

Cook Islands Country Progress Presentation

1. Country priorities & likely topics for waste management

- for a Small Island State and a booming Tourism Industry (over 160k Tourist last year and increasing), waste is a mountainous issue, literally. Waste facility for Raro needs to be shut down but no land options for a new facility. It will create bigger issues.
- The outer Islands has an increasing e-waste & whiteware issue with the introduction of Renewable Energy, 24 hour power facility from Solar Power in the last 5 years, so the need to remove these, including whiteware, old machineries to mainland Raro is priority. Then figure out a way to export it.
- Pushing through our Solid Waste Bill to ban single use plastics and Advanced disposal fees. Hopefully in March 2020 parliament.
- Last year May 2019, an e-waste program was held for 2 weeks for leftover money the Environment Service received from Govt, as a continuance of the PacWaste program run a few years prior. Unfortunately, the money was not utilized the year before so Govt didn't think it was worth carrying on. So it was stopped.

2. Management of the 8 waste streams

- Infrastructure Cook Islands, in charge of Waste management handles all waste except E-waste, whiteware, and recyclables currently done by a Local Contractor but since it's a paid service, some people cant afford it and gets left on vacant lands. And Health waste are sorted by the Health department who has a specialized incinerator.

3. Challenges and limitations

- funding is always a limitation, as Govt prioritises on bigger projects i.e. water pipework, sanitation to mention a few.

4. Clarifications for PWP PMU – NA

5. Way forward

- getting the Waste Bill passed.
- progressing the initial discussions around the ISLANDS Program which started around last quarter 2019.
- preparatory work around maximizing Shipping that the CIs Govt is purchasing to service its Islands by getting all waste shipped for a reduced cost, minimal as possible, so these can be processed for exportation.
- in the current Environment Policy development, a framework to enable Cook Islanders to work together, share resources and rid or fully minimize our Waste issues highlighted.