

SUBMISSION

by

The New Zealand Packaging Accord Governing Board



to the

Local Government & Environment Select Committee

on the

Supplementary Order Paper

to the

Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill

INTRODUCTION

This submission is from:

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We wish to appear before the Select Committee to speak on the submission.

The New Zealand Packaging Accord 2004 is a voluntary initiative to cut down on wasteful packaging and is a model for product stewardship in New Zealand. Those parties to the Packaging Accord have committed to achieving the following national targets for recovery of packaging by 2009:

Aluminium	-	65%
Glass	-	55%
Paper	-	70%
Steel	-	43%
Plastic	-	23%

Retailers have also committed to a 20% reduction in plastic shopping bags.

The principal parties to the Packaging Accord are the Packaging Council and Central Government, represented by the Ministry for the Environment. Endorsing parties are Local Government New Zealand and the Recycling Operators of New Zealand.

The Packaging Accord 2004 was signed by all parties on the basis that it is a voluntary product stewardship initiative to reduce the proportion of packaging in the total waste stream and that Government would only consider regulation if the voluntary approach does not provide sufficient improvements in reducing packaging waste.

The Packaging Accord is managed by a Governing Board, made up as follows:

Packaging Council of New Zealand	-	5 representatives
Ministry for the Environment	-	1 representative
Local Government New Zealand	-	1 representative
Recycling Operators of New Zealand	-	1 representative

The objective of the Governing Board is to oversee, guide, encourage and ensure implementation and the ongoing successful operation of the New Zealand Packaging Accord 2004.

The *Ministry for the Environment* is a member of the Governing Board, however as the ministry has been appointed adviser to the Select Committee on the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill they have abstained from this submission.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS – YEAR THREE

At the end of the third year of the Accord, an overall recycling rate of 57% was reported, which is 20% more than the year before.

This increase equates to an annual saving of around 33,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide or taking around 8000 cars off the road (using a model created by the New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation).

New Zealand's packaging recycling rates is higher than both Australia (56%) and the UK (55%) and is on a par with the European Union aggregated packaging recycling rate (60%).

Accord recycling targets for paper and steel have already been exceeded and we are at least 95% of the way to achieving our recycling targets for aluminium, glass and plastic.

The Packaging Accord Governing Board is strongly supportive of voluntary product stewardship and has already expressed its desire to begin negotiations on a 3rd Packaging Accord to begin at the conclusion of the 2004 Packaging Accord in 2009. The basis for these discussions will be the strategic review of the Accord, commissioned by the Governing Board, with participation by all key stakeholders, to provide a map of the Accord to 2012.

The Governing Board is proud to submit the Year Three Progress Report of the Packaging Accord to the Select Committee. This report clearly demonstrates what can be achieved under the voluntary model when the right incentives are put in place.

The Year Three Progress Report will be officially launched on the 15th November and we therefore ask that the report not be made publicly available nor circulated outside of the Select Committee until after that date.