



# **AGENDA**

# Taranaki Solid Waste

Thursday 20 February 2020, 10.30am



**Date:** Thursday 20 February 2020, 10.30am

**Venue:** Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

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<b>Members</b>	Councillor N Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
	Councillor R Handley	New Plymouth District Council
	Councillor B Roach	South Taranaki District Council

<b>Apologies</b>	Councillor A Jamieson	Stratford District Council
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#### Notification of Late Items

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### **Membership of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

Neil Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
Alan Jamieson	Stratford District Council
Brian Roach	South Taranaki District Council
Richard Handley	New Plymouth District Council

### **Health and Safety Message**

#### **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the committee room by the kitchen.

If you require assistance to exit please see a staff member.

Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the birdcage. Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

#### **Earthquake**

If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible.

Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.



**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **Appointment of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2427754

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that the appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (if required) for the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee be made.

### **Executive summary**

2. The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee is able to appoint one if its members to act as the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the (Joint) Committee in accordance with Clause 30(9), schedule 7, Local Government Act 2002 as outlined below:

*This Part applies to a joint committee except that –*

- (a) *the powers to discharge any individual member and appoint another in his or her stead must be exercised by the local authority or public body that made the appointment; and*
  - (b) *the quorum at a meeting consists of –*
    - (i) *half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or*
    - (ii) *a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd; and*
    - (c) *the committee may appoint and remove its own chairperson or deputy chairperson*
3. Councillor N W Walker, Taranaki Regional Council, was appointed Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee in February 2017 and held that position until the local authority elections in October 2019.
  4. Councillor A Jamieson, Stratford District Council, was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee in February 2017 and held that position until the local authority elections in October 2019.

5. The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee was re-constituted by the administering authority, Taranaki Regional Council, in November 2019 after the local body elections.
6. As this is the first meeting of the Committee for the 2019-2022 triennial period, an election of a Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson is required.

## Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) receives this memorandum *Appointment of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson*
- b) appoints (name to be inserted here) as Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management (Joint) Committee
- c) considers the appointment of a Deputy Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management (Joint) Committee if required and appoints (name to be inserted here) as Deputy Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management (Joint) Committee
- d) agrees that the term of the appointment of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management (Joint) Committee be until the October 2022 local authority elections unless resolved otherwise or section 30(9) of the Local Government Act 2002 applies.

## Decision-making considerations

7. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

## Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

8. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

## Policy considerations

9. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* and the *Waste Minimisation Act 2008*.

## Iwi considerations

10. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-

term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

11. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.



**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **Confirmation of Minutes - 22 August 2019**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2425763

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### **Resolves**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held at NPDC Materials Recovery Facility, Colson Road Landfill, New Plymouth on Thursday 22 August 2019 at 10.35am
- b) notes that the minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held at NPDC Materials Recovery Facility, Colson Road Landfill, New Plymouth on Thursday 22 August 2019 at 10.35am were authenticated by the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee Chairperson, N W Walker and the Taranaki Regional Council Chief Executive, B G Chamberlain, pursuant to standing orders.
- c) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held at the NPDC Materials Recovery Facility, Colson Road Landfill, New Plymouth on Thursday 22 August 2019 at 10.35am, have been circulated to the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council for their receipt and information.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2315755: Minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee 22 August 2019



**Date** 22 August 2019, 10.35am  
**Venue:** NPDC Materials Recovery Facility, Colson Road Landfill, New Plymouth  
**Document:** 2315755

<b>Members</b>	Councillors	N Walker A Jamieson B Roach M Chong R Handley	(Chairperson, Taranaki Regional Council) (Stratford District Council) (South Taranaki District Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (New Plymouth District Council)
<b>Attending</b>	Councillor	D McIntyre Mr G Bedford Mrs H Gerrard Ms J Mack Mrs K Hope Mr D Miller Mrs V Araba Ms L Campbell Ms M Jensen	(Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (Taranaki Regional Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (South Taranaki District Council) (Stratford District Council) (Stratford District Council) (EnviroWaste)
<b>Apologies</b>	Mr Ms Mr Mr Ms Mr	D Langford H Lock-Ingham H Denton M Oien V Moyle R Simeon	(New Plymouth District Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (New Plymouth District Council) (Stratford District Council) (Hawera District Council) (EnviroWaste)

