

## Product Stewardship Sector Group Meeting Minutes, Tuesday 25 May 2021

Location: Microsoft Office Teams

Present: Alexandra Kirkham (Auckland Council), Sarah Clare (3R Group), Alec McNeil (Marlborough District Council), Michael Dudley (Techcollect), Hannah Blumhardt (NZPSC), Rob Wilson (EcoCentral), Juhi Shareef (thl), Peter Thompson (The Formary)

In attendance: Sarah Pritchett (Facilitator), WasteMINZ

Apologies: David Howie (Waste Management) Board Chair

### 1. Meeting open, apologies and agenda

Apology from David Howie (Board Champion)

#### Actions from last meeting

Date raised	Action Point	Status	Allocated to
24/2/21	As per work plan	Ongoing	All
24/2/21	Develop comms plan	Not started	Sarah/Alex
24/2/21	To highlight the learnings from the co-design of product stewardship schemes by producing case studies with clear, consistent language and links to useful resources	In progress – received from CRS, Agrecovery, Refrigerants	Sarah to follow up with Tyrewise and write a case study on learnings from co-designing the large batteries scheme for B.I.G.
24/2/21	CCC submission	Completed	Sarah/Hannah/Alec completed

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### 2. Agenda items

- February 2021 minutes approved with no amendments
- Updates
  - Juhi: B.I.G. update. The B.I.G. team is delighted to announce the proposal has been submitted to the MfE. Duncan Wilson from Eunomia did a fantastic job and engaged as many stakeholders as possible and emphasized alignment with the broader e-waste scheme. Juhi talked about the scheme at the E-World Conference and got positive feedback about the scheme. B.I.G. is still attracting new members including Ford who have just come onboard. Jo Phillips, the Chair of the Battery Innovation Hub was interviewed on Seven Sharp about the battery traceability platform for batteries that has been trialed and has also received requests for more information and much interest. Hannah Blumhardt has drafted the S&L guidelines which are now being designed up.
  - Michael: E-waste scheme update. The co-design team (Techcollect and Ernst & Young) have developed a preliminary options framework, putting forward 3-4 starting points for consultation by stakeholders. There is a circular economy framework with different levers and mechanisms to ensure a way of getting to a circular economy through reuse, repair and recycling. The presentation of the scheme is being refined further before going out to stakeholders. Roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders under each starting point are identified to give stakeholders clarity about how the scheme will affect them. The engagement will be carried out through a mix of webinars, targeted workshops, and one on one with key stakeholders over the next couple of months going out to stakeholders with the final report due to be submitted to MfE at the end of September 2021.
  - Peter: UsedFully update. The pilot design, which was MfE funded has been completed. It involved engagement with 200 stakeholders. The proposal is nudging towards circularity instead of expecting too much. There are disparate supply chains and limited reuse options. It takes a 3 pronged approach – aggregation and sorting at source, education and awareness building and R&D of solutions. A White Paper was delivered to the Government and a workshop will be held at the Beehive in Wellington on 28 June, hosted by Aotearoa Green Party MP Eugenie Sage.
  - Alec: CRS update. The co-design was submitted in October. The co-design team met with Minister Parker recently and he is coming up to date with different perspectives on CRS and taking a bit of time to understand it all. The report is locked up and confidential, however the position it landed on is very circular and systems in approach. Eventually it will be a decision for cabinet to reach and there is no timeline for this. Hopefully

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by the end of this year the direction of travel should be known. All those in the CRS co-design group see stewardship as being about shared responsibility not the transfer of responsibility.

- Letter to Minister Parker on process for priority products
  - A discussion on the problems with the current process for assigning responsibility to lead a co-design process for a priority product highlighted that the contestable funding model through the Waste Minimisation Act is flawed. The committee believe there needs to be more central government support and leadership on product stewardship that ensures it is progressed beyond political cycles. A letter and potentially a press release will be written and sent to Minister Parker and will include:
    - Funding should be set aside for an independent organisation to manage and facilitate the process of co-design for regulated product stewardship
    - The current process is painful, time consuming and leads to mistrust and lack of buy in from stakeholders
    - Co-design leads do not have all the tools they need to manage the process under the current WMA
- Roadmap for product stewardship
  - Ran out of time to discuss at this meeting. Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Rob Langford from the Packaging Forum (PF) presented to the committee the Glass Packaging Forum's Extended Producer Responsibility proposal which is being presented as an alternative to the CRS for beverage containers. Rob's main points were:
  - The Minister has not made a decision around CRS but the PF sees there being three potential outcomes: 1. CRS as submitted 2. CRS without some items or 3. All materials become priority products and each product has its own scheme.
  - The PF sat on the CRS working group but also undertook some independent research to investigate other options.
  - The PF's concerns with the CRS proposal is: clarity of product, no colour sorting to maximise value, the current bottle to bottle capacity is not able to take all bottles, and the removal of beverage glass from kerbside systems means only jars are left which are clear and break more easily so will further contaminate other materials, and limited markets for glass in NZ.
  - The PF supports regulation and want to engage in a proper, robust design around glass to determine the best method for NZ. No specific position on other materials such as plastic bottles, Tetrapak or cans. The status quo is not an option.
  - The PF proposal differs from the CRS proposal in that it is commercially rather than consumer driven, captures all glass containers, and expands the scope. It also builds on current infrastructure where it can.

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- The PF proposal does not prioritise refilling as it believes consumer preference is not for standardised bottles and also because it would cost a lot to standardise bottles and set up wash facilities. The PF believes funding for refillable infrastructure should be sought through the WMF not as part of their EPR.
- The PF proposal would look at secondary recycling such as glass into bench tops.
- The PF proposal believes litter issues can be addressed through increased public places recycling bins and education rather than providing a monetary incentive to people. Note: The PF runs the public places recycling scheme.
- The PF proposal has determined high level numbers only and has not determined the design of a scheme or predetermined the numbers. However, their assumption is that it would cost consumers and producers less than the proposed CRS scheme design.

### 3. Other business

None

### 4. Next meeting

August

### Action items from this meeting:

Date raised	Action Point	Deadline	Allocated to
25/5/21	As per work plan		
25/5/21	Letter to Minister Parker	August	All