



Reclaiming Resources: Optimising Soil Reuse

UPDATE



Overview

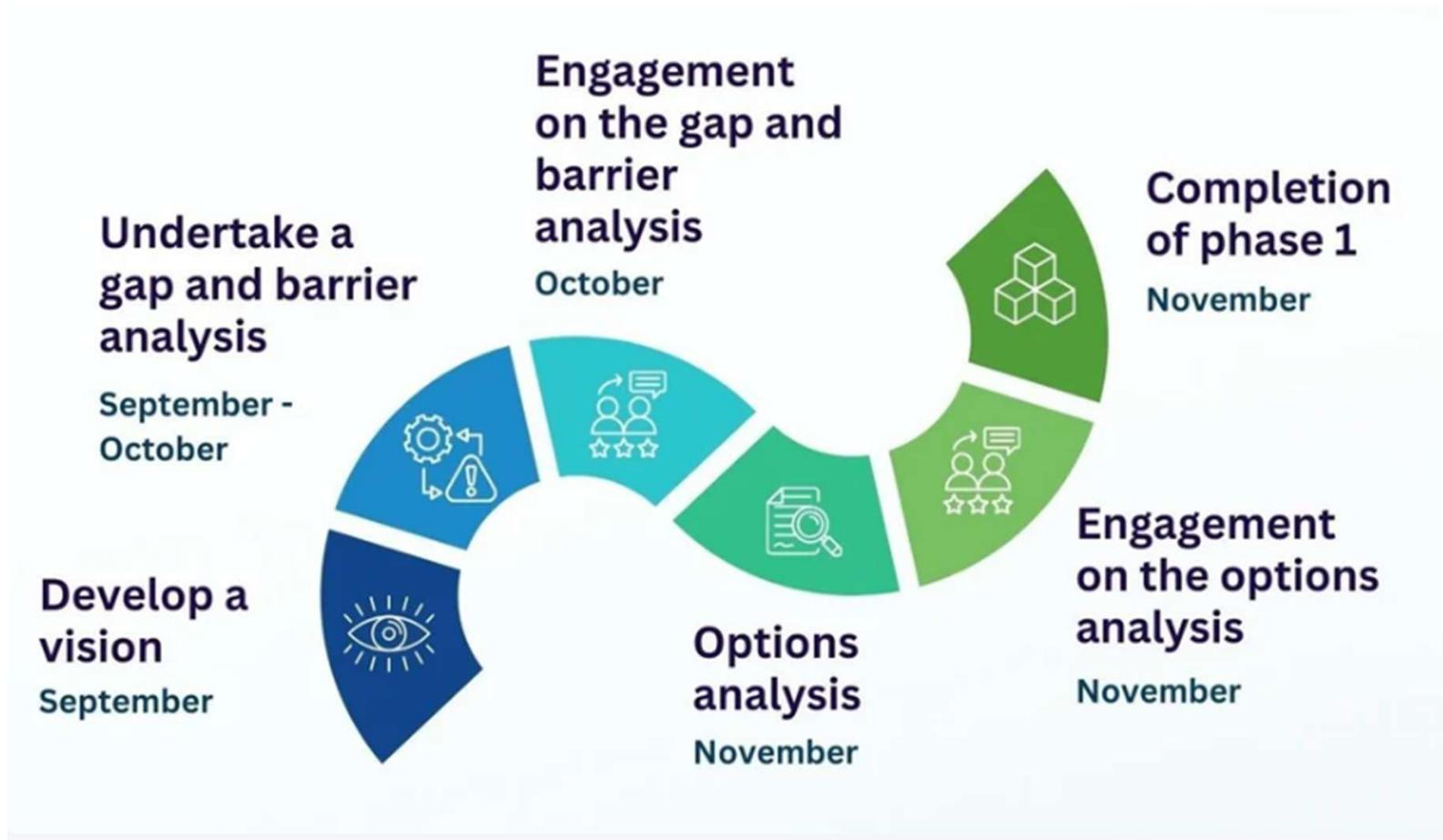
- The MfE OWLS system reports huge volumes of inert and soil materials being disposed of throughout the variety of landfill classes in Aotearoa New Zealand
- The majority of this material is not contaminated soil
- WasteMINZ been advocating for the development of a framework to optimise soil reuse in infrastructure and development sectors

Purpose of this session

- Update the sector on:
 - Key project milestones
 - Project performance
 - Our key recommendations to the minister
 - Current state
 - Next steps
- Q&A session



Project timeline





Key Project Summary



The Vision

Our Vision

That soil is managed as a finite resource: its economic, physical, environmental, wellbeing, and cultural attributes are understood and valued by all, and supported and preserved as far as practical.

That Aotearoa New Zealand's operating, regulatory and planning structure includes a viable, collaborative, and robust system to enable the economic and environmental opportunities for soil to be realised. In this system:

- soil maintains its highest value use,
- infrastructure and development projects are designed to minimise soil disturbance, and
- if soil needs to be disturbed, it is managed in accordance with a soil management hierarchy (**yet to be developed*).

Essentially, creating a system where it is better and smarter to reuse soil than to landfill it.