**Notification of Late Items**

Addendum to item 6 on coastal dump sites in Taranaki

**1. Minutes Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee - Thursday 30 May 2019**

**Resolved**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 10.45am



- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 10.45am, have been circulated to the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council for their receipt and information.  
Jamieson/Walker

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **2. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report**

- 2.1 Mrs K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum on significant activities undertaken by the RMO in collaboration with the district council officers, waste minimisation activities in the wider community and other matters of potential interest to the Committee.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) receives the memorandum *Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report* and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.  
Handley/Jamieson

## **3. Submission on: Proposed priority products and priority product stewardship scheme guidelines**

- 3.1 Mrs K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum advising Members that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has released a consultation document, "*Proposed priority products and priority product stewardship scheme guidelines*". Submissions are presently open and close at 5 pm on 4 October 2019.

### **Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) receives this memorandum  
b) instructs officers to prepare a draft submission on a discussion document, *Proposed priority products and priority product stewardship scheme guidelines*, for circulation and confirmation prior to submission, and provides guidance at today's meeting as to the nature of the submission.  
Chong/Walker

## **4. Regional Annual Education Plan**

- 4.1 Mrs K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum to present the 2019/2020 annual regional education strategy (the strategy) to the Committee. The

strategy is written and agreed upon annually by all three district councils in Taranaki as agreed in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plans. It covers waste minimisation related activities and campaigns in the three sectors; community, business and schools. The councils each distribute waste levy funds to support some of the initiatives outlined in the strategy.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) receives the memorandum *Regional Annual Education Plan* and notes the planned activities to be carried out by each of the three district councils in Taranaki.  
Roach/Jamieson

**5. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Annual KPI Summary**

- 5.1 Mrs K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, gave an overview of the annual data and established how each district is tracking towards its five-year targets outlined in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP). Previous data used to develop the WMMPs will provide a comparison and help to measure progress.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) receives the memorandum *Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Annual KPI Summary, August 2019* and notes the performance of the three District Councils.  
Walker/Roach

**6. Taranaki Regional Council waste minimisation and management activities in 2018/19**

- 6.1 Mrs H Gerrard, Taranaki Regional Council, spoke to the memorandum updating the Committee on a selection of the Taranaki Regional Council's activities relating to solid waste management during 2018/19 and spoke to the handout late item regarding historical coastal dump sites in Taranaki.

**Recommended**

THAT the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

- a) receives this memorandum and notes the waste management activities of the Taranaki Regional Council.  
Handley/Jamieson

**7. NPDC Kerbside Collection**

- 7.1 Mrs K Hope, New Plymouth District Council, provided the Committee with an update on the New Plymouth District Council Kerbside collection.

**8. EnviroWaste - Regional Solid Waste Services Contract Update**

- 8.1 Ms M Jensen, EnviroWaste, provided the Committee with an update on the Regional Solid Waste Services Contract.

There being no further business, Committee Chairperson, Councillor N Walker (Taranaki Regional Council) declared the meeting of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee closed at 12.10pm.

**Minutes authenticated pursuant to Model Standing Orders**

**Taranaki Solid Waste**

**Management Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_  
N W Walker

**Taranaki Regional Council**

**Chief Executive:** \_\_\_\_\_  
B G Chamberlain



**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **Regional Waste Minimisation Officer Report**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2425715

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to receive and note the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

### **Discussion**

2. A New Plymouth District Council memorandum from Jessica Dearden, Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, is attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2425712: NPDC memorandum Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report



## **Agenda Memorandum**

**Date:** 10th February 2020

### **Memorandum to Chairperson and Members Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

#### **SUBJECT: REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

**October 2019 - February 2020**

ECM8236865

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO), in collaboration with the district council officers of NPDC, STDC and SDC. Since the last meeting of the Committee held on 30 May 2019 there has been a transition period between the resignation of Harriet Lock-Ingham and the employment of the New RWMO Jessica Dearden who started in October 2019.

