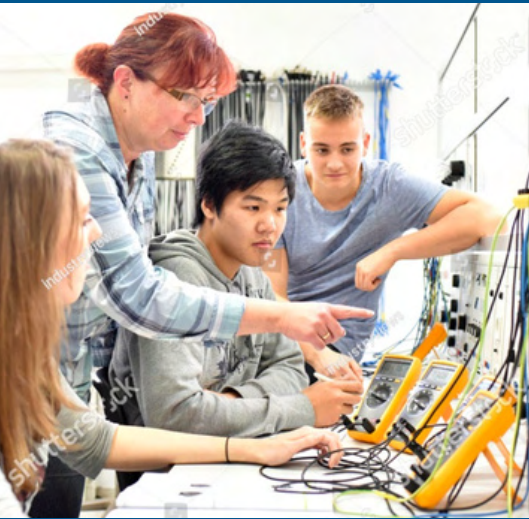


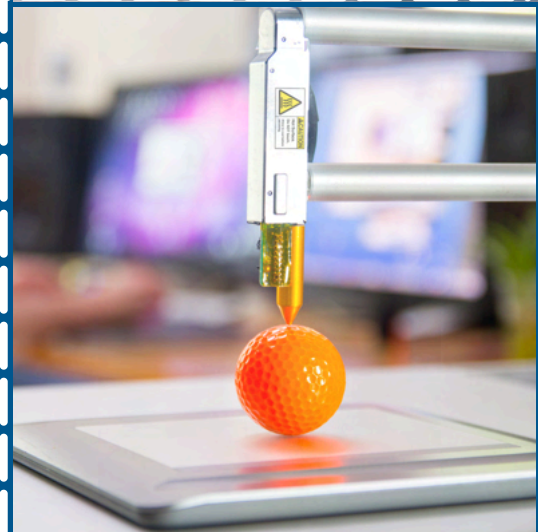
PLASTICS NZ

NEW ZEALAND'S INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 -2024



Creating a connected plastics industry
empowered to craft a successful future



ABOUT US

Plastics New Zealand is the Industry Association representing plastics businesses across the country. Our membership includes a wide variety of companies from plastics processors, importers, re-processors, raw material and machinery suppliers to tool makers, designers, brand owners and retailers.

Our role covers a range of activities including working with Government and other parties to ensure discussions on plastics are evidence-based, championing plastics training and educating key stakeholders, connecting and developing the plastics community, and driving the transition to a circular plastics economy.

VISION

A connected plastics industry meeting the needs of tomorrow.

MISSION

To maximise the development, growth and success of plastics-based technology within New Zealand, in a sustainable manner.

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2023-24

Plastics NZ is governed by a board that consists of the National President and other Officers, the Presidents of the local branches, the Chairs of the Sector Groups, a Suppliers Representative, Chairs of the Environmental, IR and Training subcommittees, and up to four members who are elected by the financial members of the Association. Any Corporate Member (manufacturer, recycler, raw material supplier or service supplier) can be nominated to serve on the Executive.



National President
Abbie Watson
Wadding Solutions



National Vice-President
Bob Gutsell
Pact Group



Immediate Past President
Murray Knight
Polymers International



Corporate Supplier Representative
Brian Storie
Interplas Agencies



Auckland Branch President
Sam Dennis
Chemiplas/KChem



South Island Branch President
Mike Draper
Talbot Technologies



Waikato Branch President
Murray Jorgensen
Profile Polymers



Wellington Branch President
Richard Latta
Leda Extrusions



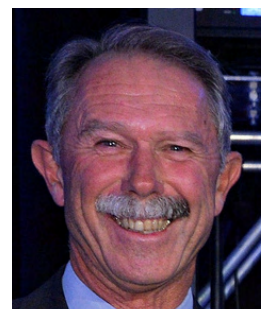
Environment Committee Chair
Ally Hopwood
Pharmapac



PIPA NZ Chair
Alan Shore
Ravago NZ



EPS Sector Group Chair
Mark Mischefski
Expol



Training Committee Chair
Tony Miller
Life Member



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2023-24



Elected Rep
Simon Yandall
TCL Hunt



Elected Rep
Mark Field
Elastomer Products



Elected Rep
Kevin Jones
Axiam Plastics



Elected Rep
Robert Michael
TruDesign



Co-opted Member
Amber Maisey
Maisey Group

Vacant Positions: IR Committee Chair

We also note a change to the Waikato Branch President at the end of the year and welcome Melanie Maxwell of Avient to the role.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE @ MAY '24

Ally Hopwood	Pharmapac (Chair)
Katy Constance	Plastics NZ
Marc Gaugler	Scion
Rodney Bennett	Bonson
Gavin Fong	PlusPac Packaging
Andrew Sheerin	Chemiplas NZ

The Environment Committee also thanks Ella Meisel, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, and Melanie Maxwell, Avient, for their involvement with the Committee this year.





AUCKLAND BRANCH @ MAY 24

Sam Dennis
Simon Randall
Abbie Watson
John Bennett
Mark Mischefski
Charlotte Winwood
Cam Thomson
Ben Blakley
Jackson Fowler
Kevin Cross
Mahesh Boshetti
Marco Giordano

KChem (President)
TCL Hunt (Vice President)
Wadding Solutions (Immediate Past President)
Dynex
Expol
NEO Polymers
Lane Plastics
Imagin Plastics
Medical Plastics
TCL Hunt
Avient
Willis Towers Watson



WAIKATO BRANCH @ MAY 24

Melanie Maxwell
Murray Jorgensen
Ian Baines
Jeremy Warnes
Stu Cundy
Dylan Ranstead
Mathew Bell
Whetu Awatere
Andrew Sheerin
Adair Hobbs

Avient (President)
Profile Polymers (Immediate Past President)
Profile Polymers
SCION
Primaplas
Gallagher Group
Gallagher Group
Tekplas
Chemiplas
Profile Polymers



