

EPA Weekly Update – Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment

For the week starting 10 December 2018

EPA Environment Weekly Meeting: 12.30 pm–1.00 pm Monday, 10 December 2018

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
Dr Allan Freeth, Chief Executive, EPA
Mark Patchett, General Manager, Strategic and Regulatory Services, EPA
Philip Lim, General Manger, Finance and Systems, EPA
Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural & Built System, MfE

	Agenda Item	Lead	Paper/Verbal Update	Mins
1	Discussion of the weekly report	Allan Freeth	Verbal	5
2	Budget	Philip Lim	Verbal	15
3	1080 Issue	██████████	Verbal	10

Update from the EPA

National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention

The EPA has been supporting the Ministry for the Environment in the development of the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP). The NIP contains information about how New Zealand is going to implement the obligations relating to the persistent organic pollutants added to the Convention since 2009. The Ministry intends to submit the NIP to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat in December 2018.

Orders in Council to Implement International Obligations

Orders in Council to implement the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and the new Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention chemical listings, are with the Cabinet Legislation Committee for consideration on 6 December 2018. Once the Kigali Amendment regulations are approved, relevant guidance and application forms will be published on the EPA website in December prior to the regulations coming into force on 18 February 2019. The new Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention chemical listings come into force on 18 December 2018.

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Annual Report on the Aerial Use of 1080 (for the year ended 31 Dec 2017)

We are preparing for publication in mid-December, our 11th Annual Report on the Aerial Use of 1080. The report covers aerial operations undertaken from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. The main findings are:

- Fifty operations covering 875K hectares. In comparison, in 2016, there were 36 operations covering 1,051K hectares.
- The large area treated in 2016 and 2017 was due to DoC's Battle for our Birds programme. This programme was initiated to reduce potential deleterious effects of an expected beech mast (high level of seed production in beech forests). Beech mast can lead to large population increases in rats and mice and in turn, stoats. These increases have a detrimental effect on native wildlife.
- In 2017 there were 12 non-compliance incidents and three complaints reported to the EPA.

A press release is in preparation.

Wellington Rugby Partnership – Community House Project

As part of the EPA's partnership with Wellington Rugby, we are sponsoring their Community House project. A house is being built in Wallaceville Estate, Upper Hutt, to help raise funds for the Wellington Children's Hospital and Junior Rugby Programme. The house will be a 'Safer Home' with locked cupboards to store household cleaning chemicals, and will be auctioned in April/May 2019.

Hazardous Substances Database

The EPA plans to implement IUCLID (International Uniform Chemical Information Database) to replace the Hazardous Substances database. IUCLID is provided by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA), and their software development team is assisting the EPA project team with design and planning for the implementation.

Key Issues in the Media

Climate Change

Several media outlets have discussed climate change and gas emissions. For example, on 28 November, *stuff.co.nz* 'editor-in-chief', Patrick Crewdson, noted that despite evidence of the need for urgent action, climate change still falls victim to complacency. *Stuff* has launched a long-term project 'Quick! Save the Planet', which emphasises that climate change is real and caused by human activity.

On 29 November, *nzherald.co.nz* highlighted Fonterra's efforts to address every aspect of its supply chain to reduce gas emissions and have a material impact on climate change.

On 1 December, *stuff.co.nz* discussed the high cost (an estimated \$12 million) of New Zealand's fight to tackle greenhouse gas emissions from farming. It referred to technologies including drones, 'pee-detecting machines', 'burp chambers' and 'secret code words'.

Great Barrier Island Marine Dumping

On 30 November, *newsroom.co.nz* commented that Auckland's ports and marinas are silted up, and the only place where additional sediment can be dumped is close to Great Barrier Island, whose residents do not want the waste in nearby waters.

It was reported that Coastal Resources Limited (CRL), the only company with a marine dumping permit for the Auckland region, wants an increase in marine dumping limits and, over the next decade, material from dredging marinas around Auckland is forecast to create an estimated 500 percent increase in the amount of silt and sediment to be dropped in waters beyond the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

CRL's application to the EPA for a new marine dumping consent is in its second week of public hearings, which if successful would see the annual sediment dumping limits increase from the existing 50,000m³ to 250,000m³.

EPA Official Information Act Requests - received since the last Report

Request	Correspondent	Due to Send
Regarding the Shell PFAS investigation: Is the investigation complete? If not, when do you expect to complete the investigation? Have any charges been laid?	██████████ Greenpeace NZ	24 December 2018
The EPA in 5 to 10 Years PowerPoint – Tuesday, 28 August (Ref WQ 28200-2018)	██████████ MP, National Party	12 January 2019
'Copy of Methyl Bromide and Forestry Implications Letter – Thursday, 20 Sep (Ref WQ 28195-2018)	██████████ MP, National Party	12 January 2019
Questions about calculations used to arrive at the decision for glyphosate, hexazinone and MEBR using the FRCAST tool	██████████ Member of Public	22 January 2019
The Ports of Auckland Limited 2018 marine consent application	██████████ Member of Public	22 January 2019
The "Confidential Material" in Appendix U of the 2007 "1080 Review"	██████████ Member of Public	22 January 2019