

BPWG Update

Best Practice Working Group, LCA NZ

Co-chairs: Kelly McClean and Adam Schofield

LCA NZ Life Cycle Association New Zealand

Introduction



1) About BPWVG

- Purpose
- Who is involved

2) Recent activity

- CE paper
- Govt consultation and submission process

3) Upcoming

- Plans for 2021
- Get involved

A screenshot of the LCANZ website's 'Best Practices' page. The page features a grid of article cards, each with a title, date, and a brief summary. The articles include: 'Submission to MfE Consultation: Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment' (dated 6 December 2020), 'Submission to MBIE Consultation: Building for Climate Change' (dated 12 October 2020), 'Future work: NZ-specific life cycle inventory datasets' (dated 24 September 2020), 'In development: EPD101 white paper' (dated 24 September 2020), 'In development: Member Case Studies relevant to 'LCT, LCA and transitioning to a Circular Economy' white paper' (dated 1 August 2020), 'Future work: Making Comparisons' (dated 24 September 2020), 'LCIA Recommended Indicators' (dated 1 March 2017), 'LCT, LCA and transitioning to a Circular Economy white paper' (dated 1 August 2020), 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (dated 1 January 2017), and 'Feasibility Study for a New Zealand Inventory Database' (dated 30 June 2015). The website header includes the LCANZ logo, navigation links (About Us, Members, LCA Guidance, LCA in Practice, Experts, Events, News), a search bar, and a 'Log in' button.

About BPWG



The purpose of the Best Practice Working Group (BPWG) is to **support LCA practitioners in New Zealand and business users.**

The group works to identify requirements for New Zealand specific LCA/LCM resources, and to facilitate their development.

BPWG welcome contributions from all members.

Current members:

- Kelly McClean (co-chair)
- Adam Schofield (co-chair)
- Joanne Duncan
- Gaya Gamage
- Kimberly Robertson
- Jeff Vickers
- Andrew Barber
- Shreyasi Majumdar

Recent activity



Previous BPWG work:

- Methodology advice and recommendations
- Description of Impact Categories and their relevance in the New Zealand context
- Recommended LCIA Indicators, midpoint indicators and calculation methods
- New Zealand Inventory Database (feasibility study)

2020 highlights

- 'LCT, LCA and Transitioning to a Circular Economy' paper published June 2020
- Submission 1 - MBIE Building for climate change embodied carbon consultation
- Submission 2 - MFE Moving away from hard-to-recycle and single use items consultation

Recent activity

‘LCT, LCA and Transitioning to a Circular Economy’ paper, June 2020



LCANZ
Life Cycle Association of New Zealand

June 2020

LCT, LCA and transitioning to a Circular Economy

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Circular Economy (CE) are complementary concepts that can help shape a more sustainable world. CE provides a strategic framework for closed-loop material flows and a gateway to LCT, whilst Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) complements CE by assessing environmental impacts, thus providing evidence critical for effective decision-making.

Interest from government and industry to transition Aotearoa New Zealand from a linear ‘take-make-use economy’ to a Circular Economy and improve our overall performance as a sustainable society has increased significantly in recent years.

The broad accessibility of CE is particularly positive as it is an easy concept for everyone to understand, however it is not well understood that life cycle thinking is a key foundation.

Transitioning to a Circular Economy presents a significant shift in sustainable practice where collaborative systems design is needed to identify opportunities to ‘close the loop’ and change back. This typically involves mapping material flows, supply chains and end-of-life pathways, which can drive change across multiple, connected organisations.

This mapping process instinctively uses a LCT approach. However, it is important to note that the CE scope is typically broader than a single product line.

In practice, this means aligning materials to either ‘biological’ or ‘technical’ cycles (diagram, pg 2), such as developing and scaling reusable models or utilising a waste stream as an input into the manufacturing process. Design for effective re-use, recycling or composting at the end-of-life should be core to product or service development, including consideration taken to maintain material quality and avoid ‘downcycling’. Mandatory product stewardship schemes proposed in NZ will benefit from both CE and LCA input at the design phase to help deliver successful outcomes.

CE is also influencing policy and strategic direction at the executive leadership and board level in New Zealand – impacting infrastructure investment, new business models, product redesign and sustainability reporting. New Zealand’s first CE Summit, organised by Sustainable Business Network and WasteMINZ, was held in 2018 and was followed by the Ellen McArthur Foundation and Ministry for the Environment’s Change Aotearoa Pacific Summit in 2019. In 2020, the economic response to the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to accelerate major infrastructure investment. The concepts of CE and LCT will be essential in helping to provide a framework to reshape the economy into a low-carbon and low-waste sustainable economy. Quantifying impact change over time is critical.

The New Zealand life cycle community has a key role to play in this transformation, to ensure that the best decisions are made system-wide. It is crucial that environmental impacts and burdens are not simply shifted but rather any potential trade-offs are identified. We need to help promote the importance of using LCA and LCT in decision-making, system design, and transition work towards a Circular Economy to realise reduced impacts across the economy and society.