WELLINGTON BRANCH @ MAY 24

Richard Latta
Simon Jones
Libby Clout
Richard Whitmore

Leda Extrusions (President)
Thermoplastic Engineering
Leda Extrusions
Uniplas





SOUTH ISLAND BRANCH @ MAY 24

Mike Draper

Guy Steel

Chris Williams

Brian Moyna

Adam Brook

Mark Field

Frank Soli

Talbot Advanced Technologies (President)

TCL Hunt

Packtech Moulding

Elastomer Products

Action Plastics

Elastomer Products

Expol



EPS SECTOR GROUP @ MAY 24

Mark Mischefski

Brendan Dryden

Kulwinder Bath

Paul Lightowers

Sandy Bannerman

Andy Crump

Ken Rowley

Bernard McGillen

Peter Coleman

Spring Humphreys

Sam Singh

Vitali Furt

Graham Attwood

Expol (Chair)

Styrobeck

EPS Foam

Hope Moulded Polystyrene

Barnes Plastics

Bondor

Polymer Agencies

Ixom

Interplas Agencies

EnviroNZ

Koolfoam

TCL Hunt

Loyal Expanz



PIPA NZ @ MAY 24

Alan Shore

Frank O'Callaghan

Vanessa Lanegra

Iain McNaught

Steve Kooge

Petr Sudoma

Reiner Gruen

Annika Behnert

Scott Townsend

Brian Storie

Blair Telfer

Ravago NZ (Chair)

Iplex Pipelines

Aliaxis Group

Waters and Farr

Georg Fischer

PS Engineering

Agru NZ

Agru NZ

Aliaxis Group

Interplas Agencies

Watercare Services





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A change of Government, policy shifts, and a growing awareness amongst stakeholders that more changes are to come adds excitement and spice to 2024.

2023 marked considerable progress in the circular economy of plastics in New Zealand. There has been a positive emergence of new business models promoting circularity. However, despite progress, challenges such as limited infrastructure for recycling certain plastics, economic viability of recycling processes and global supply chain complexities remain.

Businesses have intensified their commitments to sustainability, incorporating circularity principles into product design, manufacturing, and supply chain operations. New Zealand businesses big and small have sought advice through CircularConnect and RePlastics; two brilliant initiatives organised in conjunction with strategic partnerships in 2022. Recent changes to kerbside recycling have affected all homes and businesses. We hope to see more positive improvements in the recycling and recovery sector to improve the efficiency and accuracy of plastic waste separation, facilitating higher recycling rates.

We would like to see more members utilising the opportunities Rachel Barker (CEO) and her team create to seek and invest in research and development to scale up innovative ideas and the commercialisation of sustainable solutions.

Plastics NZ has been active in spreading the good word about the value of plastics through educational campaigns and social media throughout 2023 and 2024. Media opportunities that put a positive spin on plastics are not always easy to find, however Rachel and her team have done an excellent job of ensuring our voice is being heard in the right places at the right times.

We hope to gain some clarity through ongoing communication with Competenz and Hanga Aro Rau (Workforce Development Council) to better understand what education services and options we have for existing employees throughout the manufacturing sector and for younger people moving into the workforce. The team will ensure regular updates continue. Plastics NZ's Diploma in Design and Specification of Plastics is an ongoing hot topic for the National Executive, and we have been presented with some fantastic ideas for getting it live online.

The new year has brought new challenges for companies and employers. The new government announced that we are in recession and many businesses have been feeling the pressure of an erratic market throughout 2023. While some businesses continue to thrive, others are feeling the pinch of the current economic climate. The upcoming annual conference in Rotorua, hosted by the Waikato Branch, gives members the opportunity to network and gain the support they may need in these tough times.





The National Executive (Board) meetings held over the 12 months have been very productive with our team ensuring that all aspects of the Plastics NZ strategy have been addressed. The PNZ Constitution has been updated and you will continue to see communication with exciting developments and information around Operation Clean Sweep and the Global Plastics Treaty amongst other relevant topics. Rachel Barker's team will keep you well informed and up to date with matters that could affect your business in the near future. If at any point you would like more information or a general chat, please do not hesitate to contact the National Office with an email, and the friendly team will accommodate your enquiry.

Over the last 12 months, Rachel has attended a range of high-level meetings in NZ with various government ministries and established connections with relevant associations abroad. She has engaged in international collaborations aimed at coordinating advocacy relating to multi-lateral agreements and ensuring the voice of the plastics industry is clearly heard.

Rachel has been at the table with a range of working groups including meeting with the World Plastics Council, the Global Plastics Alliance and local groups focused on developing practical policies and solutions, Rachel has also led coordination of the ongoing Plastics Industry collective bargaining (Plastics MECA). Our CEO and her team are committed to continuing their great work in the environmental space, and to incentivise businesses to adopt sustainable practices and invest in circular solutions. With the Plastics NZ government funded WMF Project coming to a close soon, we are looking at options for a permanent environmental affairs role.

I am in awe of Rachel's consistency to over-achieving in areas that some members may not even be aware of. Her commitment to you, your business and employees is exceptional. I am grateful to have spent the past 4 years alongside Rachel in her role as CEO. We make a great team, the development and achievements we have made for Plastics NZ are a great set up for the future, especially with the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act.

The conference in May is my last hurrah as President of Plastics NZ. I am incredibly grateful for the support and energy the Board members have given me over the years spent on the National Exec. It has been an amazing opportunity for personal growth. The learning experience, development in business management and governance has been phenomenal. I welcome the incoming President who will be announced at the AGM in May. I wish them all the best and look forward to introducing you at the conference.

I have recently drafted a Board Prospectus for our team. It was not hard to explain the benefits of being part of this organisation. I encourage you to invite your younger employees and business partners to explore the history of Plastics NZ and to get involved with the Branches and their efforts in ensuring networking events continue throughout



the country. Manufacturing in New Zealand will only get stronger from here, and we need to make sure the next generation understand the value of plastics and the amazing career opportunities they have here in New Zealand.

