



Office of the Prime Minister's
Chief Science Advisor

Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

PLASTICS PANEL – Meeting 3

TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 2019

Venue:	Room 101 - Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes St, Auckland, 1010
OPMCSA Participants:	Prof Juliet Gerrard (Chair), Dr George Slim Dr Rachel Chiaroni-Clarke
External Panel Members:	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
Apologies:	Melanie Mark-Shadbolt

ACTIONS

Minute Item	Action	Who	When
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">RCC to arrange for minutes to be uploaded	RCC	ASAP
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">RCC to arrange for Draft documents to be included in papers to Min SagePanel members to supply comments on Draft Section 1	RCC All	17 June 13 June
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Doodle Poll for meeting dates in September for Meeting 5	Christine Price	ASAP

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 10.12am

1.	Welcome.
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 19 March All actions complete or on-going. Minutes agreed. Meeting agreed that Minutes could be uploaded to OPMCSA website. Action: RCC to arrange for minutes to be uploaded
3.	Update from discussions with the Prime Minister and other Ministers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Min Sage keen to see progress on the project.

- JG has meeting with her on the 24 June.
- Will supply material produced to date as a draft to her, particularly any recommendations.

Action: RCC to arrange for Draft documents to be included in papers to Min Sage by 17 June

Which means

Action: Panel members to supply comments on Draft Section 1 by 13 June

4.

Discussion of Draft

Lengthy discussion on labelling:

- Liked a picture to indicate where to separate in waste stream/recycling
- Colour would be good (but pigments lowered recyclability)
- Need to take into account needs of branding on labels
- Type of label drove ability to sort at source
- Plastic numbers good because linked to physical properties not affected by type of recycling but did need learning – education would help
- International standardisation good for exports/imports
- Agreed readable plastic numbers as a minimum but good to have indication of how to separate as well

Data collection:

- Need to prioritise data to be collected
- Most important is tonnage of plastics by material number – especially for collected waste (to drive market opportunities)
- Need to know what could be recycled but isn't

Meeting congratulated RCC on the Draft

5.

Speaker session 1: Jenny Marshall – WasteMINZ (Janine Brinsdon unavailable)

WasteMINZ:

- Is a membership organisation with a broad range of organisations belonging – anyone interested in waste
- 30 years old

New Zealand situation:

- States that manage waste successfully have a “programmes agency”, which:
 - Do research into waste
 - Have national (or state) programmes to minimise waste
 - Have funds
- In New Zealand there is MfE which has funds but doesn't really do the other two so there is a vacuum.
- WasteMINZ aim to fill the gap by picking up the research/data role and driving a national programme.
- Outline in Local Government waste manifesto
[\(https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/2018/01/local-government-waste-management-manifesto-released/\)](https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/2018/01/local-government-waste-management-manifesto-released/)

Calls for action include:

- Review of NZ Waste Strategy:
 - Needs goals, targets, actions, responsibilities
 - Changes to management of Waste Minimisation Fund (timeliness esp)
 - Identify what research is needed and what data is needed
- Adoption of national waste data framework

- Needs to be mandatory
- Sustainability Victoria have a good data portal - <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Victorian-Waste-data-portal>
- Call for expansion of waste levy
- Introduction of container deposit schemes for glass and plastic bottles
- Standard on-pack labelling
- Restriction of imports of materials

WasteMINZ not waiting for action, starting their own programmes:

- Working with recyclers to get national consistency and standardised contracts with councils
- Guidance and tests for compostable packaging
 - Working with APCO (<https://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/documents/item/2175>) and Scion on developing and providing tests

Barriers for collecting information:

- Data collected by sales not material
- Councils not keen to hand over data
- Waste Management companies hold data as commercial secret to improve ability to rebid for contracts

6. **Speaker session 2: Councils (Parul Sood & Nadine Wakim, Auckland Council in person; Kate Fulton, Nelson City Council, via ZOOM)**

Presentation given by Nadine:

- Auckland has a Resource Recovery Network (<http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/WasteMINZ-2016-Aucklands-Resource-Recovery-Network-maximising-social-value-and-local-economic-development.pdf>)
- Speakers all support product stewardship, container deposit schemes and increases to waste levy
- Nelson are reviewing their Waste Minimisation Plan and recycling contracts.
- Need to think about the whole of life of recycled products – degradation of plastic fenceposts road materials etc
- Speakers support national frameworks for data collection and recycling
- Barriers:
 - Cost of better schemes to ratepayers/taxpayers
 - Political appetite
 - Need to give time for councils to adapt
- Container deposit schemes give best quality of material for recycling
- Product stewardship puts costs of recycling on to producer/consumer not ratepayer or recycler
- Kerbside collection is expensive
- Investment in bins is a barrier (especially if they keep changing)
- Reduction of plastic entering the system is the best option
- Need on-shore processing of plastic and fibre waste
- Health and safety a key issue with source separation if collectors do it

Speakers recommendations to reduce plastic waste:

- Introduce product stewardship schemes
- Increase waste levy
- Onshore processing
- Educate public

7.	<p>Finalise Recommendations to Min Sage</p> <p>Need to improve collection of data so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know if reduction targets are being met • Can accurately estimate value of resource of recyclable material • Estimate scale of infrastructure required • Make decisions that will have the best environmental impact <p>Microplastics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to know how they are distributed in the environment • OP's work will tell in the marine environment • Terrestrial/ Atmospheric? • Not large mass of material but important. <p>What do we know about plastics (macro and micro) in taonga species?</p> <p>Need to consider impacts of primary, secondary and tertiary packaging</p> <p>Could estimate some plastic flows (at least identify minima) from mass balance of existing data</p> <p>Need to flag improvements in Waste Minimisation Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding allocated within a national strategy • Better coordination with other agencies • Faster decision making/announcement • More transparent process
8.	<p>Finalise Actions to get report completed</p> <p>Time line for comments on Draft Section 1 considered (see Item 3) Meeting on August 20 to discuss next draft Meeting in September to finalise report</p> <p>Action: Christine Price to Doodle Poll for meeting dates</p>
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Meeting closed 3.27pm</u></p>