivity should enhance the flow of science to end users such as councils, resource managers and those making land use decisions. Further to this, and following correspondence from several science providers and users, we are drafting a briefing from MfE, MPI and MBIE on the need for support for applied research.</p>

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6. Official Information Act requests

6.1. Departmental

Request	Correspondent	Reference	Due to send
I'm wondering if you can provide me the most recent figures on generation and recovery of various recyclable materials, for both households and commercial, Under the Official Information Act.	s 9(2)(a) Radio NZ, Reporter	19-D-02020	10 October

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the Official Information Act 1982