I am proud to have been able to represent my family and business at this level. The support I have had from Richard Watson, Morris Watson, my extended family and friends has been tremendous. It has been an honor to present life membership awards to fellow Board members. Thank you to current and past National Exec members for your support and encouragement.

I will sign off with this quote below from an unknown author.

Yours sincerely,

Abbie Watson
National President
Plastics NZ
May 2024





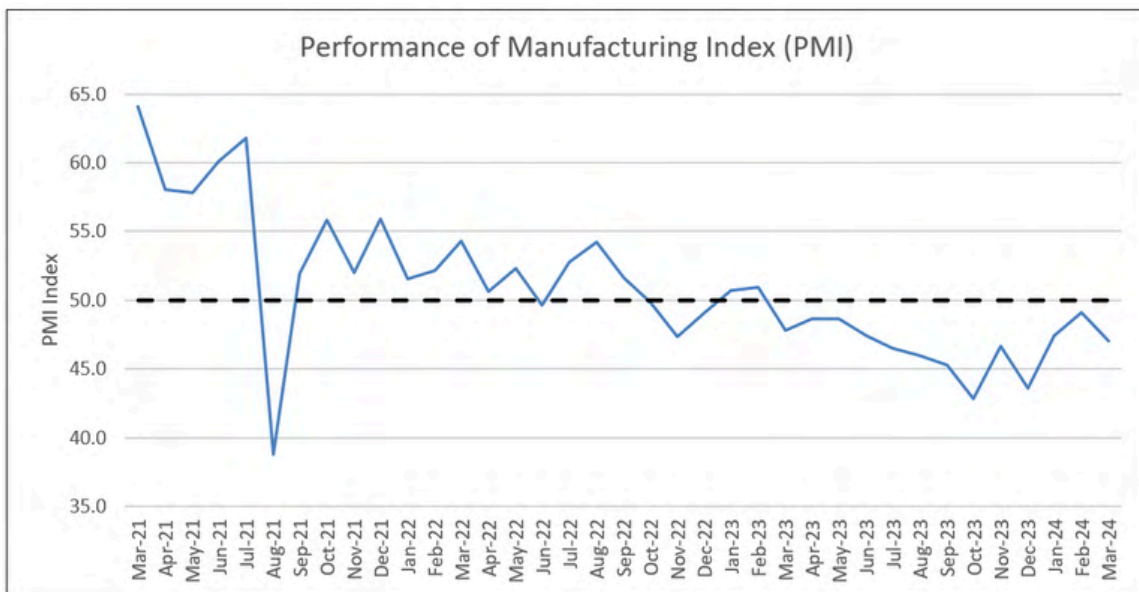
CEO'S REPORT

Tēnā kotou katoa. Warm greetings to you all!

I experienced a bit of déjà vu when reading through last years' report. A year ago, I was discussing the economic challenges for businesses and the threat of a global recession. A global recession is still being discussed, although outside of Europe there appears to be growing optimism. We certainly entered a shallow recession here in Aotearoa New Zealand with both the September and December quarters showing contraction.



In 2023, conditions provided a 'mixed bag' for our Members. Some saw continued growth and had a good year. Others found it a much more challenging year. Discussions in 2024 are indicating that most companies are carefully balancing activities with uncertainty in forward orders alongside high wage increase expectations from workers due to the high cost of living. The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) is also showing the continued pressure on the sector with contraction for the 13th month in a row. There is some indication that the trend is slowly working its way upward, but 2024 is expected to remain challenging for manufacturing in New Zealand. Manufacturing businesses appear to be responding by cutting costs, including reducing staff numbers¹.



Even though the industry faces challenges on many fronts, I continue to see examples of fantastic resilience and forward-thinking from plastics manufacturers in Aotearoa. While capital expenditure is understandably lighter at this time, upskilling and use of current technologies to improve production metrics seems to continue. Innovative new products, designs, and business models are still appearing on the market, and our industry is taking advantage of the opportunities presented as New Zealand transitions to a low-emissions circular economy.

1. <https://businessnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/public/2024/March/BNZ-Snapshot.pdf>



The change in government late last year has left some uncertainty as to the direction of travel for the New Zealand plastics industry. We now have a Minister, the Honorable Andrew Bayly, directly focused on supporting manufacturing growth and success. Minister Bayly is regularly meeting with a large group of manufacturers to discuss the political levers needed to unlock productivity and to grow exports. While the Industry Transformation Plans have been thrown out the window thanks to Act, the work carried out for manufacturing has not been lost. Minister Bayly, manufacturers and a variety of manufacturing industry associations are working to continue activity. We will all be watching the budget announcements in late May with hope for some tangible support for the sector.

The new government has decided to unwind the recent vocational education reforms and has already started the dissolution of Te Pūkenga, the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology. We can expect to see the single Institute broken into multiple polytechs again in the near future. Te Pūkenga is where the half of Competenz that carried out training was moved to. Unfortunately, the government seems to have forgotten that work-based training is a key delivery method for many manufacturing subsectors, including Plastics. The fate of the Workforce Development Councils, such as Hanga Aro Rau the Manufacturing Engineering and Logistics WDC, is also unclear. It is imperative that industry voice is heard and included in the design of the latest vocational education reforms. While there have been some huge frustrations with the previous reforms, those of us in manufacturing have found the engagement with and through Hanga Aro Rau to be of value. We don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

On the environmental side, the new government does not appear to have placed much priority on these matters. The work program for the Ministry for the Environment is unclear with decisions around the new waste legislation, container return schemes, the 2025 PVC and PS phaseouts all still pending, along with a myriad of other related matters. While in some ways this takes the pressure off the plastics industry, it is also concerning. We have a Minister for the Environment who sits outside of Cabinet, and a long list of Ministers with very low understanding of the benefits of plastics and the solutions already being worked on. Well-intentioned and rapid decision-making, without adequate stakeholder input, is a risk in this situation. I will therefore be working on your behalf to ensure Ministers understand the landscape, as well as the Officials I work with closely.

