



# **AGENDA**

## Taranaki Solid Waste

Thursday 19 November 2020, 10.30am

# Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

19 November 2020 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

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**Membership of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

Neil Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
Alan Jamieson	Stratford District Council
Bryan Roach	South Taranaki District Council
Richard Handley	New Plymouth District Council

**Health and Safety Message**

**Emergency Procedure**

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the committee room by the kitchen.

If you require assistance to exit please see a staff member.

Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the birdcage. Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

**Earthquake**

If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.



**Date:** 19 November 2020

**Subject:** **Confirmation of Minutes - 20 August 2020**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2633979

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### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Thursday 20 August at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee held at the Taranaki Regional Council on Thursday 20 August 2020 at 10.30am, have been circulated to the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and the South Taranaki District Council for their receipt and information.

### **Matters Arising**

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 256751:6 Minutes Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee - 20 August 2020



**Date:** 20 August 2020, 10.30am  
**Venue:** Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford  
**Document:** 2567516

<b>Present</b>	Councillors	N W Walker B Roach A Jamieson	Taranaki Regional Council (Chairman) South Taranaki District Council Stratford District Council
<b>Attending</b>	Councillor	M Bellringer Mr G Bedford Mrs H Gerrard Miss L Davidson Mr P Ledingham Ms L Jones Mrs K Hope Ms J Dearden Mrs V Araba Mr H Denton Mr J Beeslar Ms R Martin Mr R Simeon	(South Taranaki District Council) ( <i>zoom</i> ) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (Stratford District Council) (South Taranaki District Council) (South Taranaki District Council) (South Taranaki District Council) (Envirowaste) ( <i>Zoom</i> )
<b>Apologies</b>		An apology was received from Councillor R Handley, New Plymouth District Council. Walker/Jamieson	
<b>Notification of Late Items</b>		There were no late items.	

**1. Confirmation of Minutes – 21 May 2020**

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held via zoom on Thursday 21 May 2020 at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held via zoom on Thursday 21 May 2020 at 10.30am, have been circulated to the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council for their receipt and information.

Walker/Jamieson

**Matters arising**

**Plastic in road surfacing**

- The plastics in road surfacing trial is continuing. A second trial has been laid in the yard, it has better consistency however there are a few issues around the quality of compacting. Due to this it is unable to be rolled out yet and is still waiting on the feasibility study to be completed.
- It was suggested that once they have the right combination it is tested on mountain roads in colder climate and also in warmer higher volume areas.
- It was clarified that there are other countries using plastic on roads. However, the mixture of New Zealand's baled mix plastics has not been trialled elsewhere. The single stream plastics already have markets so they are not being used for the trial. The mixed bales of recycling in New Zealand are not able to be utilised and recycled in any other way at this time which is why they are using these types of plastics to trial.

**2. Enviroschools Activities**

- 2.1 Mr G K Bedford, Taranaki Regional Council, introduced Lauree Jones, Taranaki Enviroschools Regional Coordinator & Facilitator who provided a presentation on Enviroschools activities.
- 2.2 Ms L Jones was thanked for her presentation and acknowledgment was given to her for her passion for her job.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the presentation by Lauree Jones on Enviroschools activities in Taranaki.

Jamieson/Walker

**3. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report**

- 3.1 Ms J Dearden, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum informing the Committee of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

Jamieson/Roach

**4. Change to What Plastics Will be Accepted for Recycling**

- 4.1 Ms K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum outlining the upcoming change to what plastics will be accepted for recycling in Taranaki.
- 4.2 All three councils have approved the change to what plastics can be accepted for recycling going forward. The change in recycling will start from 31 August 2020.
- 4.3 It is not believed that this will have much impact on volumes of wastes going to landfill.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the upcoming changes to the acceptance of plastics for recycling.

Walker/Jamieson

**5. Regional Behaviour Change Strategy**

- 5.1 Ms K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum presenting the draft Regional Behaviour Change Strategy.
- 5.2 It was noted that education providers, specifically Enviroschools, should be consulted and included in further conversations on the Regional Behaviour Change Strategy.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum
- b) notes and ratifies the Regional Behaviour Strategy.

Walker/Roach

**6. Progress on the Government's Work Programme for Waste**

- 6.1 Ms H Gerrard, Taranaki Regional Council, spoke to the memorandum informing the Committee of recent announcements regarding the Government's work programme on waste.

**Resolved**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the information contained in this memorandum pertaining to recent Government announcements.

Walker/Jamieson

**7. General Business**

**7.1 Disposal of Tyres**

- NPDC are looking at whether they can provide a facility as a collection point for tyres or if there is anyone in the industry that wants to be the collection point. NPDC will look at the feasibility of a collection point through the LTP process.
- Illegal dumping of tyres on land is a district council issue. If they are in a water way then it is the responsibility of the Regional Council.

**7.2 Colson Road Landfill Special Waste**

- For the past 12 months the Colson Road landfill has been kept open to accept special waste from commercial businesses. This was to allow businesses time to find an alternative to dispose of their special waste. It has been reasonably expensive and is not a viable option going forward. The landfill will now be permanently closed on 31 October. The Taranaki Construction Safety Group have made inquiries about special waste, particularly asbestos, being stored locally somewhere and then sent away in bulk. NPDC are speaking with them directly.

There being no further business, Committee Chairperson, Councillor N W Walker declared the meeting of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee closed at 11.54am.

**Confirmed**

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

**N W Walker**

**19 November 2020**





**Date:** 19 November 2020

**Subject:** **Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2636129

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Committee members of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the district council officers of New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council. The memorandum is for information only.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

### **Discussion**

2. The Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's activity report is attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2636160: Regional Waste Minimisation Officers report



NPDC reference: ECM8415899

## Agenda Memorandum

**Date:** 9 November 2020

### Memorandum to Chairperson and Members Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO), in collaboration with the district council officers of NPDC, STDC and SDC.

This report provides information on activities in the wider community, and matters of potential interest to the Committee from September and November 2020.

#### Recommendation

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

1. Receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

#### Discussion

AGrecovery – 'One stop shop events' confirmed \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*



It has been confirmed that the three district councils as well as the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) will run three 'AGrecovery ONE STOP SHOP EVENT' in the region in May 2021 and confirmed the venues.

ECM8415899



	Venue	Date (TBC)	Contact Waste officer
NPDC	Farmlands Inglewood	10-14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Jessica Dearden
STDC	Farmlands Hawera	10-14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Brittany Rymer
SDC	A & P Show grounds- Stratford	10-14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Louise Campbell

Further discussion in November will be on what types of waste will be accepted for disposal and how the public can register to dispose of specific farm waste. The RWMO is working on the MOU in collaboration with the district councils and AGrecovery.

Regional plastic changes 1, 2 & 5's \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

The three districts successfully launched the regional plastics changes on 31 August 2020. All districts worked together on communications and key messaging. The successful change over now means that as a region we recycle 1, 2 and 5 plastic types.



Key messages in the campaign were:

- Recycling is as easy as 1, 2, 5.
- New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils will no longer take the other plastics – 3, 4, 6 and 7 – as we can't recycle these problem plastics and they'll unfortunately have to go to the landfill.
- These problem plastics currently have no market to be recycled. This change is happening throughout New Zealand.
- Check the triangle when shopping – go for plastic numbers 1, 2 and 5, which are easily recycled in New Zealand. If in doubt, leave it out.
- It will be better for the environment and cheaper in the long-run if consumers avoid buying the problem plastics – types 3, 4, 6 and 7. Check out these simple swaps.



Data on the success of the campaign are still being collected but a brief summary of preliminary data is provided below.

1. Reduction in contamination of recycling:

The portion of non-recyclable items in recycling (Figure 1), which was very high after Covid-19, has dropped gradually in the last five months. A 7% drop between August and October could be attributed in part to the campaign around the plastics change as non-recyclable plastics are a common contaminant in recycling bins.

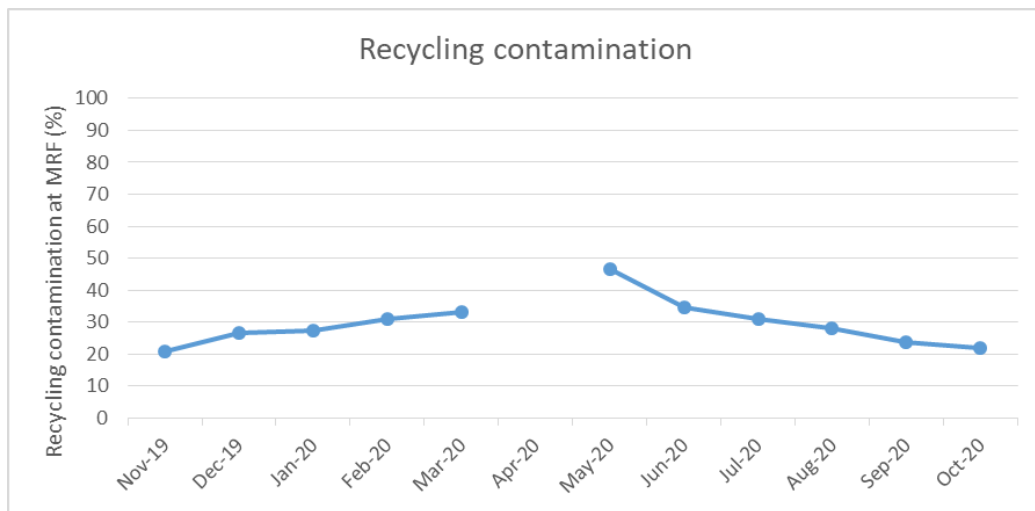


Figure 1 Portion of monthly incoming recycling that is contamination at the Material Recovery Facility

2. Community engagement with social media posts:

New Plymouth District Council designed four social media posts as part of the plastic change campaign and started a video series of *Zero Waste tips with Rosie*. These posts had a reasonable response from the community:

- 19 August Facebook post on upcoming plastic change - 265 comments, 254 shares;
- 27 August Facebook post noting change was happening 31 August - 72 comments, 51 shares, 5.3k views;
- 2 September Facebook post with tips on the plastic change and video - 4500 views
- 5 October Facebook post and video with supermarket shopping tips - 6 comments, 16 shares, 1.8k views.



**New Plymouth District Council**  
19 August · 🌐

Heads-up! From Monday 31 August plastic we can recycle is changing. Plastic containers with the number 1, 2 or 5 in the recycling triangle can go in the yellow recycling bin; all other plastics are now for the red landfill bin. Do you know where the triangle is on your plastic products? Have a look for it when you're shopping next and choose 1, 2 and 5!

**Changes to plastics recycling**  
31 August

🔄1 🔄2 🔄5

👍❤️👍 144 · 205 comments · 254 shares

**New Plymouth District Council**  
27 August · 🌐

Check the triangle on your plastic containers for the numbers 1, 2 or 5! From this Monday only 1, 2 and 5 plastic containers can go in the yellow recycling bin, all other plastics are for the red landfill bin.