This report provides information on activities in the wider community, and matters of potential interest to the Committee from October 2019 – February 2020.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

1. Receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

#### **Education/community activities**

The focus for education and behaviour change in the region this year is **Reuse**. Where possible, any regional campaigns will use this theme to create more of a shift to the top end of the waste hierarchy. It also ties in with the opening of *The Junction Zero Waste Hub* in March 2020, which will have a reuse shop and drop off area as well as interactive education on how to work towards Zero Waste.

## School/Higher Education Engagement

### Schools Brochure Upgrade - \*NPDC\*

The RWMO and NPDC Zero Waste Education Officer are updating the “Waste Minimisation for Schools” brochure with Zero Waste Taranaki branding and content to replace the previous “We Can be waste heroes” brochure. The brochure design is being finalised and will be ready for distribution to schools across Taranaki in March.



### WITT Science & Technology Fair Awards - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\*

Last year the RWMO, NPDC and STDC Waste Minimisation Officers were invited to judge at the annual WITT Science and Technology Fair. NPDC provided two special prizes for “The most innovative projects that contributed towards achieving a zero waste region”. STDC will join the list of prize givers in 2020. We as a region will continue to push for excellence and provide more interaction with schools to raise the profile of these sponsored prizes.

### Sustainable menstruation education for young women, “the cups revolution” - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

All three district’s WMO’s along with the NPDC Zero Waste Education Officer have been working on sustainable period education for girls in schools in the region. Workshops will be provided by *Waste Free with Kate* who has also provided the very successful Waste Free Parenting and Food Lovers Master Class workshops in the region for a number of years. This links directly to waste reduction by providing a reusable menstrual cup to replace disposal products.

In New Zealand 1,260,420 women dispose of an average of 347,875,920 tampons per year into our landfills, which equates to 4,974.6 tonnes of menstrual waste per year that goes into landfill. Over the lifetime of all menstruating women (38 years) 189 063 tonnes would be going to landfill.

If these women were to use a menstrual cup they would produce 2.356 kg of menstrual waste per year which equates to a total tonnage of 78.15 tonnes over the lifetime of disposing of cups into landfill over 38 years.

The workshops will be provided at schools throughout the region and each school will be supplied with 100 free cups. The aim is to make it easy and affordable for girls to make the switch and provides a clean, hygienic and affordable option long term. Menstrual cups can be used for many years so the cost is minimal.

Rochelle Searle from *Waste Free with Kate* will be leading these workshops in our three districts in May as part of council Waste Levy funding and community education budgets.

### Sustainable lunches back to school - February/March - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

As a region the three districts are creating a back to school competition focused on reuse, aimed at young people in primary and secondary schools over the next month. The competition asks students to make lunch in a sustainable way, photograph it and then upload it to our Zero Waste Taranaki website blog. The best submissions will be judged weekly and prizes of aluminium water bottles and lunch boxes will be given away. This is a great way to support and promote behaviour change to not create waste in the first place.



## Community Engagement

### November 2019 Waste levy contestable fund - \*NPDC\*

Funding of local waste minimisation projects in the community using part of NPDC's waste levy allocation is considered annually after the receipt of applications. Other applications may be received during the year and considered on a case by case basis if there is sufficient funding left over.

Key criteria for allocating waste levy funding include consideration of:

1. The benefits of a proposal in relation to the present and future needs of the district.
2. The extent to which the benefits of the proposal are public or private.
3. The extent to which a proposal contributes to the objectives and policies set out in the WMMP.
4. The cost of the proposal including funding sources.
5. The effects of the proposal on waste minimisation of any existing waste minimisation services, facilities or activities, either provided by the Council or by others.