In the next few pages, we share some of the key activities for Plastics NZ over the past year and discuss what's in our near future. My team and I really enjoy working to support you, and to ensure the industry's voice is heard clearly in government and stakeholder discussions on plastics. We look forward to supporting you over the next year.

Thank you to all of those who participate and lead our National Executive, local Branches, Sector Groups and Committees. The hours of service you provide to the industry are greatly appreciated and vital to ensuring Plastics NZ is successful in connecting, educating, and representing plastics and our Industry. A huge thank-you also to my team Kelly Buchanan-Johns, Katy Constance, Judy Lambert and Simon Wilkinson. The hard work you put provides real, tangible results for our industry and organisation. I couldn't do it without you!



Last, but definitely not least, I would like to thank our outgoing National President and Board Chair Abbie Watson. Abbie has led the Board through a governance transition that provides Plastics NZ a strong platform to operate from well into the future. Her passion for the industry, its people and the environment have combined to drive tangible change and fresh perspectives. Thank you for your dedication, Abbie!

I thought I might follow Abbie's example and finish my report with a quote as well. This one is from Jimmy Dean and is somewhat apt given the headwinds facing our industry.

Cheers

Rachel Barker
CEO, Plastics NZ
May 2024





OUR YEAR - KEY ACTIVITIES

PLASTICS AS DANGEROUS GOODS/HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Advocacy efforts to prevent the reclassification of plastic raw materials as Dangerous Goods for shipping appear to have been successful so far. There is still some risk of plastic pellets being classified as 'Harmful Substances' over the longer term, but for now common sense seems to have won the day at the international Maritime Organization (IMO). For a while there, it was looking like we could end up with some unworkable regulations relating to packaging, such as banning bulk containers, and a DG classification, NZ officials for example, were considering recommendations to ship all plastic raw materials in bags no larger than 25kg, in packaging that could withstand catastrophic situations such as sinkings and fires on board. A focus on the practical ramifications of these suggestions, was a big part of my advocacy on this matter.



The IMO's Pollution Prevention & Response (PPR) Committee and its Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) have both approved a Circular titled *Recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers*. This Circular was proposed and drafted by co-sponsors DGAC and CEFIC on behalf of the global plastics industry.

The Circular recommends:

- Plastic pellets* should be packed in good quality packaging which should be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loading normally encountered during transport. Packaging should be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss of contents which may be caused under normal conditions of transport, by vibration or acceleration forces.
- Transport information should clearly identify, as an addition in the cargo information required by SOLAS, those freight containers containing plastic pellets*. In addition, the shipper should supplement the cargo information with a special stowage requiring stowage as outlined below.
- Freight containers containing plastic pellets* should be properly stowed and secured so as to minimise the hazards to the marine environment without impairing the safety of the ship and persons on board. Specifically, freight containers containing plastic pellets* should be stored:
 - under deck wherever reasonably practicable; or
 - inboard in sheltered areas of exposed decks.

* *Plastic pellets means a mass of pre-formed moulding material, having relatively uniform dimensions, used as feedstock in plastic product manufacturing operations. Plastic pellets are transported in various forms, including flakes, granules and powders and can be referred to as resin or nurdles.*



GLOBAL PLASTICS AGREEMENT



The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC4) has just concluded in Ottawa, Canada. While I don't travel to the negotiations, I keep in close contact with two industry groups and NZ officials on the ground.

INC4 was focused on streamlining the text of the treaty and then negotiating the exact wording (textual negotiations). Those attending had some very long days working from before 8am until after midnight each day. The final plenary session didn't end until after 3am!

My impression is that we will soon see a clearer treaty text. This will outline approximately three alternative options for each clause. There is also a plan for intersessional work between now and the next negotiations in Korea in late November. There are still large gaps in opinion on certain matters - particularly around production caps and chemicals and additives management. There is a lot of work to do both internationally and locally over the next six months to ensure that governments understand the true environmental, social and economic ramifications of their planned text. The NZ government is planning some broader stakeholder discussions ahead of the next meeting and we'll be at the forefront of that on your behalf.

Some key observations so far:

- UNEP has recognised in their [Plastic Pollution Science](#) update that PET bottles, HDPE bottles and other HDPE rigid formats (e.g. pots, trays, cups), PP bottles, PE mono-material flexibles larger than A4 (B2B context only) and EPS for transport packaging (e.g. fish boxes of protection of large items) are all packaging formats that can be considered as recyclable 'in practice and at-scale', although this is limited to specific countries/regions.
- Many countries are aligned on 'Chemicals of Concern', with most wanting criteria and lists of problematic chemicals/additives to ban or control included in the treaty. This is a strong advocacy focus for industry with a preference to avoid overlap with other multilateral agreements such as the new Global Framework for Chemicals.
- There is no consensus regarding the inclusion of a provision on 'problematic plastics'.
- The World Health Organisation and other Health NGOs (surgeons, doctors etc) are actively promoting the inclusion of medical plastics in the implementation scope. They do not want to see a medical exemption, although many member states are supporting exemptions for healthcare and defense.
- Fishing and aquaculture gear provisions are likely to be included in the treaty and/or in the IMO and FAO agreements.
- Financing is a key discussion point with both a 'global plastic pollution fee' and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) being on the table.



NZ ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

Plastics NZ closely monitors government departments to identify consultations relating to plastics. This ensures we are representing our member's interests as new government regulations and policies are considered. We also work closely with Officials to ensure the needs of the industry, and the ramifications of decisions on both our sector and the wider economy, are communicated and understood.

Phaseout Regulations: The last tranche of the single-use plastics regulations (for now) relate to the phaseout of the remaining PVC and PS food and beverage packaging (excluding EPS cold chain and protective packaging). The Ministry for the Environment has been undertaking consultation with effected stakeholders on progress and expected timing of alternatives. It is looking as though the planned phaseout date of mid-2025 will be pushed out to 2026. There are some large challenges, especially for butcheries, with the PVC phaseout. Some PS applications are also challenging to replace.