**What we recycle is changing...**

👍❤️👍 27 · 72 comments · 51 shares

👍 Like · 💬 Comment · ➦ Share

**New Plymouth District Council**  
2 September · 🌐

Don't forget to check the triangle when sorting your plastics! 1, 2 and 5 can go in your recycling bin 🌱  
There are no changes to other recycling like cardboard and tins 😊

**zero waste tips with Rosie**

👍❤️👍 40 · 4 comments · 44 shares

👍 Like · 💬 Comment · ➦ Share

**New Plymouth District Council**  
5 October · 🌐

Here are some tips to help you make choices that are good for the earth when you're in the supermarket 🌱

**zero waste tips with Rosie**

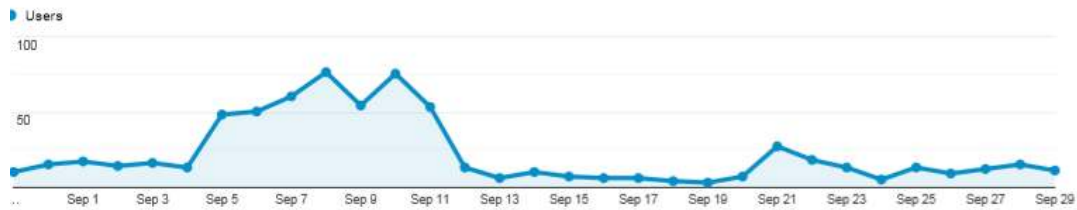
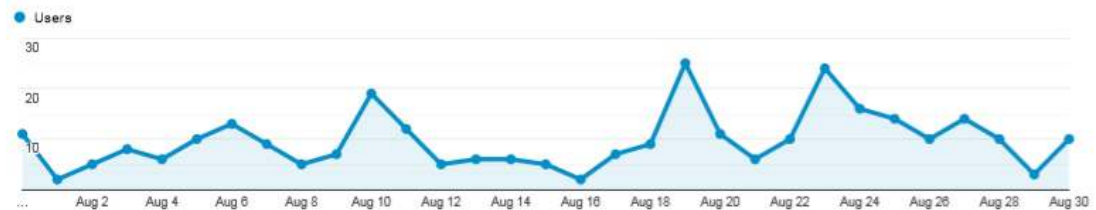
👍❤️👍 25 · 6 comments · 16 shares

👍 Like · 💬 Comment · ➦ Share



3. Interaction with Zero Waste Taranaki website – August, September and October.

Increased traffic and increased views on the Zero Waste Taranaki website for plastics changes 1, 2 and 5's are shown in the graphs below with peak views aligned with social media posts.



4. Number of service requests

The number of service requests that councils receive can be an indicator of how well the campaign has reached the community i.e., if there is an increase in service requests, there are likely to be more people in the community that do not understand the changes and are contacting councils for more information. A review of the service requests received by NPDC in relation to recycling services indicates that while there was a small peak in early September this was not unusual in relation to the number of requests from previous weeks. This suggests that the community was likely well informed of the changes by the information sent out to all households across the district. This is likely to be similar across the other two councils given the coordinated communication approach that was implemented.

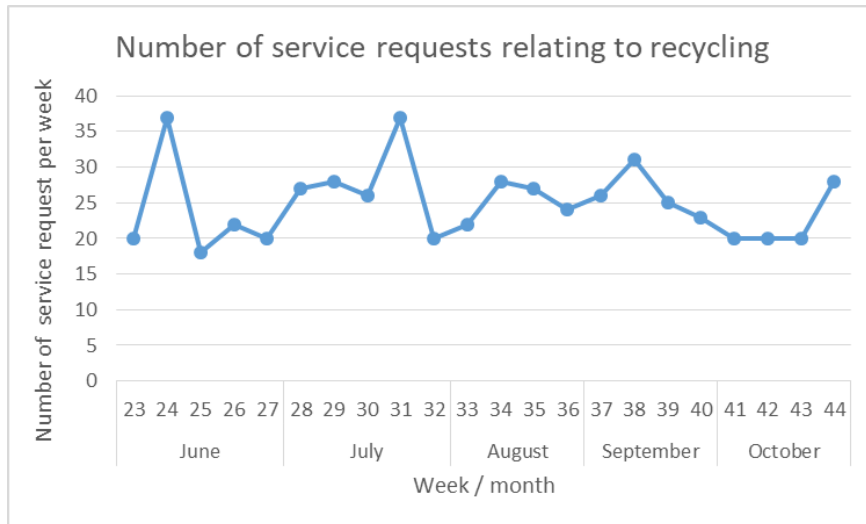


Figure 2 Number of service requests received by NPDC for recycling services each week between June and October 2020

Waste Free with Kate – Menstrual Workshops 1 - 4 September \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

The biggest and most anticipated events this 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter were the Waste Free with Kate - Menstrual Workshops facilitated by Rochelle Searle. The workshops support our districts waste minimisation targets focusing on diversion from landfill. Menstrual waste disposables equate to around 5,000 tonnes of waste being sent to New Zealand landfills every year. The workshops aim is to give young women product knowledge and choice. By holding these workshops and making these products free in schools we hope to have a continued positive impact on our school community in relation to waste minimisation.

The total number of schools visited regionally this round was eleven (Table 1). The workshops successfully reached our more vulnerable schools in areas like Patea and Okato where social and economic disadvantages impact knowledge and access to reusable products. Next year NPDC will hold workshops in March and September 2021 and aim to increase the number workshops held in schools and hold workshops in community centres reaching out to our more vulnerable communities and increasing the amount of products to be distributed.





Table 1 Summary of menstrual workshops September 2020

	Number of Schools	Number of engaged students and teachers	Products donated: pads or cups	Outcomes/feedback from reports
NPDC	7	610	1,050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general feedback was that the products were life changing for so many of the girls and would be the difference of a loaf of bread and bottle of milk for the family.</li> <li>The support received from Council staff at the schools was great.</li> </ul>
STDC	3	300	450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well received. The schools are going to get wet bags and package the products up nicely for the girls.</li> </ul>
SDC	1	228	360	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the presentations, with a lot of very enthusiastic, inquisitive, and inspired students and staff members.</li> <li>The students were very keen to try the reusable menstrual products we left with them and responded to the education with maturity and curiosity.</li> </ul>



Regional Education Plan - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

Following the completion of the Regional Zero Waste Behaviour Change Strategy, the RWMO has been working with the three district councils on an Annual Education Plan that aligns with the strategy. Regional areas of focus or themes have been agreed and are presented in Table 2. Detailed communications plans will be developed under this plan and implemented over the coming months.

ECM8415899



Table 2 Regional annual education plan 2020 – 2021 (projects are regional unless noted)

First quarter: <b>July-August -September –October 2020</b>			
Projects	Plastic Free July	Kate Meads workshops (NPDC)	Kate Meads menstrual Cups
<b>Regional Plastic Changes</b>			
Second quarter: <b>November – December – January 2020/2021</b>			
Projects	Love Food Hate Waste (Nov)	Zero waste Holidays	Recycling Contamination
		Coffee cup campaign Dec – cafes (NPDC)	Junction mini events (NPDC)
Third quarter: <b>February – March – April 2021</b>			
Projects	Back To School - Simple swaps	Battery collection	
	Sustainable Stationary	Coffee cup public campaign (NPDC)	
Fourth quarter: <b>May- June – July 2021</b>			
Projects	AGrecovery	Non-flushables:	Plastic Free July



**SPRING INTO ACTION – MARFELL OUT REACH with Kainga Ora \*NPDC\***

The RWMO, NPDC Solid Waste Contracts Officer and NPDC Community Liaison Officer ran an information booth around kerbside collection for Marfell residents in collaboration with Kainga Ora. It was a successful outreach event where we were able to speak to residents in the area about issues and questions around kerbside collections.



**Waste Levy Contestable Fund – November Round 1 2020/2021 \*NPDC\***

The RWMO has been working with the NPDC Resource Recovery team to process applications for Waste Levy contestable funding.

Funding of external waste minimisation projects using NPDC Contestable Waste Levy is considered annually after the receipt of applications. Other applications may be received during the year and considered on a case by case basis if there is sufficient funding left over.

Funded projects include but are not limited to:

- Educational or behaviour change projects that promote waste minimisation activity to the public or a particular target audience.
- Infrastructure that helps divert resources from landfill.
- Projects focused on understanding existing waste quantities and composition, behaviour or economic incentives, as a precursor to effectively reducing waste and/or increasing reuse, recycling and recovery of waste materials.
- Design of product stewardship schemes or other solutions that promote and achieve waste minimisation.
- Other initiatives that contribute to the actions and strategic priorities of New Plymouth District Council and the NPDC Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

More information on the application process can be found at <https://www.newplymouthnz.com/Council/Community-Partnerships/Funding-and-Grants/Waste-Levy-Fund>

New Plymouth District Council received thirteen applications in this funding round requesting a total of \$51,649.46. Applications were evaluated by a review panel against Waste Levy funding criteria. Seven applications were approved for funding and are summarised below. Applicants that did not meet the criteria this round were be given feedback and where appropriate urged to apply next round.

ECM8415899



<b>Approved proposals for waste levy funding- round 1</b>	<b>Allocated funding</b>	<b>Waste hierarchy</b>
Kinderen Day Care Buller Street – reusable nappies.	\$2,383.00	Reuse and reduce
Huirangi School - composting and worm farming.	\$296.46	Reduce and reuse
Frankleigh Park Kindergarten - hand towels, composting and community education.	\$3,000.00	Reduce and reuse
Bishops Foundation – ‘Ground Breaking Mushrooms’ e-bike and trailer for sustainable transportation of collected coffee grounds.	\$4,500.00	Recover
Indemic – infrastructure and research around recycling plastics.	\$8,000.00	Recycle
Armatec Environmental Ltd – recycling of fibreglass.	\$8,000.00	Recycling
Sustainable Taranaki - behaviour change education campaign for reusable takeaway containers and cups.	\$11,000.00	Reuse and reduce
<b>Total Round 1</b>	<b>\$37,179.46</b>	

The projects should benefit New Plymouth District and lead to measurable reductions in waste to landfill, or other waste improvements over the next 12 months.

Prepared by

Miss Jessica Dearden

*REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER*



**Date:** 19 November 2020

**Subject:** **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Regional Annual KPI Summary**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2636988

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of NPDC, SDC and STDC's progress towards the five-year targets outlined in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plans, for the information of the Committee.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the progress towards meeting selected KPIs for the councils' Waste Management and Minimisation Plans.

### **Discussion**

2. The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Regional Annual KPI Summary is attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2636161: Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Regional Annual KPI Summary



Date: November 2020

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

**SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN REGIONAL ANNUAL KPI SUMMARY**

**Background**

The three district councils adopted new Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMP) in 2017 (NPDC) and 2018 (SDC and STDC). Two years of data has been collected since the plans were adopted.

The purpose of this memo is to briefly review the annual data and establish how each district is tracking towards its five year targets outlined in the WMMPs. Previous data used to develop the WMMPs will provide a comparison and help us measure progress toward targets.

**Key Performance Indicators**

Each district’s WMMP outlines their key targets that will be used to monitor progress over the six year term of these plans and also towards the longer term aspirational goal of Zero Waste. The targets for each Council are provided in Appendix 1.

As required in the WMMP action plans, Key Performance Indicators have been aligned with the National Waste Data Framework where relevant (as indicated by a \*).

A selection of KPIs that show overall waste minimisation progress where this is measured on an annual basis are presented below.

