

**Government Response to
Report of the Environment Committee
on
The Briefing to Investigate Food Waste in New Zealand**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 252

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Introduction

1. The Government welcomes the Environment Committee's report on food waste in New Zealand.
2. The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 252.

Recommendations and Government response

3. **Recommendation 1:** "that the House and Government take note of the appended report about food waste in New Zealand, drafted by the committee's adviser, Associate Professor Miranda Miroso".
4. **Response:** the Government notes the report and commends it as a useful contribution to the research and analysis on the topic of food waste.
5. **Recommendation 2:** "that the Government adopt a national definition of and measure of food waste, in line with international approaches".
6. **Response:** the Government agrees with the recommendation to establish a definition and measure of food waste in New Zealand, and notes that developing a national food waste baseline is the first step in measuring food waste. The Ministry for the Environment intends to progress this recommendation as part of its broader programme of work to develop a new waste strategy for New Zealand, including a waste data framework.
7. **Recommendation 3:** "that the Government include reducing food waste with a reduction target as part of a national waste strategy and implementation plan".
8. **Response:** the Government agrees with the recommendation and intends to include a food waste reduction target as part of a new waste strategy for New Zealand. Work on this strategy is beginning shortly.