Kerbside Standardisation: This kicked in at the start of February this year, consolidating the plastic packaging allowed down to PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5) plastics being recycled and the rest excluded. The list of other materials has also been reduced. It's been interesting to see the backlash from communities used to being able to place a broader range of products in their bins. The lids and caps exclusion in particular has seemed to create a lot of frustration. Especially when the lid in question is larger than some of the other items allowed in the bins!

One benefit of this standardisation is the ability for national messaging around recycling to be consistent and much clearer than has been possible in the past. Public education, and improving recycling behaviour, is an essential part of reducing contamination rates, and therefore the ability of the New Zealand resource recovery system to produce good quality recyclates.

Plastic Waste Export Ban Petition: This matter is still ongoing with advice recently being put together for the new Minister for the Environment. Plastics NZ first provided input on this matter in early 2023 and continues to be involved. There is a possibility that New Zealand will implement a ban on plastic waste exports to developing nations such as Malaysia and Indonesia. While this could help encourage investment in resource recovery and reprocessing infrastructure in New Zealand, it would also increase the amount of recyclable plastics in our landfills.

Speaking to our sister associations in developing nations, export bans to developing nations will also have strong negative impacts on their reprocessors, the local informal waste pickers who sell materials to those reprocessors, and to that countries ability to 'close the loop' for their plastics once their municipalities implement materials recovery.



Product Stewardship: No additional priority products have been declared over the last year. We have instead seen the co-design of various schemes initiated and/or completed.

- **Tyres:** The mandatory product stewardship scheme for tyres went live earlier this year after a long regulator development process. See www.tyrewise.co.nz for more information.
- **Farm Plastics and Agrichemicals and their containers:** [Agrecovery](#) led the co-design work to create a Green-farms Product Stewardship Scheme (GPSS) that combines both priority product streams under a single banner. Consultation on regulations appears to be still pending so it is unclear whether or not the scheme will go fully operational this year as planned. Agrecovery and their partners continue to increase the amount of farm plastics recovered and reprocessed in the mean time.
- **E-Waste & Electronics:** [TechCollect](#) led the co-design process for this priority product and published its recommendations in mid-2023. Subject to Cabinet approval, the Ministry for the Environment plans to consult on regulations to support this stewardship scheme in 2025.
- **Plastic Packaging:** The Packaging Forum, in combination with the NZ Food & Grocery Council, is leading the co-design for plastics packaging stewardship. Completion of the co-design process is expected mid to late this year with recommendations then going to government. The plastics industry is well represented in the co-design process with involvement on the Steering Group (Plastics NZ CEO, Pact Group) and in the Technical Advisory Groups that have been run at each step during the process (Plastics NZ and various other members). Additional opportunities for stakeholder consultation are expected later this year, once the scheme design is closer to being finalised. Information on the progress to date can be found at <https://www.ppps.org.nz>

Recycled Content Working Group: With the changes to the European Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations (PPWR) mandating recycled content for plastic packaging, alongside the increasing scrutiny of the provenance and safety of recycled materials, the New Zealand government has formed a working group to discuss recycled content. This is two-pronged including some focus on the need for NZ-specific regulations, and also investigating the European regulations and what this means for our exporters. Plastics NZ is involved in this working group and will pull in members for additional consultation as relevant.

OTHER ADVOCACY

Plastics NZ works with a variety of other government departments and ministries. We keep a watching brief on matters which may impact our members across all areas, not just environmental matters. We also work closely with other industry associations, leveraging the great work they are doing, and working together to align and amplify messaging on behalf of our collective memberships.



PLASTICS NZ STRATEGY

VISION

A connected plastics industry meeting the needs of tomorrow.

MISSION

To maximise the development, growth and success of plastics-based technology within New Zealand, in a sustainable manner.





Voice of the Industry

Be at the center of stakeholder conversation on plastics

- Increase stakeholder understanding of the value of plastics and our Industry.
- Drive the transition to a circular plastics economy.
- Support our members in Industrial Relations matters.

Promote

Promote the benefits of plastics and the industry

- Share positive plastics initiatives with members and other stakeholders.
- Be a responsive media contact.
- Promote the plastics industry as an attractive place to work.

Connect

Strengthen the plastics community

- Ensure members have relevant and timely information.
- Organise regular social and technical events for members and associates.
- Celebrate industry excellence and innovation.

Educate

Lift industry skills and capability driving future success

- Provide members with best practice guidance.
- Enhance industry training, learning and development through DDSP and other relevant courses.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME

Katy Constance, Circular Economy Manager, Plastics NZ

Kaitiakitanga: Guardianship and protection

Plastics New Zealand's Circular Economy Programme draws to a close at the end of June. The programme has been supported by the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund and we are grateful for the support they have provided.



Over the last four years, the programme has sought to redefine the way we approach plastic usage, waste management and resource conservation. With the end date now in sight, we are proud to reflect on the programme's key achievements.

THE 'WHY?'

In December 2023, the Ministry for the Environment released the 'Ngā tatauranga para' (Waste Statistics) Dashboard. This highlighted the volumes and impacts of waste generated in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ). The data shows a figure of 706 kg of waste generated per person in 2021, putting us within the top 10 producers of waste per capita[1] globally. In addition to accounting for 4.2% of the country's Greenhouse Gas Emissions, our waste results in loss of valuable materials from the NZ economy, reliance on virgin raw material, and loss of space in landfill.

[1] <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1336513/global-generation-of-municipal-solid-waste-per-capita-by-country/>



Source: *Class 1 Landfill Waste Tonnages*, <https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/waste-statistics/#waste-statistics-dashboard>

The Circular Economy is an economic model that maximises resource use and minimises waste. The key principles include:

- Use of renewable materials and energy sources.
- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep materials in use for as long as possible.
- Recover and recycle materials post use.



These principles, which apply to products and services using all types of materials, help to decrease waste and the associated issues. Over the last few years, this has been a key focus area for industries within New Zealand and worldwide.