KPI/Target	NPDC	SDC	STDC
1 Reduce the total waste volume per capita that goes to landfill	10% by 2023	0.71t/hh/year	5% by 2023 (from district)
2 Reduce the total waste volume per household going to landfill from the Council kerbside collection	25% by 2023	0.46T/hh/year	5% by 2023
3 Increase the volume of household waste diverted to recycling by 1% per year (Council kerbside service only)	Increase by 1% per year	Increase to 29% by 2023	Increase by 1% per year
4 Reduce contamination of Council kerbside recycling to 8% or less	≤8%	≤8%	≤8%



1. Total volume of waste per capita

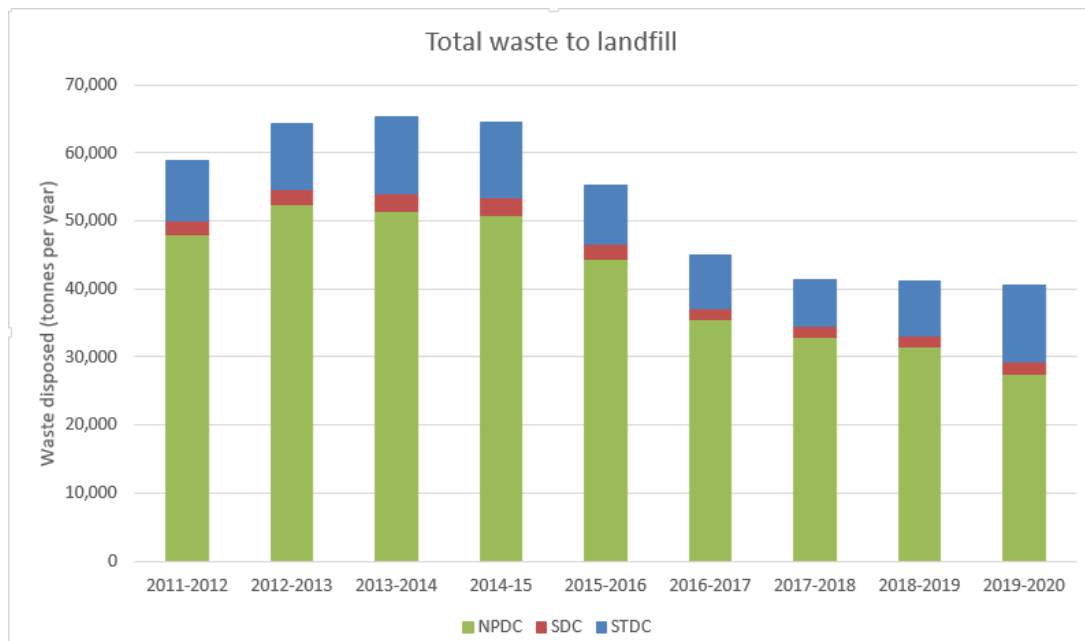
Table 1 shows the amount of waste disposed per person in 2019/20 compared to the previous three years and baseline data for 2012/13 and 2015/16.

This indicates that at a regional level, initiatives implemented to date in the waste plan have been effective in reducing the amount of waste disposed per person. However, within each district, an increase in waste disposed per person occurred over the last year in Stratford and South Taranaki and a decrease in New Plymouth. Figure 1 shows the decrease in total tonnage disposed to Colson Road Landfill in recent years. This decrease is in part due to the initiatives implemented in WMMPs but also because some waste is being disposed of at a landfill outside the region.

**Table 1 Tonnes of waste disposed to landfill per capita in the three districts in Taranaki**

TLA	2012-2013	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
NPDC	0.700	0.560	0.445	0.401	0.384	0.319
SDC	0.256	0.230	0.183	0.181	0.178	0.194
STDC	0.360	0.320	0.279	0.246	0.289**	0.392**
TOTAL	0.582	0.469	0.385	0.348	0.345	0.327

\*\* Increase in waste to landfill for STDC due to the fact that the Hawera transfer station is accepting more waste from commercial waste service providers due to a change in landfill and commercial waste collection no longer part of kerbside collection.



**Figure 1 Total annual waste disposed to landfill since 2011/12**





2. Total volume of waste per household from kerbside collection

This KPI is also an indicator for the National Waste Data Framework.

Figure 2 shows the waste per household disposed to landfill from each of the three councils' kerbside collections. Stratford has shown a decrease in waste over time, but over the last four years has remained static. South Taranaki District Council has shown little change in waste per household and New Plymouth households showed a significant drop with the new kerbside recycling system (2015) but has increased slightly before dropping again in the 2019/20 year when the food scraps collection was introduced. Waste disposal in 2019/20 for all three councils has been affected by the Covid-19 lockdown when recycling was either not collected or landfilled for seven weeks.

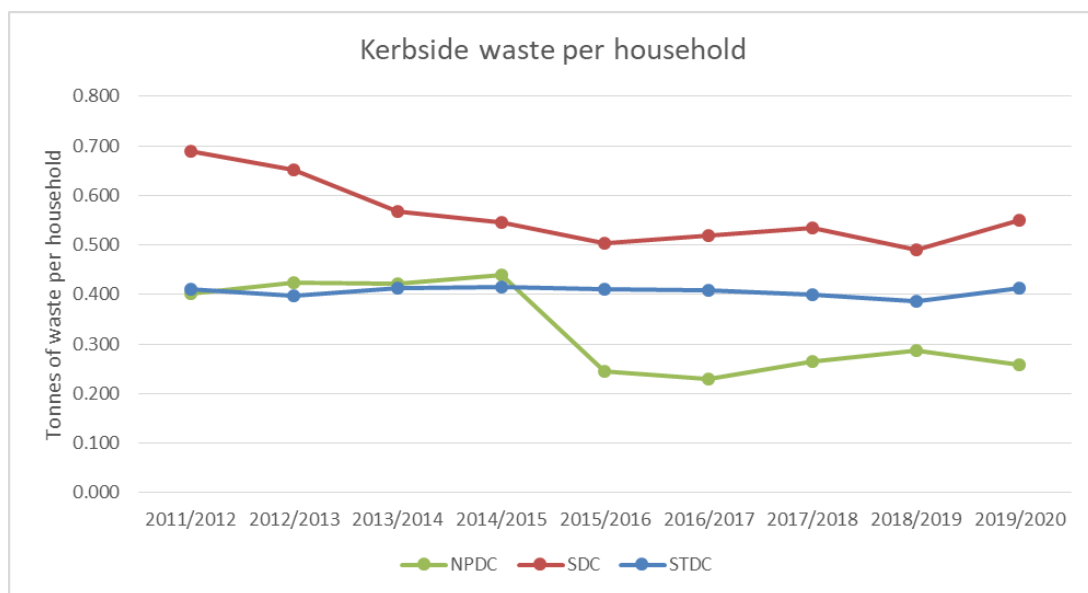


Figure 2 Amount of waste per household collected from Council kerbside collections

3. Volume of household waste diverted to recycling

Figure 3 shows the portion of kerbside waste that is collected for recycling for each council. The introduction of the new kerbside recycling in 2015 is evident with an increase in the portion of waste recycled, particularly in New Plymouth and Stratford. Stratford's recycling rate is 25% which is under the target of 29% of kerbside waste being recycled by 2023, however there is a slight increasing trend with a drop in the last year.

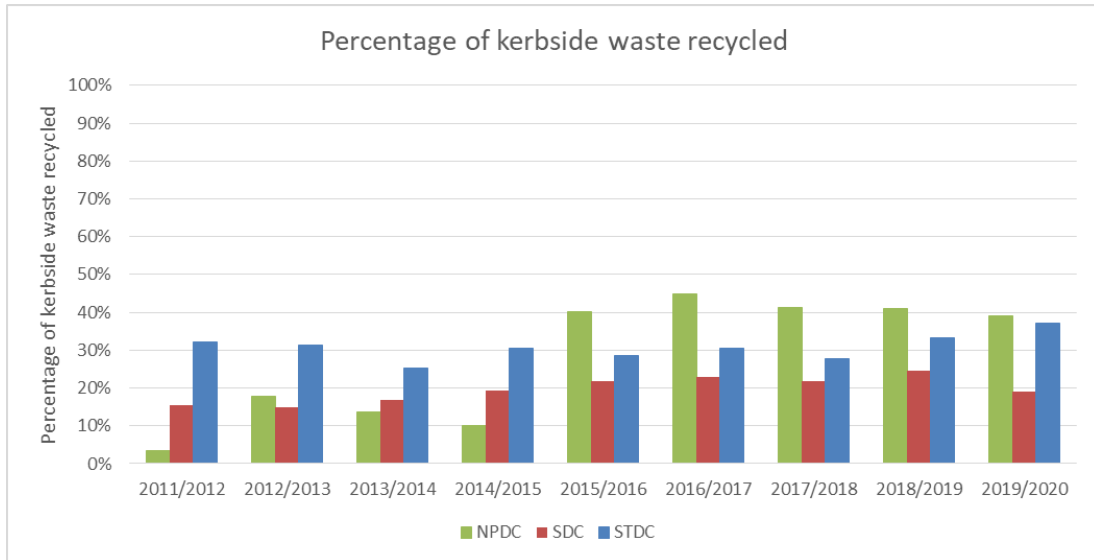


Figure 3 Portion of kerbside waste that is recycled annually

The percentage increase in recycling year on year is a target in council WMMPs. Table 2 shows the year on year percentage increase. In the last year there has been a decrease in recycling compared to 2018/19 for New Plymouth and Stratford (likely due to the impact of Covid-19 on recycling collections) while South Taranaki increased based on the previous year.

Table 2 Percentage increase in recycling compared to previous year

Year	NPDC	SDC	STDC
2012/2013	81%	-5%	-3%
2013/2014	-29%	12%	-23%
2014/2015	-36%	13%	17%
2015/2016	75%	11%	-7%
2016/2017	11%	6%	6%
2017/2018	-9%	-6%	-10%
2018/2019	0%	12%	17%
2019/2020	-5%	-30%	10%

Figure 4 shows the total volume of recycling per year for both kerbside and transfer stations combined. While Stratford and South Taranaki districts show a consistent level of recycling across their services, New Plymouth has increased recycling since the implementation of the new recycling service in 2015, dropping slightly in the 2019/20 year.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu  
**New Plymouth  
 District Council**

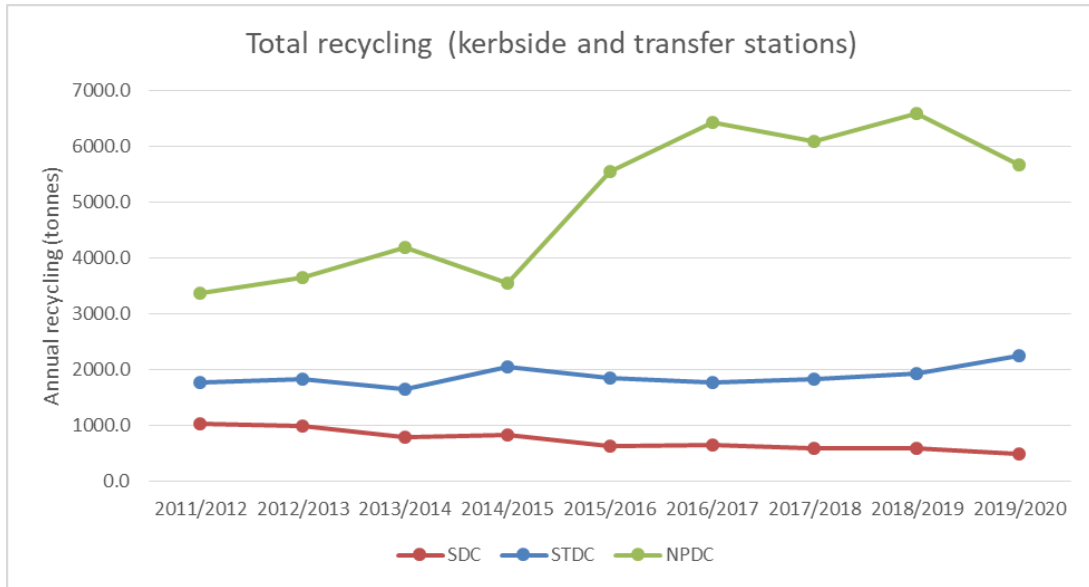


Figure 4 Total recycling from council services (kerbside and transfer stations)

When the recycling is compared on a per household basis, the three councils have similar rates of recycling with a slight increasing trend (Figure 5). This KPI is also an indicator within the National Waste Data Framework. Recycling per household shows an increase for STDC in the last year while SDC and NPDC show a decrease.

