



Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe,

**Submission from Waikato District Council on the Proposed Product Stewardship Regulations: Agrichemicals, Their Containers, and Farm Plastics – Discussion Document**

Waikato District Council (Council) is a territorial authority for Waikato District, located in the northern part of the Waikato Region, situated between Auckland and Hamilton. We are a rural and provincial Council with a number of isolated rural communities spread across our district. We are a Council local authority that is focused on diversion from landfill and ensuring the protection of the environment, we believe that if implemented well, this proposed scheme will help to support these goals.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Proposed product stewardship regulations: Agrichemicals, their containers, and farm plastics discussion document.

Waikato District Council (WDC) support the adoption of Option 1 – introducing Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) regulations to establish an accredited mandatory product stewardship scheme for agrichemicals, their containers, and farm plastics.

We fundamentally support the principle that the full cost of a product should include its proper disposal. A mandatory scheme ensures greater accountability across the product lifecycle and provides a more consistent and effective approach to managing these waste streams.

In addition to the technical feedback provided directly in the survey tool, we recommend you consider the following activities to support effective change and implementation processes. These are reflective of the need to transition to a circular economy and complement the product stewardship scheme, including:

- a. Enhanced education and awareness campaigns to promote behaviour change among all stakeholders by encouraging sustainable practices and responsible disposal of agrichemicals and farm plastics.
- b. Improved support for residents in rural areas, recognising the logistical challenges associated with rural collections.
- c. Applying lessons learned from similar national programmes, such as Tyrewise, to inform the design and implementation of the proposed scheme.

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- d. Implementing sustained education initiatives alongside the rollout of any new scheme to ensure proper usage, participation, and long-term behaviour change.

We wish you well with your consultation process and look forward to your continued engagement on these important changes as we work towards delivering positive outcomes for our rural communities and environment.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the submission, please contact Ogechi Okoro, Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Officer [ogechi.okoro@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:ogechi.okoro@waidc.govt.nz).

Ngaa mihi,



**Jacqui Church**  
**Mayor**  
**Waikato District Council**