



MINUTES

Plastics Panel Meeting

5 February 2019

Room 101 - Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes St, Auckland, 1010

Present:

Prof Juliet Gerrard (Chair)
Abbie Reynolds
Dr Diane Ruwhiu
Dr Elspeth MacRae,
Prof James Wright
Prof Niki Harre
Dr Olga Pantos
Prof Sarah McLaren,
Stephen Harris
Dr Bethanna Jackson
Prof Mark Staiger

In attendance:

Dr Ben Jeffares
Dr George Slim
Dr Rachel Chiaroni-Clarke

Apologies:

Melanie Mark-Shadbolt

Meeting Opened 10.04am

1. Introductory Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed participants:

- First major project undertaken by this office so looking to develop a way of working as we proceed
- Progress will be open and transparent
- Panel chosen to blend expertise from a range of disciplines that bear on the topic
- Will be backed up by a set of reference groups (for which there were a lot of volunteers and more will be co-opted as required) with specific expertise
- Topic chosen because there is a clear need for an evidence base in the area, it is of high public interest, the vast amount of work available in the area needs pulling together with a specific New Zealand focus.
- PM endorses project and there is a government policy work stream underway that will be informed by the report.

2. Introductions from Panel Members

The members introduced themselves.

Discussed potentially missing areas of expertise. Is there a need for:

- More industry representatives besides AR?
- Representatives from not-for-profit sector?

Discussion resumed in discussion of panel structure below.

3. Other Workstreams

GS outlined other workstreams that had been considered in the development of the project and asked the panel if they were aware of others. Major workstreams to keep in contact with were:

Policy/Government

- Ministry for the Environment - work on international plastics accord, Waste Minimisation act and other policy initiatives on waste minimisation – GS and RCC to keep in touch
- Royal Society Te Apārangi – Plastics in the Environment Fact Sheets – EM sits on panel
- Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment – report on plastic types concluded but ongoing interests – JG keeps contact
- Callaghan Innovation – ongoing work on sustainable packaging – GS, RCC to keep in contact

New Zealand Industry

- Sustainable Business Council - AR involved
- Sustainable Business Network – representative to talk to Panel at later meeting
- Plastics New Zealand – RCC to meet representative
- The Packaging Forum – contact to be established

International

- Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance – strong input from Ellen MacArthur Foundation – SH involved
- OECD Circular Economy work – available on website
- Australian Government Agencies – monitor websites

Actions:

GS find out timelines from various ministries for their work

RCC to register for Ellen MacArthur Pacific Summit in Rotorua (EM + SH attending)

GS to contact MBIE re any other plastics projects underway

4. Scope

Long discussion of scope of report circulated with papers. (Outcome presented in “Rethinking Plastics in Aotearoa New Zealand” scoping document circulated to Panel separately).

Major discussion points not raised in paper:

- Geographic scope: focus on New Zealand/Pacific but clearly impacted by global situation
- Aim to advance New Zealand as global leader on the issue

- Report will draw together other workstreams above
- Will make links with other global disruptions/ sustainability issues eg food waste, climate change
- Core part of kaupapa of the group and report – no siloing
- Key audiences for report: PM, policy people, esp Ministry for the Environment, General public. May need to tailor summaries for different audiences.
- Logic of report:
 - This is the state,
 - These are the gaps in information, practice and policy,
 - These are our recommendations:
 - this is what we need to do,
 - this is where we need more information
- Recommendations and impacts aligned to horizons: close, moderate and far off
- Panel members to take responsibility for supervising section of report closest to their area of expertise

5. Structure of Panel and associated reference groups, communications

- The panel will take the lead but cannot represent all sectors/areas without becoming unwieldy
- Reference groups to fill gaps/ensure completeness to be organised around sectors: business, government, academia (CRI, university and polytech), Māori, community groups, Pacific peoples
- May need to narrow focus of groups to eg, local government, waste management sector of business, packaging sector, farming sector, food and beverage sector etc (will determine as report develops and we see the detail required)
- JG to manage links with central government
- Large number of people have put their hands up for reference groups but most from academia and not so many from business and other sectors.

Action:

ALL to recommend people for reference groups to RCC (RCC to assemble and circulate master list to identify gaps)

Communications:

- Process to be open and transparent
- Report will identify panel members and reference group members involved
- Information on progress, including panel members, to be updated regularly on PMCSA Website
- Information will be circulated by PMCSA on Twitter as well (and Instagram if there are pretty/striking pictures)
- Panel members encouraged to amplify PMCSA on Twitter and tweet themselves
- What other channels should we use?

Action:

ALL to advise RCC of favoured social media platforms

6. Actions for next meeting

Actions:

RCC to begin work on 'Section 1. Building Context' for circulation at next meeting

RCC to develop definitions of different plastics to be used throughout report – drawing on PCE report and global classifications

SH to see if founder of Australian Packaging Council can talk to panel at some point

JG to invite Sustainable Business Network to next meeting.

7. Proposed follow up meetings

Meetings set for Tuesday 19 March and Tuesday 4 June

8. Any Other Business

None declared

Meeting closed 3.20pm