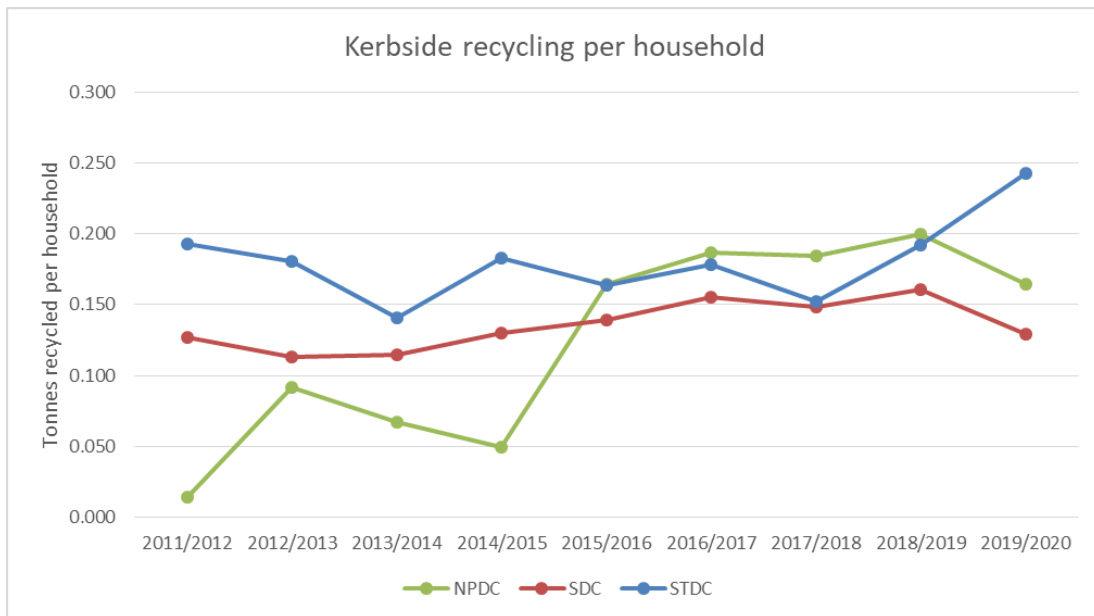


Figure 5 Kerbside recycling per household for each district since 2011/12



4. Percentage contamination of recyclables

The percentage of non-recyclable items collected as part of the Council recycling services (both kerbside and transfer stations) has shown an increase in the last year despite increased education and monitoring effort across the region (Figure 6). The target of 8% or less has not yet been achieved since the service began in October 2015. High contamination in May and June 2020 was as a result of changes to kerbside services due to Covid which has since dropped slightly. The increasing trend in contamination particularly over the last year is concerning and reasons for this are currently being investigated. Contamination is also an issue with a number of other councils (i.e. Christchurch is experiencing similar levels to Taranaki).

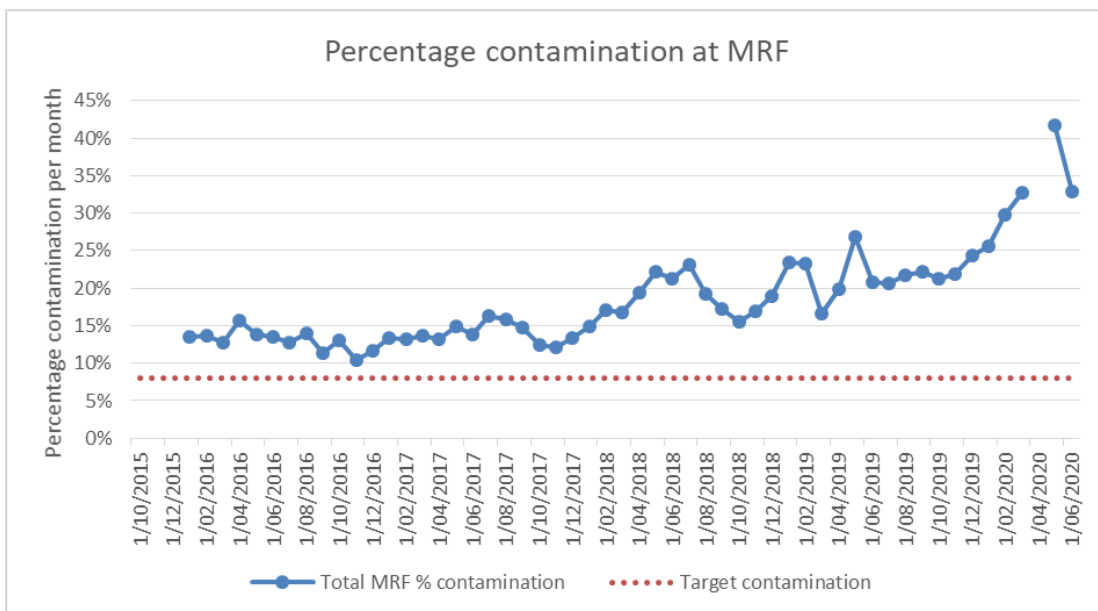


Figure 6 Percentage contamination of mixed recyclables at the Material Recovery Facility since 2015



## Conclusion

A summary of the three district council's performance against WMMP KPIs is provided in Table 3. WMMP KPI targets are attached for reference in Appendix 1. Stratford and New Plymouth district councils are tracking towards reducing total waste volume per capita to landfill but South Taranaki District Council is not meeting their KPI for reducing total waste volume per capita or from the council kerbside collection.

Covid-19 has had a major impact on the regions recycling services this year, particularly in New Plymouth and Stratford districts which did not meet the target of a 1% increase on the previous year. The lockdown in April meant that recycling services were suspended in the region which has had an effect on the volume of recycling collected and the contamination of recycling bins with non-recyclable items.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan actions proposed over the next five years are intended to result in some improvement in the above KPIs and movement towards the targets proposed. The effectiveness of these actions will be demonstrated in future reports to the committee on an annual basis.

**Table 3 Summary of 2018/2019 performance against WMMP targets**

KPI/Target	NPDC	SDC	STDC
Reduce the total waste volume per capita that goes to landfill	✓ - 43%	✓ 0.0.70T/hh/year (KPI not per capita)	✗ +22%
Reduce the total waste volume per household going to landfill from the council kerbside collection	✓ -10%	✓ 0.55T/hh/year On target	✗ +7%
Increase the volume of household waste diverted to recycling by 1% per year (Council kerbside service only)	✗ -18%	✗ -20%	✓ +26%
Reduce contamination of Council kerbside recycling to 8% or less	✗ 27% av	✗ 27% av	✗ 27% av

✓ = on track or achieved in 2019/20; ✗ = not achieved in 2019/20

PREPARED BY

Jessica Dearden  
REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER



## Appendix 1 WMMP Targets for each council

### New Plymouth District Council WMMP Targets

TARGETS	2015/16 BASELINE DATA	REF #
<b>Waste to landfill</b>		
Reduce the total waste volume per capita going to the regional landfill by 10% by 2023.	0.56 tonnes/capita/annum (NPDC)	L1
Reduce the total waste volume per household going to landfill from the Council kerbside collection by 25% by 2023.	0.26 tonnes/household/year (7,132 tonnes; 27,536 households)	L2
Any increase in waste volumes to landfill to remain below any increase in regional economic performance.	Total waste to landfill: 54,801 tonnes Taranaki \$75,941 GDP per capita <sup>5</sup> National \$52,953 GDP per capita <sup>6</sup>	L3
<b>Diversion of waste</b>		
Increase the amount of household waste diverted to recycling by 1% per year (Council provided kerbside collection only).	Waste: 7,131 Recycling: 4,918 Proportion: 41%	D1
Reduce contamination of Council provided kerbside recycling delivered to the Material Recovery Facility to 8% or below.	8% (NPDC) 12% (Region)	D2
<b>Organic waste</b>		
Reduce the amount of organic waste to landfill by 30% by 2023.	9,984 tonnes/annum	O1
Reduce the amount of organic waste in the Council provided kerbside rubbish collection by 50% by 2023.	4,510 tonnes/annum (3.4 kg per household per week)	O2
<b>Customer satisfaction</b>		
Percentage of community satisfied with the solid waste service exceeds 81% (NRB Survey).	82% (excluding 'don't knows')	S1
Total number of complaints received about the Council's solid waste service remains at or below three per 1,000 households.	0.84 complaints per 1,000 households (26 complaints; 31,000 households)	S2
<b>Public health</b>		
No public health advisory notices from Taranaki District Medical Officer of Health in relation to the Council's responsibilities for solid waste under the Health Act 1956.	Zero	H1
95% of the population has access to a waste disposal service – either via a kerbside collection or live within 20 minutes' drive of a transfer station.	98%	H2
<b>Environmental, health and safety compliance</b>		
No abatement notices received for the landfill.	1	C1
No infringement notices received for the landfill.	1	C2
No enforcement notices received for the landfill.	0	C3
No convictions received for the landfill.	0	C4
No convictions under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.	0	C5
<b>Community engagement</b>		
Number of education tours to the Resource Recovery Facility will exceed 52 per year.	56 tours in 2016	E1
Waste community engagement survey completed every two years.	N/A	E2

<sup>5</sup> Stats NZ Regional Gross Domestic Product Year ended March 2015- tables.

<sup>6</sup> Stats NZ Regional Gross Domestic Product Year ended March 2015- tables.



Stratford District Council WMMP Targets

Target Reference	Performance Measure	Baseline data (2015/16)	2023 Target
<b>WASTE TO LANDFILL</b>			
<b>T1</b>	Any increase in Regional Waste (RW) volumes to Landfill to remain below any increase in Regional Economic Performance (REP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total Regional waste to Landfill: 54,000 T</li> <li>Taranaki Regional GDP per capita is \$75,941;</li> <li>National GDP per capita is \$52,953.</li> </ul>	Changes in RW < Changes in REP
<b>T2</b>	Reduce the volume of the Kerbside collection waste per household in the district going to Landfill	<b>0.51 T/household/year</b> (1261/2450)	<b>0.46 T/ household/year</b>
<b>T3</b>	Reduce the total waste volume in the district going to Landfill per household.	<b>0.77 T/household/year</b> (1886/2450)	<b>0.71 T/ household/year</b>
<b>DIVERSION OF WASTE - RECYCLING</b>			
<b>T4</b>	Increase the amount of Kerbside collection waste diverted to recycling in the district.	<b>24 % (K/R)</b> , comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerbside waste plus recycling (K) = 1689 T</li> <li>Recycling (R) = 406 T</li> </ul>	<b>Increase to 29 %</b>
<b>T5</b>	Reduce contamination of Kerbside recycling delivered to the MRF.	<b>12%</b>	<b>Reduce to ≤ 8 %</b>
<b>DIVERSION OF WASTE - ORGANIC WASTE</b>			
<b>T6</b>	Reduce the amount of organic waste in the district Kerbside collection.	<b>37 %</b>	<b>Reduce to 32%; OR Reduce to 27 % (If SDC introduces Organic Waste Collection in 2021)</b>
<b>CUSTOMER SATISFACTION</b>			
<b>T7</b>	Percentage of community satisfied with the solid waste service.	<b>96.7 %</b> (including neutrals and excluding 'don't knows')	<b>≥ 90%.</b>
<b>PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>			
<b>T8</b>	Percentage of population in the district with access to a waste disposal service – either via a Kerbside collection or live within a 30-minute drive of a transfer station.	<b>85 %</b>	<b>90 % (If SDC introduces a Recycling Service in Whangamomona in 2021) 85 % (Otherwise)</b>
<b>T9</b>	Provide a district facility which receives non-industrial /domestic quantities of hazardous waste for appropriate disposal.	<b>1 facility</b>	<b>1 facility</b>
<b>T10</b>	Compliance with resource consent conditions for Council-operated solid waste district facilities.	<b>100 % compliance</b>	<b>100 % compliance</b>
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>			
<b>T11</b>	Regional Education Campaign on Waste Management and Minimisation.	<b>1 annually</b>	<b>1 annually</b>
<b>T12</b>	Waste Community Engagement Survey	<b>0</b>	<b>1 biennially</b>
<b>T13</b>	Regional Waste Minimisation Officer	<b>1 (shared resource)</b>	<b>1 (shared resource)</b>



