



10 December 2021

Ministry for the Environment

Wellington

**LETTER OF SUPPORT: BusinessNZ Submission on Waste Management Policy Proposal**

The Wellington Chamber of Commerce and Business Central (the Chamber) writes to express our support for BusinessNZ's submission on the Proposals for new Waste Strategy – Issues and options for new waste legislation.

The Chamber has been the voice of business in the Wellington region for 165 years, since 1856, and advocates policies that reflect the interests of the business community in both the city and region, and the development of the region's economy as a whole. The Chamber advocates the views of its members and obtains that view through regularly surveying members.

We are a business membership association, representing around 3,600 members and their interests throughout Central New Zealand (Gisborne to Taranaki and down to Nelson). Our organisation also delivers ExportNZ to Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and the Central region.

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At a time when business is recovering from ongoing pandemic shocks, facing a range of global economic challenges, and preparing for numerous significant reforms, we urge the government to exercise caution before placing unnecessary costs onto business.

A carbon zero organisation ourselves, the Chamber and our members are committed to reducing waste and creating a circular economy. Business is leading the way in our ecological journey – it is through creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship that we will find new ways of cutting waste from our economy. Complex or unnecessary regulations make this change harder to achieve.

As BusinessNZ points out, an inefficient or ineffective approach to waste management will drive up costs for businesses, stifle innovation and hamper our economic recovery. In particular, a one-size-fits-all approach is not consistent with different sector's needs – and risks creating minimal savings in waste.

The Chamber supports BusinessNZ's submission to the Ministry for the Environment, wholly endorses BusinessNZ's comments, and notes several key points from the submission:

- Is there a significant waste management market failure in New Zealand, requiring regulation to fix?

- Does the proposal best internalise costs of creating waste – preventing an overconsumption of waste by shifting costs onto third parties?
- Have we explored lower cost alternatives to reducing our waste – such as improving information, transparency around how our waste is managed, or price signals?

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposal, we look forward to participating as the policy is developed further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Arcus'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'S' and 'A'.

Simon Arcus

Chief Executive

Wellington Chamber of Commerce & Business Central