LCT, LCA and Transitioning to a Circular Economy | June 2020 | LCANZ



LCT, LCA and CE at a glance

Linear economy vs **Circular economy**

Measuring Circularity

LCA and CE in New Zealand

Relevant resources

Acknowledgements

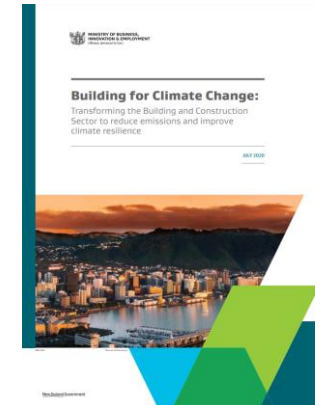
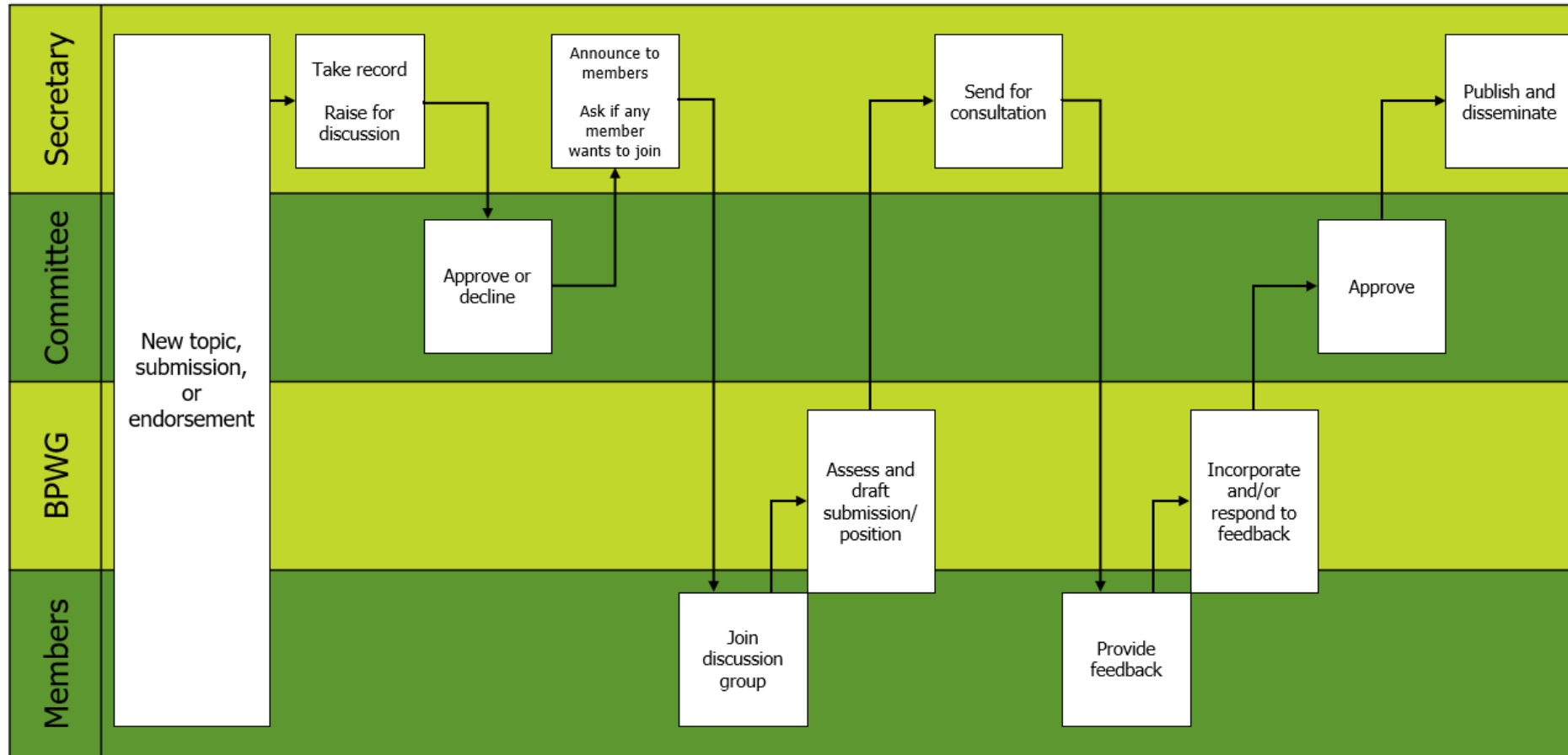
“The New Zealand life cycle community has a key role to play in this transformation, to ensure that the best decisions are made system-wide.

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Recent activity

Process for submissions, positions, or endorsements



Next steps



The image shows a screenshot of the LCANZ website. On the left, there is an article titled "LCA and Circular Economy" with a sub-header "The role of LCA in a Circular Economy". The article text discusses decoupling economic growth from resource consumption and mentions the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. On the right, there is a document cover for "Environmental Claims Guidelines" dated July 2020, published by the Commerce Commission New Zealand. The cover features an illustration of a street scene with shops like "The Greer Company", "Café Organic", and "Prime Meats Butcher".

1. CE paper opportunities/challenges & case studies
2. EPD 101 – share resources
3. Environmental/comparative claims guidance



Thank you!

LCANZ Life Cycle Association New Zealand