South Taranaki District Council WMMP Targets

COUNCIL TARGETS		2015/16 BASELINE DATA
<b>WASTE TO LANDFILL</b>		
<b>T1</b>	Any increase in waste volumes to landfill to remain below any increase in regional economic performance. (Not to exceed current ratio – 711 kg/\$)	Total waste to landfill: 54,000 tonnes Taranaki \$75,941 GDP per capita <sup>2</sup> National \$52,953 GDP per capita <sup>3</sup>
<b>T2</b>	Reduce the total waste volume from STDC going to landfill by 5% by 2023, measured on a per capita basis. (0.30 tonnes/capita/annum by 2023)	STDC 0.32 tonnes/capita/annum
<b>T3</b>	Reduce the total waste volume per household going to landfill from Council kerbside collection by 5% by 2023. (0.35 tonnes/household/year)	0.37 tonnes/household/year (3,187 tonnes; 8,542 households)
<b>DIVERSION OF WASTE - RECYCLING</b>		
<b>T4</b>	Increase the amount of household waste diverted to recycling by 1% per year (Council provided kerbside collection only).	Waste: 3,366 Recycling: 1,488 Proportion: 44%
<b>T5</b>	Reduce contamination of Council provided kerbside recycling delivered to the MRF to 8% or below.	12%
<b>DIVERSION OF WASTE - ORGANIC WASTE</b>		
<b>T6</b>	Reduce the amount of organic waste to landfill by 10% by 2023. (Total: 3,111 tonnes per annum by 2023)	Kerbside general waste to Landfill – 3,187 tonnes/annum x 62% organics Transfer station general waste to Landfill – 5,106 tonnes/annum x 29% organics Total: 3,457 tonnes per annum
<b>CUSTOMER SATISFACTION</b>		
<b>T7</b>	Percentage of community satisfied with the kerbside collection service exceeds 90%.	90% (including neutrals and excluding 'don't knows')
<b>T8</b>	Total number of complaints received about the Council's solid waste service due to missed collections, bin damage and replacement, overturned bin, driver behaviour, transfer station issues remains below 100 per 1,000 rated collections.	New measure
<b>PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>		
<b>T9</b>	95% of the population has access to a waste disposal service – either via a kerbside collection or living within 20 minutes' drive of a transfer station	97%
<b>T10</b>	Continue to provide at least one facility which receives non-industrial/ domestic quantities of hazardous waste for appropriate disposal.	1
<b>T11</b>	Council-operated solid waste facilities achieve 100% compliance with resource consent conditions.	0 abatement notices received.
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>		
<b>T12</b>	One annual education campaign on waste management and minimisation.	1
<b>T13</b>	One waste community engagement survey completed every two years.	N/A
<b>T14</b>	One regional waste minimisation officer	1
<b>T15</b>	One bi-annual waste audit for the Council main office building	0
<b>T16</b>	Number of reported illegal dumping events in the District decreases by 2023. (30 reported illegal dumping events by 2023).	34

<sup>2</sup> Stats NZ Regional Gross Domestic Product Year ended March 2015 - tables.  
<sup>3</sup> Stats NZ Regional Gross Domestic Product Year ended March 2015 - tables.





**Date:** 19 November 2020

**Subject:** **Submission on Reducing the Impact of Plastic on our Environment**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2636171

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present for Members' information, a draft submission on The Ministry for the Environment's (MfE's) proposal to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment. The submission has been compiled by the RWMO in line with WasteMINZ Territorial Authority Officers Forum views and panel discussions. The Committee are asked to confirm or amend the draft submission, for officers to then forward it to MfE

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives the memorandum entitled *Ministry for the Environment consultation (MfE) – submission on reducing the impact of plastic on our environment*.
- b) receives the draft submission entitled *Submission on reducing the impact of plastic on our environment*.
- c) approves/amends the draft submission.

### **Discussion**

2. The RWMO's memorandum and draft submission are attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2636166: Memo regarding submission to Ministry for the Environment for reducing the impact of plastic

Document 2636163: Submission on reducing the impact of problem plastics on our environment



NPDC Reference: ECM8415885

Date: 9 November 2020

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

**SUBJECT: MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION (MfE) – REDUCING THE IMPACT OF PLASTIC ON OUR ENVIRONMENT.**

### **Background & Purpose**

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) called for submissions between August and November 2020 (extended to 4<sup>th</sup> December) on proposal to reduce the impact of plastic on our environment.

This consultation with local government and industry experts seeks feedback on two proposals related to plastic design, use and disposal. The proposals reflect a commitment by the Government in December 2019, in response to a report by the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor – Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa New Zealand. This consultation sets out recommendations for how we reduce the impact of plastics on our environment, yet retain some of the benefits that plastic offers to modern society. The consultation is due for feedback on 4 December 2020.

**Proposal 1:** The Government is looking to move away from hard-to-recycle plastics, starting with a phase-out of:

- Some polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polystyrene packaging
- All oxo-degradable plastic products.

This is part of a long-term shift toward a more circular economy for plastics where packaging materials are made of higher value materials that are easier to recycle.

**Proposal 2:** The Government also seeks feedback on a phase-out of some single-use plastic items. Moving away from single-use items in the future will help to encourage reuse, reduce waste to landfill, and minimise harm to the environment from plastic litter.

The proposals complement an existing government work programme to reduce the impact of plastic on the environment and drive behaviour change.

### **The Problem**

The problem of plastics is vast and complex. Plastic is fundamental to our modern-day lives. It has many desirable properties as it is versatile, durable, flexible, affordable and lightweight. We use plastic for many things, for example in construction, clothing, food production and distribution, farming, healthcare and packaging. However, badly managed

waste plastics are significant sources of plastic entering the environment, whether from littering, illegal dumping or escaping from waste management systems. The focus of this consultation is on reducing the environmental impact of certain hard-to-recycle plastic types and some single-use plastic items.

#### Plastic types

There are seven main types of plastic:

- 1 = Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) – often used for soft drink bottles
- 2 = High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) – often used for milk bottles
- 3 = Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) – sometimes used for meat trays and biscuit trays
- 4 = Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) – often used for soft plastics like bread bags
- 5 = Polypropylene (PP) – often used for ice cream containers
- 6 = Polystyrene (PS) – often used for yoghurt containers
- 6 = Expanded Polystyrene – often used for protective packaging and takeaway containers
- 7 = Other (a catch all for all other types of plastic) – includes plastic made from combining multiple material types, bio-plastics, biodegradable, compostable and oxo-degradable plastics.

More information and the consultation document can be reviewed: [here](#)

#### **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee Submission**

A draft submission has been compiled by the RWMO in line with WasteMINZ Territorial Authority Officers Forum views and panel discussions, and is attached for approval by the Committee.

The final submission will be sent to MfE on 4 December 2020.

Prepared by

Miss Jessica Dearden

*REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER*



Date: 9 November 2020

To: Ministry for the Environment (MfE)

**SUBJECT: SUBMISSION ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF PLASTIC ON OUR ENVIRONMENT**

*On behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC)*

The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC) provides oversight on waste management and minimisation issues within the Taranaki Region and is represented by Councillors from Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), New Plymouth (NPDC), Stratford (SDC) and South Taranaki District Councils (STDC).

We thank the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) for the opportunity to provide feedback and be part of the consultation process. Our submission is based on a regional perspective for Taranaki, with input from the regional and district councils noted above. We have collaborated with WasteMINZ Territorial Authority Officers Forum (TAO Forum) as a strategic working party on the options MfE proposes.

The Taranaki region is an advocate for change and is committed to working towards Zero Waste as a community. As a region, we have already taken steps to discourage the use of single use plastics by reducing our transfer station and kerbside recycling collection to only accepting plastics numbers 1, 2 & 5's so this proposal substantiates the current waste services provided in the Taranaki region. We recognise that waste disposal is becoming an increasing issue due to the recent changes imposed by the China National Sword policy. We support MfE's recent initiatives including the increase to the waste levy, proposed product stewardship schemes, and placing more emphasis on creating a circular economy. The facilitation of regional waste infrastructure will also allow for waste to be processed and recycled within New Zealand.

The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee agrees with the description in the MfE consultation document 'Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment'. Our submission fully supports the WasteMINZ TAO Forum submission which is provided in Appendix 1. Additional comments to the TAO Forum submission are also provided below referencing the relevant question in the consultation document.

**Q2. Have we identified the correct objectives for hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and single-use plastic items? If not, why?**

The Committee strongly agrees with the three objectives proposed in the WasteMINZ submission.

ECM 8403360



**Q4. Have we identified the right criteria (including weightings) for evaluating options to shift away from PVC and polystyrene packaging, oxo-degradable plastics and some single-use items? If not, why?**

The Committee agrees with WasteMINZ TAO Forum submission. The Ministry for the Environment should consider issues associated with PVC for regions without an optical sorter. PVC is contaminating PET recycling where there is hand sorting of plastic (as it's very difficult to tell the difference between PET and PVC when hand sorting). This means that companies such as Flight Plastics will only take clear PET bottles. All the other clear PET has to go to landfill as there is no other market currently.

**Q5. Do you agree with our assessment of the options, and our decision to take forward only one option (a mandatory phase-out)? If not, why?**

Yes, Central Government needs to lead the change towards achieving a circular economy through policy that bans problematic single-use items. Policies that ban harmful single-use plastic items are currently being developed in other countries, such as Canada.

**Q6. Do you agree with the proposed phase-out of PVC and polystyrene packaging as set out in two stages (by 2023 and by 2025)? If not, why?**

The Committee agrees with the TAO Forum submission. The impacts of alternative products need to be understood and how any changes will influence current infrastructure and services for the items proposed in Stage 2 phase-out.

**Q7. Do you think we should include all PVC and hard polystyrene packaging in stage 2 of the phase-out (e.g., not just food and beverage and EPS packaging)? Please explain your answer.**

The Committee agrees with the TAO Forum submission. Items needs to be assessed at an industry level to better understand the limitations. Addressing food and beverage packaging will result in the highest impact associated with behaviour change gains as this is public facing.

**Q10. Do you believe there are practical alternatives to replace hard-to-recycle packaging (PVC, polystyrene and EPS)? If not, why?**

The Committee agrees with the TAO Forum submission in that focus should be on single use packaging where there are known viable alternatives in the first instance. The assessment of feasibility, potential impacts and available alternatives for more difficult packaging with limited alternatives should be led by central government. We strongly support investigating and supporting alternatives that can be developed within Aotearoa.

