

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

For the week starting 3 December 2018

EPA Environment Weekly Meeting: 12.30 pm–1.00 pm Monday, 3 December 2018

Attendees: Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment
Mark Patchett, General Manager, Strategic and Regulatory Services, EPA
Philip Lim, General Manager Finance and Systems, EPA
██████████, Principal Advisor, Strategy, EPA
Glenn Wigley, Director, Natural & Built System, MfE

| | Agenda Item | Lead | Paper/Verbal Update | Mins |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Discussion of the weekly report | Mark Patchett | Verbal | 10 |
| 2 | Budget Discussion | Philip Lim | Verbal | 20 |

Update from the EPA

Safer Homes – The 12 Days of Christmas and The House that Wellington Rugby Built

In December we will run an online public information campaign ('The 12 Days of Christmas') to support our Safer Homes programme. The campaign will be a competition on Facebook and Twitter, and will provide key messages for the holidays – from online shopping to the dangers of LPG gas heaters, pesticides, pool chemicals and face paints. The competition will encourage audiences to tell us about their own summer/safety tips. The prize winner will be announced on Day 12.

On 4 December the EPA will attend the launch of 'The House That Wellington Rugby Built' as part of our Safer Homes programme. The EPA is a partner of the project, which aims to build a house with a range of safety features including a secure cupboard for household chemicals. The house will be auctioned to raise funds for junior rugby and the Wellington Children's Hospital.

Ports of Auckland Limited: Marine Dumping Consent

On 26 November 2018, Ports of Auckland lodged an application for a non-notified marine dumping consent. The application is to dump sediments from maintenance dredging at the port, and capital dredging of shipping channels, at the authorised location 27 nautical miles east of Cuvier Island. That location is identified at clause 3 Discharge and Dumping Regulations 2015, and provides for a non-notified consent process. The EPA's delegated decision on the consent will be made on 4 March 2019.

Meeting with Regulatory Partners – HS Modernisation

We have been meeting with Regulatory partners as part of the HS Modernisation programme, and have identified opportunities for collaboration, intelligence sharing and furthering the relationships between the partners (Customs, Conservation, WorkSafe and the Ministry for Primary Industries). We will follow-up on these over the coming weeks. The group will hold regular meetings as part of the HS Modernisation Programme.

HS Compliance System Review - Technical Working Group Progress

The Technical Working Group is gaining a thorough understanding of the existing HS compliance system in New Zealand and overseas, and has met with representatives of organisations involved with the current system including WorkSafe, Agcarm, NZ Fire Service, MfE and MBIE. The Group anticipates delivering its final report and recommendations by 30 June 2019.

Mātauranga Programme

The Mātauranga Programme, now in its second year, aims to increase the understanding of mātauranga across the EPA and enable well-informed decision-making. We are developing tools and resources to support our decision-makers to test and probe mātauranga effectively when presented as evidence, and we are testing them internally. We continue to receive leadership and guidance from Ngā Kaihautū, Ngā Parirau o te Mātauranga (Te Herenga network kaumātua), and Matakīrea (the Mātauranga Programme External Working Group, which includes members from Ngā Kaihautū, Ngā Parirau o te Mātauranga and our Te Herenga national Māori network). The tools and resources should be available for use in the first half of 2019.

Key Issues in the Media

Modern Chemical Management System

On 20 November, *LiveNews* published the EPA's press release about our extensive programme of work to create a modern chemical management system for New Zealand. The press release refers to our latest Annual Report and key activities to strengthen consumer safety around hazardous substances.

Fire-fighting Foams

On 21 November, the *Stuff* news website carried a story about Ohakea locals demanding the Defence Force take more responsibility for water contamination in the area. The story quoted the Manawatū mayor, Helen Worboys, saying that although it was good that the Environment Minister attended a meeting about the issue on the previous night, the Defence Force should have been present.

EPA Official Information Act Requests

| Request | Correspondent | Due to Send |
|--|--|------------------|
| Actions taken by WorkSafe that resulted in EPA being satisfied the compliance, enforcement were adequate from 2015 on. Copy of evaluation done by EPA that resulted. |  Private Individual | 17 December 2018 |
| How much of the 50,000m ³ limit has CRL dumped this year? |  Mitchell Daysh | 13 December 2018 |