Plastics play a crucial role in the advancement towards a circular economy. They are lightweight, durable, and versatile, with lower energy consumption and emissions compared to alternatives such as glass, metal, and concrete. They help to minimise food and medical waste and are used to create refillable and reusable packaging and products. Moreover, advancements in plastics recycling are improving resource conservation and decreased reliance on virgin materials.



However, as with all materials, challenges arise from using plastics. Many plastics are reliant on virgin, fossil-based raw materials, not all plastics are recyclable, and environmental pollution occurs if plastics are not dealt with properly throughout their life cycle.

The Plastics NZ Circular Economy Programme was set up with the aim of supporting the advancement of a circular economy for plastics within Aotearoa New Zealand.



THE 'WHAT?'

Our Circular Economy Programme is made up of three key projects:

1. **RePlastics:** a practical design guide and training aimed at helping businesses to identify and implement circular plastics initiatives for their products, packaging and business systems.
2. **CircularConnect:** offers co-funding for businesses seeking to work with consultants on projects that aim to minimise plastic waste.
3. **National Working Groups:** cross-industry collaboration to investigate national solutions for problematic plastic waste streams (targeted with agreement from MfE).

Over the last 12 months, each of these projects has taken strides towards tackling the issues of plastics circularity. Read on to find out what each project has achieved!

Plastics play a crucial role in the advancement towards a circular economy. They are lightweight, durable, and versatile, with lower energy consumption and emissions compared to alternatives such as glass, metal, and concrete. They help to minimise food and medical waste and are used to create refillable and reusable packaging and products. Moreover, advancements in plastics recycling are improving resource conservation and decreased reliance on virgin materials.

THE RESULTS

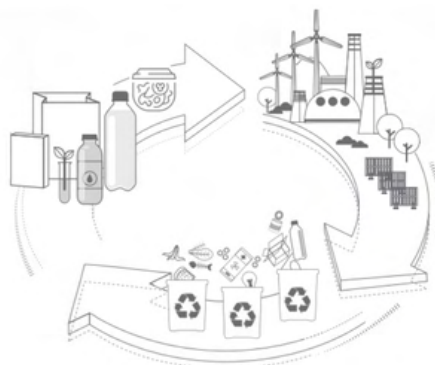


RePlastics was initially set up to include both in-person training workshops, and a free online design guide. In 2023, we made the decision to stop the in-person training as it was challenging for companies to release people for the time involved due to both covid, staff shortages and the economic environment.

We are in the process of creating a self-paced, online training course that people will be able to utilise in their own time at their own pace.

We will also be updating the free online guide to ensure its up to date following recent regulatory changes and will be including additional case studies.

Over the course of the programme RePlastics has engaged with over 5,500 individuals through www.replastics.nz, the free design guide, our webinars, the training workshops.





CIRCULARCONNECT

designing out plastic waste

Our CircularConnect design advisory co-funding was provided for two stages of project:

- Phase 1 Discovery projects focused on identifying circular potential with a business
- Phase 2 Feasibility and Development projects focused on understanding viability and determining next steps.

Over the past year, a total of 13 Phase 1, and 10 Phase 2 projects have commenced. Despite some projects stalling due to reprioritisation of resource due to economic conditions, the flurry of activity in the last 12 months has supported progress towards our targets.

Phase 1 Target	Phase 1 Complete	Phase 1 Ongoing	Total
26	16	9	25
Phase 2 Goal	Phase 2 Complete	Phase 2 Ongoing	Total
12	6	7	13

Each of these projects has made steps towards a Circular Economy for Plastics, each in very different ways! A snapshot of the scope of projects is captured in the case studies below.



Magnetite manufactures retrofit double-glazing for sound-proofing and thermal insulation of existing windows. In 2023, they commenced a Phase 1 project with Wilkinson Environmental to understand whether an opportunity existed to recycle acrylic onshore. This involved gaining a better understanding of the current acrylic market and recycling opportunities within Aotearoa New Zealand and to determine potential volumes for recycling. The findings led to Magnetite applying for Phase 2 funding to better understand the processing methods needed to recycle acrylic on shore. This project was an excellent example of how manufacturers can work to close the loop for products that they produce.



NZPPI are the industry body for the plant nurseries in Aotearoa New Zealand. With plastic packaging and farm plastics both listed as priority products for mandated product stewardship, NZPPI were keen to understand what this might

look like for their plant producers, and where they might fit into the schemes being co-designed. They conducted a Discovery (phase 1) project with Square 1 consulting to investigate the landscape and options. This was an excellent example of how working alongside a consultant can support businesses to understand different systems and how to best engage with them to advance circularity.



Jemco Manufacturing service international product brands with engineering solutions. They conducted a Phase 1 project with Designally to audit their packaging. Through this they identified the types, applications and



volumes of plastic used. This allowed them to reflect on how to rethink their use of packaging materials and systems. They examined where single-use plastics could be replaced with alternatives including using reusable systems, recyclable materials, or compostables. They then conducted a Phase 2 project to better understand the final circularity intent and user experience of four different packaging options. This analysis led to recommended next steps for the company, and demonstrated where cost savings could be made through these changes. This project highlighted how making steps towards circularity can provide long-term savings for businesses.

Moving forward, we hope that other New Zealand businesses will use these examples as inspiration to commence their own circular economy journeys.

National Working Groups

EPS Packaging Product Stewardship

In 2022, Plastics NZ facilitated work looking at Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Packaging Phaseout options. The working group delivered its findings in a report to the Ministry for the Environment. In 2023, the government indicated that mandated phaseouts for EPS cold chain and protective packaging would not be implemented. Instead, the focus would be on product stewardship and voluntary phaseout. This packaging is also within the scope of the Plastic Packaging Product Stewardship Scheme.



Although clean EPS packaging is 100% recyclable, there are unique challenges impacting the recovery and reprocessing of the material. The EPS working group transitioned from a focus on phaseout, into one focused on investigation the opportunities and challenges involved in setting up stewardship for EPS packaging.