**Q18. What would be an appropriate phase-out period for single-use items? Please consider the impact of a shorter timeframe, versus a longer timeframe, and provide details where possible.**

The Committee supports the TAO Forum submission but strongly supports a short timeframe (12 months) for phasing out problematic single-use items, where alternatives are readily available and significant industrial changes is not required. The items listed in Table 7 directly contribute to kerbside recycling contamination. Of the recyclable materials collected within Taranaki Region, 27% was deemed contaminated, some of which were identified as single use items. Therefore, these problematic single-use plastic items need to be addressed urgently to minimise the cost for Councils needing to dispose of these items.



**Q23. How should the proposals in this document be monitored for compliance?**

The Committee recommends that monitoring and compliance procedures be put in place for manufacturing, hospitality and retail sectors, given the volumes of waste produced within these industries and opportunities for behaviour change initiatives given their public interface. The chosen option should provide a reasonable timeframe to allow for clear communication and time to set up appropriate infrastructure to facilitate the new regulations. Review and further research will be required to determine if the plastics changes have been effective and have not resulted in any perverse or unexpected outcomes. A pragmatic approach to logistics of the single-use plastic ban is encouraged with education to support these changes.

We look forward to future consultation processes to incorporate the proposed amendments into relevant statutes and would welcome the opportunity to comment on any issues explored during their development.

Appendix 1:

## **WasteMINZ TAO Forum: Submission on ban on single use plastic items and pvc and polystyrene food and beverage packaging 2020**

### **About WasteMINZ**

WasteMINZ is the largest representative body of the waste and resource recovery sector in New Zealand. Formed in 1989 it is a membership-based organisation with over 1,000 members – from small operators through to councils and large companies.

We seek to achieve ongoing and positive development of our industry through strengthening relationships, facilitating collaboration, knowledge sharing and championing the implementation of best practice standards.

### **WasteMINZ Territorial Authorities Officers Forum (TAO Forum)**

The TAO Forum is a WasteMINZ sector group. The vision of the forum is to facilitate a clear and cohesive voice for the local government sector in relation to waste issues in order to influence and shape the future direction of the waste industry.

This is achieved by advocacy on behalf of the local government sector, leading strategic thinking on the future of the waste industry and encouraging information and knowledge sharing.

The TAO Forum is overseen by an elected Steering Committee consisting of the following council officers.

- Andre Erasmus Kawerau District Council
- Angela Atkins Hastings District Council
- Donna Peterson Invercargill City Council
- Eilidh Hilson Christchurch City Council
- Jennifer Elliot Wellington City Council
- Kimberley Hope New Plymouth District Council
- Kirsty Quickfall Hamilton City Council
- Parul Sood Auckland Council
- Sophie Mander Queenstown Lakes District Council

ECM 8403360



The steering committee is a representative mix of councils from throughout New Zealand, including small to large councils representing:

- North Island
- South Island
- City
- District
- Unitary

**1. Do you agree with the description in this document of the problems with hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and single-use plastic items? If not, why?**

The TAO Forum agrees with the description but think a broader framing of the problem would allow for wider issues to be considered and tackled, which will likely require more than a simple ban. Firstly, there is a culture of dependence (economic and social) on the convenience of single-use plastics. In addition, we note the following issues which could be a barrier to the objectives outlined below:

- The price of virgin plastic can create an economic barrier to utilising recycled resin
- Product design such as the use of coloured plastics, non-recyclable labels, tear off tamper wraps, multipack composite products and soft plastic pouches can still limit a products recyclability )

The present proposal should be part of a comprehensive Government policy targeting reliance on both single-use products in general and on virgin plastic resin. This could include specific regulations and investment to disincentivise single-use and create a reuse culture.

Finally, overreliance on offshore markets increases our carbon footprint through importing fossil-fuelled plastic resin or manufactured plastic products. There is a need to develop zero or low carbon alternatives where single-use is necessary and encourage onshore manufacture where possible.

**2. Have we identified the correct objectives? If not, why?**

Yes, however, we think there should be three main objectives

1. *Reduce the amount of hard-to-recycle plastic in use to enable a circular economy approach to waste management and reflect the waste hierarchy.*
2. *Minimise the environmental impact of single-use items which are littered and make their way into our oceans and streams.*
3. *Reduce the current level of contamination in kerbside recycling*

The following list expands on the three main objectives rather than being secondary objectives.

- lower risk of environmental damage including through litter and poor resource management
- decreasing the risk of wildlife consuming plastic and plastic entering into our food chain

ECM 8403360

- less PVC contamination in our recycling stream, so high-value materials like PET can be recycled rather than sent to landfill
- fewer unrecyclable plastics in our recycling stream such as plastic cutlery plates etc leading to lower contamination
- less contamination of plastic in both home and commercial composting
- increasing the uptake of high-value packaging materials including PET (1), HDPE (2) and PP (5)
- improving the recyclability of plastic packaging
- reducing public confusion and making it easier for New Zealanders to recycle right
- reducing carbon emissions associated with the manufacture, distribution and disposal of single-use plastic items.

**3. Do you agree that these are the correct options to consider? If not, why?**

Yes, however we believe these options could be blended to support a long-lasting and effective move away from reliance on all single-use items and to avoid unintended outcomes from a ban. For example, an approach that combines the proposed bans with levies/fees, ecolabelling, measurable targets, deposit-return, take back schemes, and community engagement. The EU Directive on Single-Use Plastics, and the plastics and packaging and single-use plastics chapters of the recently released Irish National Waste Policy, provide useful examples of blended approaches.

In addition to the options listed, we would support the consideration of additional measures to support the uptake and scale of reuse, e.g.

- mandatory targets for reuse/refill on specified items
- deposit return systems for takeaway serviceware to ensure that they are in a recyclable condition (i.e., clean) and put in the correct recycling bins
- mandating reusables in dine-in settings (as done through phase 3 of the Berkley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance )
- levies on targeted single-use items
- guidelines for the durability, repairability or modularity of products.

The Government could also consider the further option of applying fees to cover estimated costs for clean-up and disposal of items not proposed for a ban, but are still problematic, such as cigarette butts, takeaway packaging and wet wipes. These types of fees to cover clean-up and disposal costs differ from a levy and should be possible under s 23(1)(d) of the WMA).

**4. Have we identified the right criteria (including weightings) for evaluating options to shift away from PVC and polystyrene packaging, oxo-degradable plastics and some single-use items? If not, why?**

No. The TAO Forum thinks that separate tables, weighting and criteria should be used to evaluate pvc and polystyrene; oxo-degradable plastic and single-use plastics as these product categories are distinct from each other and there are different issues with each of them.

There should be a criterion around technical feasibility. Currently, there isn't rpv or polystyrene on the market so mandatory recycled content is technically not feasible. Conversely there are labelling schemes such as the Australasian Recycling Label, so the option of mandatory labelling requirements is technically feasible.

The TAO Forum also thinks that there should be criteria around willingness of the public to embrace the change and readiness of business – what shifts have businesses already made in this space?

Note with regards to the criteria the alignment of strategic direction should also include legislation such as the Zero Carbon act.

**5. Do you agree with our assessment of the options, and our decision to take forward only one option (a mandatory phase-out)? If not, why?**

Yes.

**6. Do you agree with the proposed phase-out of PVC and polystyrene packaging as set out in two stages (by 2023 and by 2025)? If not, why?**

Whilst the TAO Forum is very supportive of moves to ban unrecyclable packaging, there is a need to carefully consider what the viable packaging alternatives are. A ban on PVC/PS/EPS packaging could result in their replacement with packaging materials as bad, or worse, in terms of environmental effects.

Firstly, both food safety and shelf life need to be considered. We need to balance the desire to reduce use of hard-to-recycle plastics with the potential for inferior packaging choices leading to increased food loss and waste, given that approximately one-third of all food produced for human consumption globally is already lost across the supply chain.

Secondly, we need to consider recyclability and how to ensure that measures to reduce PVC/PS/EPS packaging don't lead to an increase in packaging coded as plastic #7 or compostable packaging where there is no infrastructure in place to process it.

Finally, it is also important to have a carbon footprint lens, to ensure, where possible that alternatives use less resources in production, transport etc.

Therefore, the TAO Forum is supportive of a ban for products where known alternatives are available that are recyclable e.g. products which can be made out of plastics #1, #2 and #5. However, the TAO Forum notes that there is a risk that products could move from plastics #3 and #6 and switch instead to equally unrecyclable plastics.

The TAO Forum is supportive of a ban in two stages. Stage 1 should only include those products where there are known alternatives available. In particular, banning pvc and polystyrene trays would ensure that valuable PET trays which are currently being landfilled can be sent to processors such as Flight Plastics for recycling and could prevent some councils from needing to purchase costly optical sorters. EPS containers (eg, clamshell takeaway containers) and EPS and polystyrene cups cause contamination in kerbside recycling and once again there are suitable alternatives on the market.

The TAO Forum thinks that more research needs to be undertaken to ensure that the proposed 2025 timeframe for Stage 2 is sufficient to ensure recyclable alternatives to pvc and polystyrene.

**7. Have we identified the right packaging items that would be covered by a phase-out of PVC and polystyrene packaging? If not, what would you include or leave out, and why?**

A blanket ban may not necessarily be the most appropriate measure at this stage for PVC and PS rigid packaging. It may be better to focus on specific items within these packaging types where appropriate alternatives are readily available, particularly around supermarket food packaging and takeaway items that can easily be swapped out e.g. meat trays, sushi containers, and PS takeaway containers. This would place the focus on specific items that prevent the effective recycling of other recyclables e.g. pvc trays.

The TAO Forum notes that EPS packaging for homeware and whiteware can't be collected at kerbside due to its size but can be collected through store takeback schemes. Plastic NZ has already begun work on voluntary product stewardship for preconsumer eps packaging and several large retailers offer takeback schemes, but these aren't widely promoted.<sup>1</sup> Designating packaging for homeware and whiteware as a priority product and setting up a product stewardship scheme for this type of packaging to encourage industry-led innovation such as a redesign of packaging materials may also be a suitable option.

**8. Do you think we should include all PVC and hard polystyrene packaging in stage 2 of the phase-out (e.g., not just food and beverage and EPS packaging)? Please explain your answer.**

PVC and PS/EPS are used for packaging for medications and to ensure products are kept at suitable temperatures for transportation. It is possible that exemptions might be needed for medical use if suitable alternatives are not available. PVC is also used in the construction industry for a variety of materials. The TAO Forum recommends that more research is undertaken to determine whether there are suitable replacements for these materials and to investigate where reusable or refillable options may be possible. The TAO Forum recommends that the next funding round of the Waste Minimisation Fund encourages applications to undertake this research.

**9. What would be the likely costs or benefits of phasing out all PVC and polystyrene packaging (hard polystyrene and EPS) by 2025?**

The TAO Forum believes that there would be the following benefits

Environmental

- There will be less plastic litter in the environment (streets, parks, streams, oceans) resulting in less harm to wildlife and fewer plastic particles within food chains.
- It will encourage the transition away from non-renewable oil-based products

Social

- There will be amenity improvements due to less litter in the environment.
- Reducing plastic waste in our environment contributes to improving the mauri of our environment.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. Harvey Norman

#### Economic

- Reduction in use of hard-to-recycle plastics, leading to less contamination at kerbside, and a reduction in hard-to-recycle plastics going to landfill. This will result in lower sorting and disposal costs.
- Cleaner, higher value recycling streams, assuming materials are swapped out for domestically recyclable plastics #1, #2 & #5.
- Increasing the viability of domestic recycling opportunities for #1, #2 & #5s due to higher volumes and increased quality.
- Businesses that produce products for export may gain a competitive advantage by using more recyclable packaging
- It would create a level playing field for all businesses which would provide certainty and fairness.
- With many of the alternatives being fibre or wood based, there may be an opportunity to produce more of these items on-shore in New Zealand using waste products from the timber industry.