Consultation

- Comprehensive industry consultation via 5 targeted webinars with a wide variety of attendees
- Provision of slide deck detailing gaps and barriers review
- Targeted questions for gaps and barriers, and prioritisation
- Variety of feedback opportunities – direct, survey, email
- Dedicated web page a subscription function

<https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/soil-surplus-project#resources>

Recommendations

- Ranked and determined based on:
 - Most impactful
 - Ease of achievement
 - Timing and opportunity
 - Coordination
 - Requirement
- Not exclusively solutions but targeted actions which move us closer to The Vision as a sector
- Considered to be most impactful when completed in coordination with one-another, not in isolation
- Ongoing education and awareness campaigning

Recommendations

Undertake a **national market analysis** for surplus soils

- To a regional scale
- Understand supply and demand for surplus soils
- Identify product types and their economic value
- Provide credible evidence for government and private sector investment opportunities
- The first step in being able to 'right size' potential and functional solutions

Recommendations

Undertake **targeted interventions on existing regulations**

- Several regulations and guidelines identified as significant contributors
- Stretching ill-fitting definitions to surplus soils
- Overly conservative approaches lacking flexibility
- Some definitions absent altogether
- Urgent/time-critical based on the coincident resource management reform activities taking place

Recommendations

Develop an **All of Government surplus soil strategy**

- Unite government agencies on surplus soil actions
- Provide best practice for those generating, receiving, processing, treating, and managing surplus soil
- Include enduring surplus soil targets (of 20+ years)
- Include a surplus soil management hierarchy (*i.e. retaining soil in place at the top, various options for the reuse of soils, and disposal to landfill at the base*)

Recommendations

Develop a **National Policy Statement** for surplus soils

- Set out objectives and policies for surplus soil management (developing on the Priority 3 strategy)
- Provide national direction/guide decision-making by regional and local authorities to ensure consistent and sustainable management of surplus soil resources throughout NZ
- Have legal effect and would require councils to amend their planning documents and process accordingly.

Recommendations

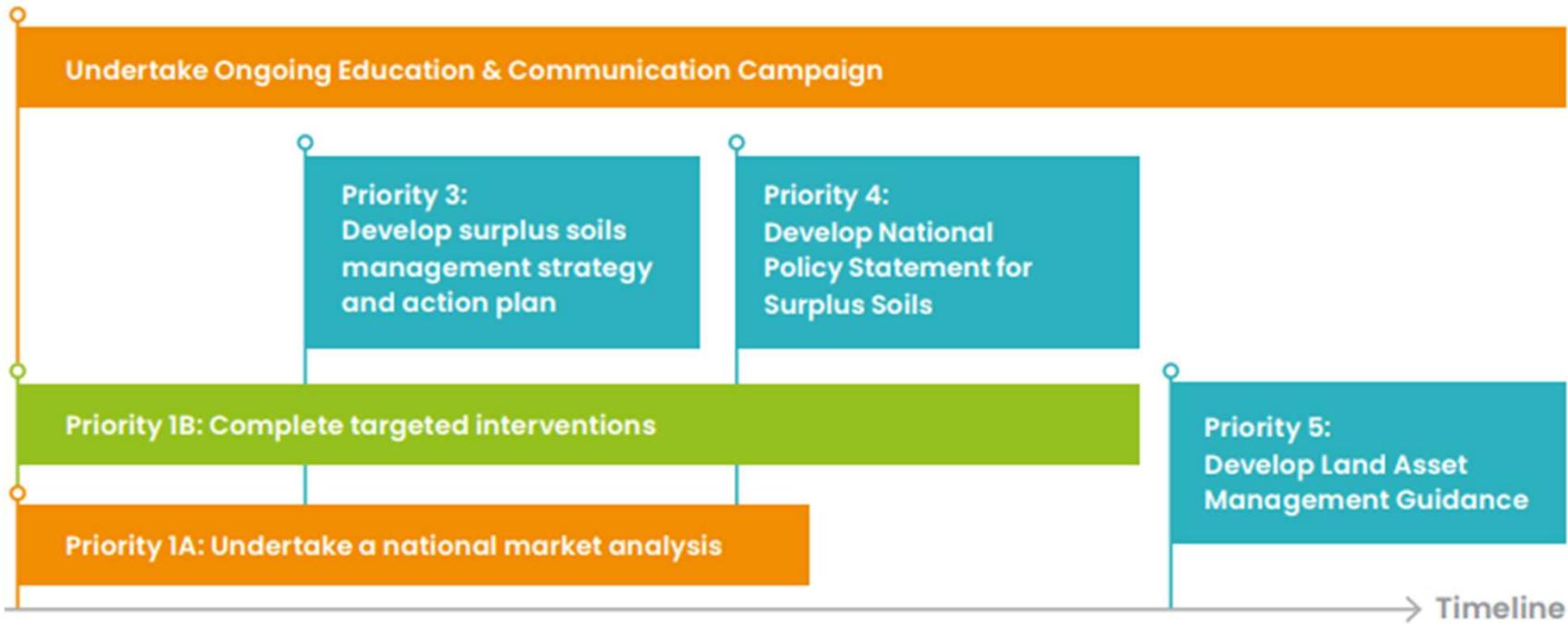
Develop **Land Asset Management** guidance

- Guide investigation, understanding and maintenance of soil assets effectively
- Identify who should be giving this advice
- Address inconsistent or incomplete investigations and advice being given in this space

Recommendations

Priority Action Recommendations

Specific Barrier Removal Enabler: Policy Enabler: Non-Policy





Next steps



Ministers' feedback

- Overall supportive of the report
- Supports the need for clearer decision-making tools to support consistent risk-based decisions
- Concerned about the absence of general 'developers' from the consultation and feedback process
- Agrees with the All of Government approach
- Keen to see more case studies in this space

Next step is for MfE to consolidate the Minister's feedback and the recommendations into a workplan going forward.

Q&A Session



Upcoming Events

Key dates

12 Feb: [Call for abstracts closes](#)

16 Feb: [Awards for Excellence nominations close](#)

26 Feb: [Waste Minimisation Fund update from MfE, *online*](#)

March: [Leftover Legends campaign](#)

11 March: [Networking Event, *Auckland*](#)

18-21 May: [WasteMINZ + ALGA Conference](#)