



## **MINISTER OF FINANCE and MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT**

GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **VEHICLE POLICY REVIEW**

In May 2016, the National Environment Service approached the Budget Support Group with a proposal for ongoing vehicle disposal to address the growing number of vehicle wrecks in Rarotonga and the Pa Enua. MFEM agreed to work with NES on providing a long-term and practical solution.

The need for better and sustainable waste management is becoming more pressing for the Cook Islands. As we develop and prosper we are faced with increasing environmental challenges that need to be managed, in both the short and long term.

In managing environmental issues, such as waste, careful consideration is needed to ensure that solutions are both environmentally and economically sustainable.

The Cook Islands government is working towards developing solutions for motor vehicle disposal based on “polluter pays” principles, as laid out in the Cook Islands National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2013. This is an approach which aims to support motor vehicle disposal and will provide long-term disposal options for motor vehicle wrecks.

This scheme follows on from the current whiteware and e-waste disposal programmes, supported by the government of the Cook Islands, to receive and export waste for appropriate treatment and disposal.

In August 2016, NES and MFEM agreed on a way to sustainably fund the long term management of vehicle disposals. The two agencies are now focussed on changing import duties, vehicle registration fees, and disposal costs of different vehicle classes to suit the proposed disposal program.

The policy and administrative details are currently being developed, with public consultations to take place before the presentation of the final arrangements by the end of 2016.

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30 August 2016