



Te kawe i te haepapa para Taking responsibility for our waste

Proposals for a new waste strategy and issues and options
for new waste legislation: A snapshot



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

New Zealanders care about waste

Waste is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We use too much, waste too much and pollute too much – and this has negative impacts on the environment. It means there will be fewer resources available to future generations. Aotearoa New Zealand is one of the highest generators of waste per person in the world, and the amount of waste we create is increasing. New Zealanders want to do better.

Have your say on our new national waste strategy and waste legislation

These two projects are the foundations for a transformed waste system. Together with a long-term infrastructure plan, the emissions reduction plan, and improved waste data systems, these projects will help achieve our vision for 2050: a sustainable, low-carbon, circular economy for Aotearoa New Zealand.

This consultation sets out issues and options for your feedback and we invite you to share your ideas. Your feedback will help shape our final proposals.

1

Proposals for a new national waste strategy

Our proposed vision and aspirations for a low-waste Aotearoa, and how we plan to get there.

The national waste strategy will guide and direct our collective journey towards a circular economy. The strategy sets our course to 2050 with three broad stages. The first stage, to 2030, includes proposed priority areas, headline actions, and specific targets to help assess our progress.

2

Issues and options for new waste legislation

New and more comprehensive legislation to replace the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979.

New waste legislation will create the tools to deliver the waste strategy and ensure we make good use of funds from the expanded waste disposal levy. It will also reset the purpose, governance arrangements, and roles and responsibilities within the legislation, and strengthen and clarify regulatory powers.

Proposals for a new national waste strategy

Tackling waste means deep-seated changes to how we live and consume, and everyone has a role to play. We need to shift from our current 'take-make-dispose' system and moving towards a low-waste, more circular economy.

This will require sustained commitment over many years, and choices about what to prioritise at different points. A new, long-term waste strategy will increase our ambition as a country, signal direction and priorities, and inspire action.

Together with the proposed long-term waste infrastructure plan and the action and investment plans, the strategy will shape how central and local government use the increased funds to create meaningful change.



Proposed vision

A circular economy for Aotearoa New Zealand in 2050

- ▶ We look after the planet's resources with care and responsibility.
- ▶ We respect and understand our inseparable connection with the environment.
- ▶ A land where nothing is wasted.