The project was split into three key milestones:

- Current State: understanding the material flow, volumes, and end of life options for EPS packaging in NZ at present.
- Global Scan: understanding what opportunities exist to recover and reprocess EPS worldwide.
- NZ Context Analysis: understanding which opportunities could support product stewardship for EPS packaging within the NZ context.

Our Steering Committee navigated the direction of the group towards three subgroups supported with insights into the following sectors: Consumer goods (B2C and B2B), Higher risk of contamination (medical and seafood), and Recovery and Reprocessing.



Several key challenges were identified throughout this work including:

- lack of data surrounding the volumes of EPS packaging imported into NZ.
- logistical challenges surrounding material collection and transportation.
- reprocessing challenges associated with contamination.

The group identified what opportunities exist to meet these challenges, and what these look like within the New Zealand context. A findings report, including the group's recommendations, is being drafted and will be submitted to MfE by the end of June. We encourage all interested parties to read the report once public!

Construction & Demolition Plastics

Over the last few years, the Construction and Demolition (C&D) sector has been under the spotlight regarding waste generation. Research has shown that between 40-50% of total waste to landfill in New Zealand is generated by the C&D sector². This includes a large volume of plastic. Each year in Auckland alone, 25 thousand tonnes of construction plastics end up in landfill³. This represents a large amount of valuable material that could be retained within the economy. Plastics NZ commenced the Construction & Demolition Plastics Working Group to investigate national solutions for advancing plastic circularity with the sector.



The group's steering committee kicked off by determining the focus and scope of the project. Recognising that various players are conducting work in this space, we opened up communication with facilitators of other groups to understand where we could add impact. It was decided that our group would focus on creating a 'Catalogue' highlighting the:

- application of plastics in the C&D Sector.
- opportunities to advance the circularity of these plastics
- challenges to accessing these opportunities
- actions that can be taken across the supply chain to advance circularity

The use of plastics within the C&D sector is wide ranging. As such, the group decided to narrow its focus to the largest plastics streams. These were identified as EPS, soft plastics, and PVC/HDPE pipes and fittings. Subgroups were set up focusing on each of these material streams. The Steering Committee and subgroups have put in a considerable amount of work over the last six months. A report will be submitted by the end of June. We encourage interested parties to take a look!

If you're keen to discuss any aspect of our Circular Economy Programme, please reach out to Katy@plastics.org.nz for more information.

2. <https://www.level.org.nz/material-use/minimising-waste/>

3. [Quantifying and managing plastic waste generated from building construction in Auckland, NZ](#)



TURNING THE TIDE

Plastics NZ is proud to be the local stewards of the Operation Clean Sweep (OCS) for New Zealand. This global programme supports businesses in eliminating plastic resin loss with the goal of keeping our waterways free from pollution.



In New Zealand, to become part of OCS, companies must complete a site audit with an independent third party. Sites that pass their audit have proved that they have the best practices in place to mitigate the risk of pellet, flake and powder loss into our waterways. A detailed report is provided, helping those that need to improve to put steps in place to protect the environment, and their reputations. Plastics NZ members get their first site audit for free.

Auckland Council's Healthy Waters team has supported Operation Clean Sweep in the Auckland area over the last few years. This has enabled a pilot offering free audits to logistics companies in the area that carry plastic raw materials. More recently they are supporting the development of educational materials, and free audits to a limited number of non-member plastics companies.

Recognising that plastics enter our waterways as products as well as raw materials, Plastics NZ are proud to run annual industry-led clean-up efforts. In 2023, our Operation Clean Up Week saw events held at five locations around the motu (country). With support from member companies, local communities, and non-profit organisation Sea Cleaners, a total of 12 cubic metres of rubbish was collected over the week!

OCS is undergoing a refresh and upgrade. We look forward to sharing more information about these exciting updates at our annual conference. Please contact Katy@plastics.org.nz to learn more about Operation Clean Sweep.





Plastics New Zealand thanks and acknowledges our Corporate Supplier Sponsors. These companies are more than just sponsors. They have chosen to support New Zealand's innovative plastics industry and are partners in the industry's continued expansion and success on a global level.

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- Primaplas
- Redox NZ

- Indis NZ
- Neo Polymers NZ
- Qenos eXsource



NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

H.C. URLWIN AND H.L LEWIS *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 4th November 1964. J.B (Brian) Williamson, National President.

J.D.M. FOREMAN *

At the Bi-Annual meeting held at Wairakei on 5th May 1969. J.H (Harry) Hobin, National President.

R. FAULCONBRIDGE *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 10th November 1971. A.O (Hap) Hawkins, National President.

J.N. HOBIN *

At the Bi-Annual meeting held at Waitangi on the 1st May 1972. W.R (Wal) Raine, National President.

H.G. CALVERT *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 1st November 1972. W.R (Wal) Raine, National President.

J.J. QUINN

At the Bi-Annual meeting held in Wairakei on the 28th April 1975. Barry Blackshaw, National President.

W.R. RAINE (FPRI) *

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on the 1st November 1978. Rob Poffley, National President.

M.S. CALVERT *

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 24th April 1989. Rob Mouncey, National President.

J.W.F. FOREMAN

At the Annual meeting held in Rotorua on 28th April 1990. Steve Wilson, National President.

A.O. HAWKINS *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on 22nd April 1994. John Tucker, National President.

R.J. CAVE

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on 22nd April 1994. John Tucker, National President.

SIR ROBERTSON STEWART *

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on 16th May 1996. Cam Moore, National President.

J.H. (HARRY) HOBIN

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on 16th May 1996. Cam Moore, National President.

K.J. (JOHN) TUCKER

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 14th May 1998. Laurie Cranfield, National President.

IAN RISTROM

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 14th May 1998. Laurie Cranfield, National President

COLIN MCGOWAN

At the Biennial Awards dinner held in Auckland on 11th October 2000. Geoff Bickerton National President.

CAM MOORE

At the formal dinner held at the 2001 Conference in Queenstown, on 17th May 2001. Geoff Bickerton National President.

JOHN RICHARDSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2001 Conference, Queenstown, on 17th May 2001. Geoff Bickerton National President.