The TAO Forum believes that there would be the following costs:

- Industry will need to develop new processes and alter production lines to accommodate different packaging materials.
- Higher cost of alternative material types for packaging, especially for takeaway containers. While a significant % increase, this is a matter of cents per item. The cost is likely to be passed on to the consumer. Research by both WasteMINZ<sup>2</sup> and Colmar Brunton<sup>3</sup> has shown a willingness by consumers to pay higher prices for more sustainable packaging choices.
- Large quantities of unused PVC/PS/EPS packaging going to landfill once the ban takes effect. This could be mitigated by the long lead-in time.
- Inferior-quality packaging could result in increased food loss and waste.
- Potential for higher environmental costs depending on new packaging choices.

The TAO Forum believes that the last point noted above is the greatest risk. A ban on PVC/PS/EPS could end up with these materials being replaced with something as bad or worse from an environmental/waste perspective e.g. a composite material whose only option is landfill, or a compostable plastic #7 which is unlikely to be home compostable and also unlikely to reach a commercial composting facility which is able to process it. There is a risk of creating yet another contaminant in kerbside recycling or in commercial composting processes, or at best the use of additional materials whose only option is landfill. Consideration needs to be given as to how to not only ban PVC/PS/EPS packaging but ensure the transition to PET/ HDPE/ PP.

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<sup>2</sup> WasteMINZ Plastic Bag Charges and Beverage Container Deposits Study 2016

<sup>3</sup> [https://static.colmarbrunton.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Colmar-Brunton\\_Better-Futures-2020-Presentation.pdf](https://static.colmarbrunton.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Colmar-Brunton_Better-Futures-2020-Presentation.pdf)

**10. Do you believe there are practical alternatives to replace hard-to-recycle packaging (PVC, polystyrene and EPS)? If not, why?**

Given the complexities involved in determining which plastics are used in food packaging, ranging from ensuring plastics are food safe, to offering physical protection and providing adequate oxygen and moisture barriers where required, this is a very technical and specialised area and so not a question that Territorial Authorities are necessarily best placed to answer.

Alternatives are already available for some food and beverage packaging items e.g. PET meat or biscuit trays where PET is proven to be effective as a packaging material, acceptable in kerbside recycling and with a domestic market for reprocessing (Flight Plastics).

There may not be practical replacements readily available for all PVC/PS/EPS food and drink packaging items, for example flexible PVC which is often used to package fresh pasta or ham, and PVC-related plastics which are used for barrier coatings.

Therefore, at this stage the TAO Forum believes that for the purposes of this consultation, in the short term, the scope must stay focused on single-use packaging where there are known viable alternatives and that further research and innovation may be needed for other packaging types.

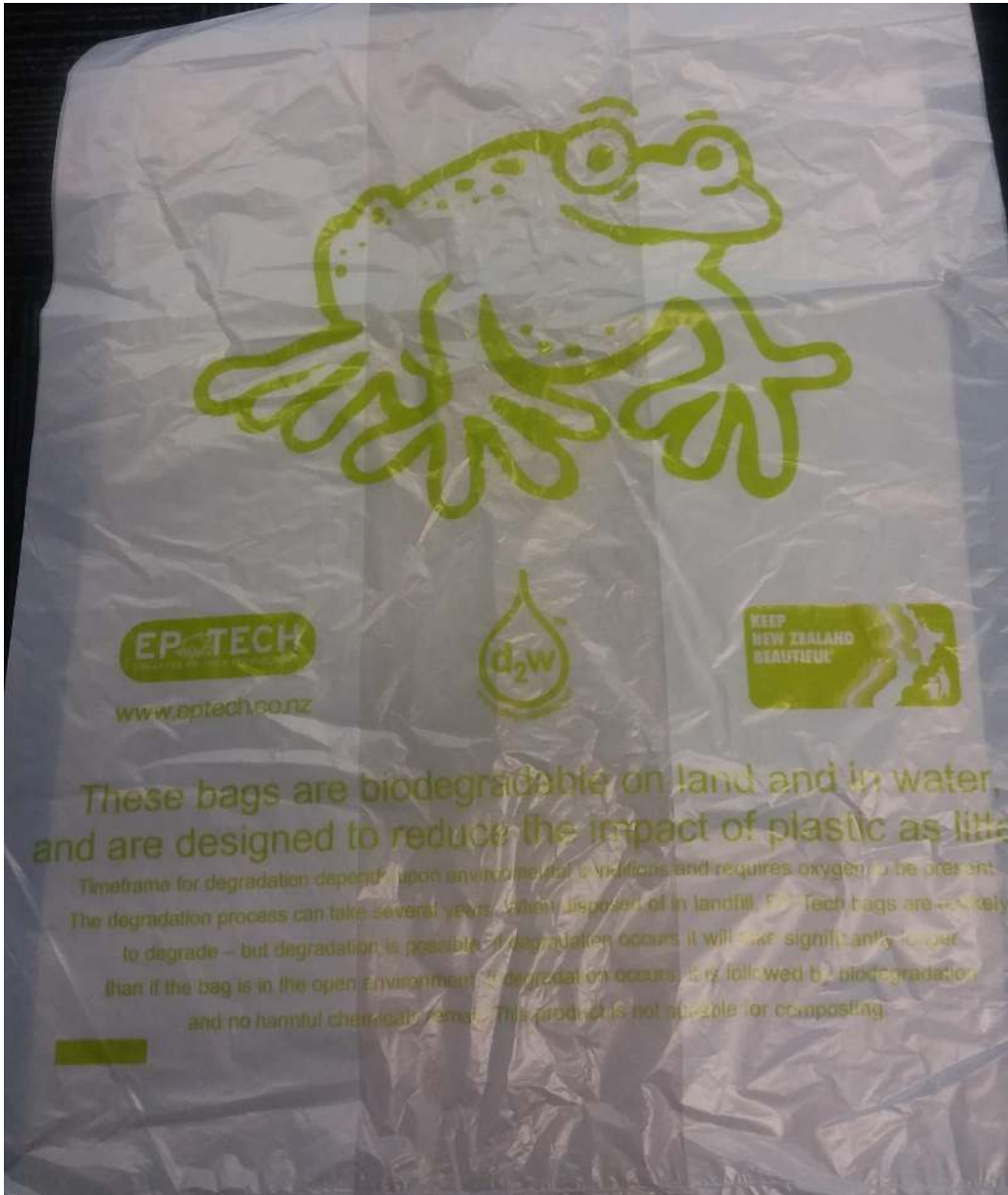
**11. Do you agree with a mandatory phase-out of all oxo-degradable plastics by January 2023? If not, why?**

Partially

Yes, degradable plastics of all types should be phased out. This includes both oxo-degradable and photo-degradable plastics. The TAO Forum notes that it is important when defining this ban to ensure that the definition can cover the wide range of existing degradable products and any future degradable products.

Degradable products cannot be recycled or composted and are a contaminant to both industries. As they are designed to break down more quickly into microplastics when littered, they are a greater source of environment harm than conventional plastic. A shorter phase out period for these plastics is recommended due to both the harm they cause and also the deceptive nature of the advertising for many of these products. Many of these products imply that they are greener and more environmentally friendly than conventional plastic see image below.

Due to the issues caused by these types of plastic and the deceptive nature of how some of these products are advertised the TAO Forum believes they should be phased out over a shorter time period by January 2022.



**12. If you manufacture, import or sell oxo-degradable plastics, which items would a phase-out affect? Are there practical alternatives for these items? Please provide details.**

N/a.

**13. Have we identified the right costs and benefits of a mandatory phase-out of the targeted plastics? If not, why not? Please provide evidence to support your answer.**

Yes, the TAO Forum agrees that correct costs and benefits have been identified

**14. How likely is it that phasing out the targeted plastics will have greater costs or benefits than those discussed here? Please provide details to explain your answer.**

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As mentioned previously, the greatest risk is if a ban on PVC/PS/EPS ends up with these materials being replaced with something as bad or worse from an environmental perspective. This would increase the costs but also reduce the benefits of the ban. Consideration needs to be given as to how to not only ban PVC/PS/EPS packaging, but ensure the transition to PET/ HDPE/ PP. Other measures which could assist would be standardising kerbside recycling and introducing compulsory labelling for recyclability and compostability. In terms of compostable packaging the Ministry for the Environment needs to assist industry to develop the appropriate processing and collection infrastructure whether that be through funding or designating compostable packaging a priority product. Alternatively it could be clearly signalled that compostable packaging is not an appropriate alternative to PVC and EPS. The TAO Forum prefers this option.

**15. What would help to make it easier for you and your family, or your business/organisation to move away from hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and use higher value materials or reusable/refillable alternatives?**

N/a

**16. What do you think about the proposed mandatory phase-out of some single-use plastic items (see table 7)? Please specify any items you would leave out or add and explain why.**

The TAO Forum is supportive of a ban of all the items proposed in Table 7. In addition to causing issues when littered, none of these items are accepted for kerbside recycling but they contribute to contamination in recycling. A 2019 national waste audit<sup>4</sup> found that an estimated 851 tonnes of paper cups<sup>5</sup> are disposed of in kerbside recycling 1.3% of all contamination. Soft plastic which would include plastic produce bags makes up 3,754 tonnes of contamination 5.7%. Plastic straws and plastic cutlery were found in the top 20 most common types of contamination by frequency.

These items also cause contamination for those councils who offer food and green waste collection services and there is strong support for the proposed ban on plastic fruit stickers.

The TAO Forum notes the concerns raised by disability groups on the proposed ban on plastic straws, but also notes that Auckland District Health Board has moved to providing paper straws only in their hospitals without incidence.

**17. Do the proposed definitions in table 7 make sense? If not, what would you change?**

Whether a piece of cutlery or a drink cup is single-use or reusable isn't always clear cut. Microns were used as the differentiating measure for the plastic bag ban to distinguish between reusable or single-use bags. Single-use can be subjective, so further clarity is needed for the definitions of single-use plastic tableware and cutlery and single-use plastic cups and lids.

For clarity, we would encourage all the definitions to include the following description:

plastic including both degradable and biodegradable plastics.

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<sup>4</sup> Rethinking Rubbish and Recycling 2019 Sunshine Yates Consulting

<sup>5</sup> Paper cups is defined as all cups made from fibre products, including single use soft drink cups, coffee cups, takeaway noodle bowls etc



**18. What would be an appropriate phase-out period for single-use items? Please consider the impact of a shorter timeframe, versus a longer timeframe, and provide details where possible.**

Plastics New Zealand has noted that many businesses import these products in bulk and often have inventory sufficient for a number of years. However, the longer these items remain in circulation the more likely they are to be littered or to contaminate recycling. Wellington City Council estimates the costs of dealing with contamination in recycling at c\$300,000 per annum. Therefore, the TAO Forum is supportive of a ban being implemented as early as possible to reduce the impact on the environment and the financial burden of councils whilst ensuring that the financial impact on businesses is mitigated. The TAO Forum is supportive of a well signalled phase out within two years or less.

**19. What options could we consider for reducing the use of single-use coffee cups (with any type of plastic lining) and wet wipes that contain plastic? You may wish to consider some of the options discussed in this consultation document or suggest other options.**

Only 56% of councils support the decision not to ban coffee cups at this stage with 44% of councils in favour of a ban.

The waste caused by New Zealand's coffee drinking culture and the associated costs are significant. The Rethinking Rubbish and Recycling research found that 1,288 tonnes of single-use cups are disposed of via councils' household kerbside rubbish collections with a further 851 tonnes contaminating household recycling bins. In addition there would be a significant number that are disposed of via public place and commercial collection systems 1.24 million coffee cups are used per annum in New Plymouth (as a conservative estimate), and it costs \$230,000 to dispose of these cups per annum. Therefore, the aim should be to move up the waste hierarchy, supporting systems that reduce the number of single-use cups used. This requires systematic change and incentives that establish a dominant culture of avoidance or reuse.

**Reusable cups**

If more people use reusable cups, there will be savings for businesses and less waste and therefore less burden on territorial authorities who bear the cost of a linear system. In alignment with the waste hierarchy, the focus should be on reuse rather than recycling or disposal for both waste and carbon reduction. In its simplest form, the best option to address coffee cups is through incentivising reusables.

We support investment into reuse systems such as cup-lending schemes but recognise that this type of scheme acts primarily as a backup for the personal choice consumers make to bring their own cups. Therefore, supporting the creation of a 'bring your own cup' norm should be the main focus area. There are also community-led approaches such as cup libraries which could be supported, for example by providing 'how-tos' and health and safety guidelines as an educational package to guide the hospitality sector. Behaviour change programmes using tools such as prompts, and commitments should be built into the support for wider use of reusable cups.

**Single-use cups**

In New Zealand coffee cups contaminate kerbside recycling and in the case of compostable cups, New Zealand lacks both the collection infrastructure and sufficient composting facilities with the

resource consent to accept them. We note that single-use cups are not considered in the upcoming mandatory product stewardship scheme for beverage containers, although they do meet the criteria in the potential scope. We suggest that inclusion in this scheme should also be investigated when identifying the most effective method to reduce/eliminate use of these items.

One way to stimulate reuse is through strategic use of taxation. A 2019 study showed that people are inclined to use a reusable coffee cup if they see other people doing this or if they are charged extra for a disposable cup. This aligns with the theory of loss aversion in which people experience the negative feeling of a loss more strongly than a positive sense of a gain, even if it's the same size. This means that cafes voluntarily giving a discount for a reusable cup is not as effective in changing behaviour as putting a levy on a disposable cup. To most effectively incentivise reuse, Ireland has committed to introducing a €0.25 tax on coffee cups in 2021 and the Californian city of Berkeley has already put a "latte levy" in place. This tax could potentially be used to fund the infrastructure required for single-use cups to be collected and composted.

The main barrier for composting facilities to be able to process compostable cups is the commercial requirement to produce organically certified compost. Products containing compostable plastics cannot be processed at these facilities.

For single-use cups to become part of the circular economy through composting, all cups on the market would need to be made from the same material as the cost involved in sorting compostable from non-compostable products would be prohibitive. The material used would need to be certified compostable and the cup would need to be fibre based with no plastic films or additives. Notwithstanding, this does not resolve the issue of resource consumption and carbon emissions.

Overall, the TAO Forum recommends that a suite of actions are needed to tackle the prevalence of single use coffee cups.

- promoting reusable cups and cup loan schemes in the first instance
- investment to scale up re-use systems like Again and Again
- standardisation of any single use cups available on the market (addressing composability and contamination issues)
- improved labelling requirements to make it clear whether a cup is compostable or not
- encouraging the development of well-publicised disposable cup-free zones (e.g. university campuses & government buildings, museums and galleries, coasts and national parks)
- a ban on coffee cups with plastic linings of any type; or in place of a ban, a levy on disposable coffee cups and/or producer fees under s 23(1)(d) to cover the estimated costs associated with disposal or clean-up.

#### **Wet wipes**

73% of councils would like to see wet wipes banned with only 26% of councils supportive of the decision not to ban them.

Wet wipes are a significant issue for TAs, who spend thousands of dollars undoing blockages in wastewater systems. For example, Gisborne District Council estimate wet wipes are costing roughly \$100,000 per year due to complications they cause for the wastewater network's operation and maintenance costs. In addition to that, GDC estimate a spend of about \$43,500 p.a. for disposal costs at their wastewater treatment plant due to wet wipes, which would be rise under the new

waste levy increases. South Taranaki District Council spends approximately \$20,000 annually unblocking pipes due to wet wipes.

The Watercare operated Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant screens out substantial volumes of single use plastics and wet wipes on a daily basis. On average, the total single use plastics component of the screenings are around 500 – 1600kg per day, or 350 – 600 tonnes per year. It is estimated that almost half of this quantity is wet wipes.

Wet wipes are another case of local government and thus rate payers footing the bill for industry's poor product design choices.

### **Reusable wipes**

In alignment with the waste hierarchy, we see the best option being to promote reusable wipes as a simple return to squares of cloth. It is noted that building acceptance of reusable wipes as an alternative to wet wipes connects closely to the promotion of reusable nappies – trialling alternative approaches in the early childhood sector is the type of activity which could be considered. Developing a culture of reusable wipes may also provide a potential use for unwanted textiles, contributing to a circular solution.

It is important to recognise that time, and access to the washing facilities required for reusable wipes, may present a barrier for some. Considering the reasons why consumers choose to flush these products should also be part of any programme, for example disposable wipes may be flushed even when consumers are aware of the problem because they are reluctant to place smelly used wipes in the rubbish.

### **Single-use regulation and action**

In conjunction with promoting a reusable option, we support requirements and action which will help consumers make an informed choice. Wet wipes resemble tissues and lack any mandatory content disclosure, which is confusing to consumers. We call for a requirement to state the content in wipes so that the consumer is aware they contain plastic.

Ideally, industry would be required to transition away from plastic based wipes through a mandatory phase out. This should also include products that are currently touted as biodegradable as they do not break down in a timely enough manner. This would avoid blockages and contribute to minimising plastic pollution of waterways and marine environment. We support mandatory prominent labelling 'do not flush' messaging for all wipes regardless of plastic content. It is also worth noting that research has identified that placing a 'please don't flush wipes' message close to public toilets has proved effective, and campaigns such as this to create new social norms should be considered. In conjunction with educating around reusable options, Ministry should continue to support behaviour change around flushing wipes.

Finally, there are other non-biodegradable products entering the wastewater system which are also responsible for introducing plastic and causing blockages. These include sanitary products (the average pad can contain up to 90% plastic, and there is a significant amount in most tampon products as well). Facial tissues and kitchen paper often contain bonding agents – this can slow their breakdown and add to the blockage problem as well as introducing more chemicals to the wastewater system. We therefore call for funded behaviour change campaigns that can raise awareness of these issues and promote alternatives and subsidies for reusable products for low-income communities.

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- 20. If you are a business involved with the manufacture, supply, or use of single-use plastic coffee cups or wet wipes (that contain plastic), what would enable you to transition away from plastic based materials in the future?**

N/a.

- 21. What do you consider an appropriate timeframe for working toward a future phase out of plastic lined disposable coffee cups and wet wipes containing plastic?**

We support the goal of transitioning to reusable products as part of a circular economy, including a phase out of problematic single-use items. We are cognisant of pressures on the sector, however, we note that there are even greater pressures on our environment that cannot be ignored. We advise working with industry on these issues over the timeframes noted below.

#### **Coffee cups**

Much of the work around coffee cups should centre on education and behaviour so that single-use phase out can be effective. We support a gradual phase out of single-use cups which contain plastic linings or additives over the course of five years.

#### **Wet wipes**

Industry may have to take an innovative approach to how these products are made, not only in terms of materials, but in terms of moving away from single-use items to reusable resources. We support a transition time of three years for a wet wipe ban due to the issues these pose in particular the blocking of wastewater pipes and the urgency with which we should address them. Our aim is to encourage industry to take an innovative approach to better solutions for this product by suggesting a shorter transition time.

- 22. Have we identified the right costs and benefits of a mandatory phase-out of single-use plastic items? If not, why? Please provide evidence to support your answer and clarify whether your answer applies to a particular item, or all items.**

The TAO Forum agreed with all the benefits listed but there are also additional benefits. The benefits are environmental, social and economic.

#### **Environmental**

1. It will encourage the use of reusable options
2. There will be less plastic litter in the environment (streets, parks, streams, oceans) resulting in less harm to wildlife and fewer plastic particles within food chains. It will also reduce the amount of plastic in compost and therefore in soil.
3. It will encourage the transition away from non-renewable oil-based products which are responsible for carbon emissions from manufacture, freight and disposal

#### **Social**

1. It will support the strengthening of social norms for reuse and foster a culture of reuse and recycling, rather than disposing of single-use items.
2. There will be amenity improvements due to less litter in the environment.
3. There could be the opportunity for new job creation or migration to circular jobs.

#### **Economic**

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1. There will be less contamination in recycling services resulting in lower sorting and disposal costs.
2. There will be significantly less contamination in organic waste collections particularly if single-use produce bags and non-compostable fruit stickers were banned resulting in lower sorting costs and the ability to make a higher grade of compost.
3. There will be lower collection and disposal costs for litter collection.
4. Businesses that manufacture, import and supply reusable items would benefit.
5. Some businesses would save money by no longer supplying these items to their customers e.g. single-use produce bags
6. It would create a level playing field for all businesses providing certainty and fairness.
7. There would be economies of scale for alternatives which would help to lower costs and drive innovation.
8. With many of the alternatives fibre or wood based there may be an opportunity to produce more of these items on-shore in New Zealand using waste products from the timber industry.
9. Reuse options may eventually result in cost savings for consumers.

The TAO Forum agrees with the costs listed but notes that most of these single-use items are currently imported from overseas rather than made in New Zealand so the cost of complying with this ban is likely to be less significant than the ban on pvc and polystyrene packaging.

### **23. How should the proposals in this document be monitored for compliance?**

The TAO Forum recommends that the proposals be monitored for compliance but also evaluated to see whether the aims of the legislation will be achieved.

It is important to monitor the level of compliance for target business sectors such as manufacturing, retail and hospitality sectors. At its simplest form this could be a hotline where members of the public can email if they see a business selling a non-compliant product. This was used when the plastic bag ban was introduced with 375 alleged breaches of the ban reported in the first six months.<sup>6</sup> Spot audits could also be undertaken in stores or businesses where compliance is likely to be more challenging e.g. sushi stores; \$2 shops for example.

Many councils and businesses undertake waste audits so asking these organisations to keep aside any branded examples of banned packaging so that businesses could be followed up is also an option.

It is also important to see if the legislation has achieved its desired aim. The TAO Forum identified three main aims and includes suggestions below as to how these could be evaluated.

1. Reduce the amount of hard-to-recycle plastic in use to enable a circular economy approach to waste management and reflect the waste hierarchy. Both supermarket chains have completed inventories of the types of plastic packaging in their brands. Funding a repeat of these audits after the ban has been implemented would determine to what extent the amount of hard to recycle plastics had been reduced.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2019/12/almost-400-alleged-breaches-of-plastic-bag-ban-but-no-prosecutions.html>

2. Minimise the environmental impact of single-use items which are littered and make their way into our oceans and streams. Monitoring the amount and type of litter in the environment to see whether the rate at which these products have been littered has decreased.
3. Reduce the current level of contamination in kerbside recycling.

If Flight Plastic is able to accept PET trays from a larger number of councils, that would also be a clear indication that the legislation had achieved its aim to reducing contamination in recycling. Council waste audits would also provide evidence that contamination had decreased. The Rethinking Rubbish and Recycling Project has benchmarked contamination and use of plastics and this audit could be repeated once the ban is in place.

Any evaluation could also include changes in public attitudes towards plastic products, packaging, litter and the general acceptance of these policies.