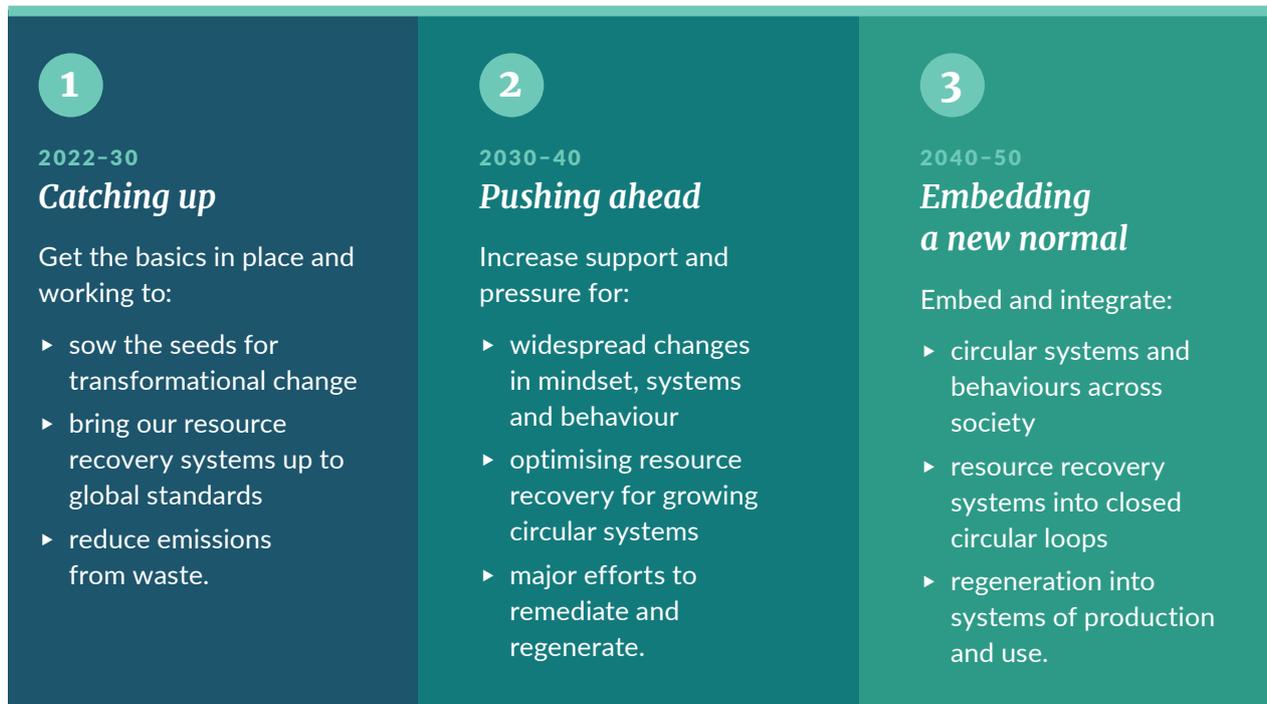


Principles

- ▶ Design out waste, pollution and emissions, and unnecessary use of materials.
- ▶ Keep products and materials in use at their highest value.
- ▶ Regenerate natural systems, so the environment is healthy for future generations.
- ▶ Take responsibility for the past, present and future condition of our natural environment.
- ▶ Think in systems, where everything is interconnected.
- ▶ Deliver equitable and inclusive outcomes.

Proposed course: the three stages of the journey

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Our targets for 2030



Waste

Whole country: Reduce waste generation by 5-10% per person	Public sector: Reduce waste generation by 30-50%
Businesses: Reduce waste disposal by 30-50%	Households: Reduce waste disposal by 60-70%



Emissions

Whole country:
Reduce biogenic waste methane emissions by at least 30%



Litter

Whole country:
Reduce litter by 60%

Issues and options for new waste legislation

New and improved waste legislation is the foundation for transforming how we manage waste.

We plan to phase in changes over time, rather than immediately implementing all parts of the proposals. This will enable central and local government, industry and society to prepare and adapt.

The consultation sets out the potential scope and content of new waste legislation for feedback – some of which are highlighted below.

A long-term, strategic approach to reducing waste

- ▶ New and more ambitious purpose.
- ▶ Statutory requirement for a long-term strategy.
- ▶ Clear allocation of roles and responsibilities.

Role and participation of Māori

- ▶ Māori expertise in any new advisory bodies.
- ▶ Increased Māori participation in decision-making at different levels.

Responsibility at the heart of the new system

- ▶ People and organisations have duties to manage waste appropriately.
- ▶ National licensing system for the waste management system.
- ▶ Reframing how we think about litter.

Legislative support for product stewardship schemes

- ▶ Improved processes for developing schemes.
- ▶ Improved monitoring, reporting and enforcing of schemes.

Enhanced regulatory tools

- ▶ Existing powers that are clearer and stronger, and possible new powers.
- ▶ Legal obligations to support a right to repair and encourage product durability.
- ▶ Legislative framework to support deposit return schemes.
- ▶ Possible changes to import and export controls.

Maximising the waste levy

- ▶ Changes to how the levy is imposed, set, reviewed and collected.
- ▶ Possible broadening of how the levy is used.
- ▶ More equitable distribution of levy funds.

Improving compliance, monitoring and enforcement

- ▶ A comprehensive set of offences, penalties and enforcement powers.
- ▶ Expanded tools and penalties to manage non-compliant behaviour.
- ▶ Use of the full range of potential evidence sources.

Make your voice count

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Help shape the new waste strategy and legislation

For full details on the proposals, the problems we are trying to solve and the options we have considered, please read the full consultation document: environment.govt.nz/publications/taking-responsibility-for-our-waste-consultation-document.

You can provide a submission through [Citizen Space](#), our consultation hub, by either following the feedback form or by uploading your own written submission.

We request that you don't email or post submissions as this makes analysis more difficult. However, if you need to, please send written submissions to Waste Strategy and Legislation, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143.

If you are emailing your feedback, send it to wastelegislation@mfe.govt.nz.

**Submissions close at 11.59pm,
26 November 2021.**

What happens next

**This consultation starts on 15 October 2021
and closes on 26 November 2021.**

Proposals for a new waste strategy

The Ministry will revise the proposals for a new waste strategy in light of the comments we receive, working with our advisory groups and engaging with others as needed.

We aim to present a final waste strategy to Cabinet in the first half of 2022 and release it by mid-2022. More specific actions will be set out in action and investment plans every three years.

Issues and options for new, more comprehensive waste legislation

The detail of the waste legislative proposals will be developed in light of the comments we receive, working as needed with interested parties.

Following consultation and further policy development, a bill is expected to be developed and introduced to Parliament later in 2022.