MORRIS WATSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2002 conference Taupo, on 23rd May 2002. Geoff Bickerton National President.



NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

WARREN WILSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2003 conference, Wellington on 8th May 2003. Graeme Allan National President.

GEOFF BICKERTON

At the formal dinner held at the 2004 conference, Queenstown on 8th May. Graeme Allan National President

ROGER BOWLER

At the formal dinner held at the 2004 conference, Queenstown on 8th May. Graeme Allan National President

GRAEME ALLAN

At the formal dinner held at the 2005 conference, Rotorua on 21st May. Steve Wilson National President

LAURIE CRANFIELD *

At the formal dinner held at the 2005 conference, Rotorua on 21st May. Steve Wilson National President

TOM THOMSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2006 conference, Queenstown on 13th May. Steve Wilson National President

STEVE WILSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2007 Conference, Nelson on 12th May. David Brittain National President

STEVE HABERSHON

At the formal dinner held at the 2008 conference, Paihia on 17th May. David Brittain National President

DAVID BRITTAIN

At the 2009 Auckland Branch 50th Jubilee Dinner, Auckland on 19th June. Terry Mischefski National President

DENISE CHAPMAN

At the formal dinner at the 2010 Conference, Christchurch on 17 June. Terry Mischefski National President.

TONY MILLER

At the formal dinner at the 2010 Conference, Christchurch on 17 June. Terry Mischefski National President

TERRY MISCHESKI

At the formal dinner at the 2011 Conference, Rotorua on 5th May. Ray Pryor National President.

KEN SOWMAN

At the formal dinner at the 2012 Conference, Queenstown on 11th May. Ray Pryor National President.

NIGEL DONNE

At the formal dinner at the 2013 Conference, Wellington on 9th May. Eddie Devine (Jr) National President.

RAY PRYOR

At the formal dinner at the 2014 Conference, Queenstown on 9th May. Eddie Devine (Jr) National President.

EDDIE DEVINE (JR)

At the formal dinner at the 2016 Conference, Wellington on 20th May. Nigel Donne National President.

JOHN BENNETT

At the formal dinner at the 2019 Conference, Queenstown on 17th May. Mark Field National President.

MARK FIELD

At the formal dinner at the 2021 Conference, Wellington on 27th May. Murray Knight National President.

MURRAY KNIGHT

At the formal dinner at the 2023 Conference, Christchurch on 4th May. Abbie Watson National President.

*Deceased Members



NATIONAL PAST PRESIDENTS

1944 Inaugural Meeting H C Urlwin

1945	H.L.Lewis	Plastics Moulders (NZ)	1976	L.M.Belz	Plastic Products
1946	H.G.Calvert	Modern Plastics (NZ)	1977	R.A.Poffley	Clearlite Plastics (NZ)
1947-48	Unknown (minutes missing)		1978	M.S.Calvert	Calvert Plastics
1949	J.K.Scobie	NEECO (until 30/9/49)	1979-80	J.D.Mason	Winstone Plastics
1949	F.G.Davidson	Universal Mfg Corp HC Urlwin	1981	I.D.Ristrom	Maignuard Packaging
1950	J.D.Foreman	Plastic Products	1982	J.C.Gibb	Trigon Industries
1951	E.J.Mandel	General Plastics NZ	1983	J.C.Lindsay	Consolodated Plastic Industries
1952-53	R.Faulconbridge	Falcon Plastics	1984-85	G.W.Rothwell	WR Grace (NZ)
1954-55	T.E.Bower	ACI Plastic	1986	V.A.Hartvelt	Donaghys Industries
1956	C.E.Dowling	ICI NZ	1986-87	C.J.McGowan	Nylex NZ
1957	K.Fletcher	ACI Plastic	1987-88	R.I.Mouncey	Printpac Flexible Packaging
1958	J.N.Hobin	Clearlite Plastics (NZ)	1989-90	S.E.Wilson	Reese Plastics
1959	J.Quinn	General Plastics NZ	1990-92	J.Richardson	The Marley Co NZ
1960	J.D.Foreman	Plastic Products	1993-94	J.Tucker	CHH Plastic Products
1961	P.E.Hall	Kar Kraft Accessories	1995-96	C.Moore	Chequer Packaging
1962	A.G.Northover	Modern Plastics (NZ)	1997-98	L.Cranfield	Hunt Agencies
1963	J.B.Williamson	ACI Plastic	1999-2000	T.Thomson	Elastomer Products
1964	M.D.Cox	ICI NZ	2001-02	G.Bickerton	Marley New Zealand
1965	J.D.Bull	Associated British Cables	2003-04	G.Allan	Iplex Pipelines
1966	H.T.Nolan	Consolidated Plastic Industries	2005-06	S.E.Wilson	Talbot Plastics
1967	D.D.Reese	Reese Brothers Plastics	2007-08	D.Brittain	CAPAC International
1968	H.Hobin	Clearlite Plastics (NZ)	2009-10	T.Mischefski	Expol
1969	T.J.Short	Plastic Products	2011-12	R.Pryor	Millennium Plastics
1970	A.O.Hawkins	Maignuard Packaging	2013-14	E.Devine (Jr)	Simaplas
1971	W.R.Raine	Collin & Co	2015-16	N.Donne	PD Associations
1972	B.C.Wallace	AHI Plastic Extrusion	2017-20	M.Field	Elastomer Products
1973-74	B.Blackshaw	Optoplast	2021-22	M.Knight	Polymers International
1975	F.A.Farrow	Nylex Products NZ	2023-24	A. Watson	Wadding Solutions



ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

PLASTICS NZ TEAM

Rachel Barker CEO

Katy Constance Circular Economy Manager

Kelly Buchanan-Johns Membership Services Manager (Part time)

Judy Lambert Accounts Administrator (Part time)

Simon Wilkinson Operation Clean Sweep (Part time)

Bruce Dunlop Trade Consultant (Part time)

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PLASTICS NZ

NEW ZEALAND'S INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION