



SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER TO WASTE MINIMISATION (SOLIDS) BILL

ORAL SUBMISSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Packaging Accord Governing Board, it gives me great pleasure to provide an update on the great progress made in Year Three of the Packaging Accord.

New Zealanders recycled 20% more packaging in 2006 compared to 2005, achieving a record 57% recovery as a percentage of consumption. To put this in perspective, the increase equates to an annual saving of around 33,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide or taking approximately 8000 cars off the road.

We have already surpassed the five-year recycling targets for paper and steel and are at least 95% of the way to achieving the targets for aluminium, glass and plastic. Each sector has made great progress, both individually and collaboratively.

- Glass recycling has turned around thanks to partnerships developed between industry, recycling operators and local councils and is up to 53% from 49% the previous year.
- More robust data is available about the production, consumption and recovery of steel and aluminium containers because the manufacturers of cans; the brand owners who fill them; the supermarkets that sell them; and the scrap metal brokers, recycling operators and exporters who process them have all contributed and recognise that they are all part of the loop;

- Local councils and recycling operators increased kerbside collections and the types of materials that they collect resulting in better recycling rates for plastics and new domestic markets opening up;
- 76% of all paperboard is recycled which puts New Zealand amongst the world leaders; and
- Consumers are increasingly aware of their role, thanks to campaigns by supermarkets to reduce the use of plastic bags, steel's children's cartoon Hanable the CANable and the Packaging Council's Christmas recycling campaign.

New Zealand's packaging recycling rate is higher than that of Australia, UK and is on a par with the European average and, with this momentum, all parties are determined that the Accord targets will not just be met but exceeded.

This year the Packaging Accord Governing Board participated in a strategic review of the Accord setting out what needs to happen to take this voluntary agreement beyond 2009 and to understand its continuing relevance within the context of the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill.

Whilst there are those who say that a voluntary agreement is too weak or that the targets were not tough enough, the commitment shown by every member of this Accord reaffirms the Chairman's view that organisations respond best if they are part of the solution.

We look forward to the official launch of the Year Three progress report on the 15th November to which the Select Committee has been invited.