

Table 24 Summary of what we know about the amount of plastic in Aotearoa New Zealand

		Tonnes/ year	Confidence	Source (year)	Partial data
IMPORT	Raw resin and plastic material	575,000	High	Statistics NZ (2018) ⁵⁸⁴	
	Finished products or packaged goods	?	?		Synthetic textiles – 13,000 tonnes (see Case Study 5.2.3)
EXPORT	Raw resin and plastic material	75,000	High	Statistics NZ (2018)	
	Finished products or packaged goods	?	?		
	Waste plastic	35,000	High	Statistics NZ (2018)	
IN USE	Packaging	150,000	Medium	Packaging NZ (2015) ⁵⁸⁵	Plastic drink bottles – 25,000 tonnes (see Case Study 5.5.4)
	Construction	?	?		350 m ² residential development – 80 kg mixed plastic waste (see Case Study 5.7.11)
	Agriculture	?	?		Waikato and BOP rural properties – 5900 tonnes wraps, covers, films; 1500 tonnes containers, drums (see Case Study 5.7.10)
	Other	?	?		
WASTE	Plastic collected for recycling	45,000	Medium	NRRT ⁵⁸⁶ (2018)	
	Plastic waste landfilled	380,000	Medium	Eunomia (2015) and Perrot et al. (2018) ⁵⁸⁷	
	Pre-consumer industrial waste	4,500	Medium~	Plastics NZ (2005) ⁵⁸⁸	
LEAKED INTO ENVIRONMENT	Marine litter	?	?		Sustainable Coastlines – average litter density of 411/1,000 m ² ⁵⁸⁹
	Land litter	?	?		Keep New Zealand Beautiful – average litter density 118/1,000 m ² ⁵⁹⁰

⁵⁸⁴ Harmonised trade data from Statistics NZ Infoshare

⁵⁸⁵ Estimates based on export waste and population/GDP data, not accounting for imported finished products, packaged goods, secondary and tertiary packaging

⁵⁸⁶ National Resource Recovery Taskforce estimates based on voluntary reporting

⁵⁸⁷ Conservative estimate for landfills based on data for class 1 landfills: 12% (Perrot et al. 2018) by tonnes (Eunomia Consulting)

⁵⁸⁸ Based on voluntary manufacturer surveys from 2005

⁵⁸⁹ Taken from litterintelligence.org as of 11 November 2019

⁵⁹⁰ Keep New Zealand Beautiful, "National Litter Audit", 2019