New Plymouth District Council received and supported two applications in this first round 2019, New Plymouth Play Centre and Precious Plastics.

The Playcentre would like to move away from using paper towels for adults and children to dry their hands. The proposal is to move towards a more sustainable cloth system by reducing and reusing, which is highest in the waste hierarchy.

The second project works towards raising awareness about single use plastics which relates to the Plastic Free July project. Precious Plastics has a passion for this project with the end-goal set out over phases to eliminate our wasteful use of single-use plastic packaging.

As a region we are aiming to have consistency in how we consider our applications for waste levy funding. The RWMO is creating a new application form and process for considering applications. This is in development and will be ready for the NPDC May 2020 funding round. SDC and STDC will also be streamlining their waste levy process.

### Sustainable gift wrapping - November/December 2019 - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

A regional campaign with a sustainable wrapping theme was promoted for the festive period. Suitable wrapping was sourced and wrapping stations set up to promote reuse and waste reduction.

Our Zero Waste Taranaki radio jingle was also played from December to January 2020 and Christmas tips for recycling promoted on the NPDC website and social media.





Love Food Hate Waste (National WasteMINZ Annual Campaign) - November/December - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

In November and December 2019 the region promoted the national #COMPLEAT campaign which encourages people to eat all of their food from stalks and stems to bread crusts and apple peels. All three district advertised and promoted the campaign through social media.

Kiwis throw away over 7,000 tonnes of potato peels every year to landfill! WasteMINZ polled people on Facebook over a weekend asking would you be willing to eat mashed potatoes with the skin on to reduce food waste and do your bit for climate change. One thousand four hundred and seventy nine people took part in the poll, but only 61% were willing to use the skins.

It is clear that there is still a lot of work to raise awareness of the issue of food waste and the fact that small changes do matter. If you would like resources to run the *Compleat* campaign in your workplace or for social media, please contact the RWMO.



New Plymouth District Council  
18 November 2019 · 🌐

Storing avocados with bananas can help them ripen up, but the same process can spoil other fruit 🥑🍌🍎  
Do you have any other handy food storage tips??  
Check out Love Food Hate Waste - New Zealand if you need some!

**LOVE FOOD but HATE WASTE?**  
Here are some simple tips to help you save money and waste less food

	STORAGE	IDEAS FOR LEFTOVERS
<b>BREAD</b>	Store in your fridge or freezer	Croissants, breadcrumbs, bread & butter pudding
<b>POTATOES</b>	Store in a dark place away from onions	Hash browns, fritatas, shepherd's pie, casseroles
<b>APPLES</b>	Store in the fridge	Stewed apples, apple crumble, apple sauce
<b>BANANAS</b>	Store out of the fridge Peel, cut & freeze ripe bananas	Use frozen bananas in smoothies and baking
<b>CARROTS</b>	Store in the fridge in a container lined with a paper towel to absorb moisture	Carrot cake, fritters, soup, casseroles

**DID YOU KNOW?** Bananas produce a gas called ethylene, which is what helps them ripen. When stored next to other fruits or vegetables, this gas can make them ripen too quickly.

👍 27      3 comments 5 shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share



Spring and Summer: Love Food Hate Waste Easy Choice Recipe Books - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

The three districts continue to support the Love Food Hate Waste initiative through the distribution of the "Easy Choice Recipe Books".

The RWMO has been working with the Resource Coordinator at Taranaki District Health Board to distribute the Easy Choice recipe booklets to community groups, schools and kindergartens. Spring and summer recipe books (200 of each) have been provided to Taranaki District Health Board, following the successful distribution of winter and autumn books last year.

The recipe booklets can be downloaded from the Love Food Hate Waste website.

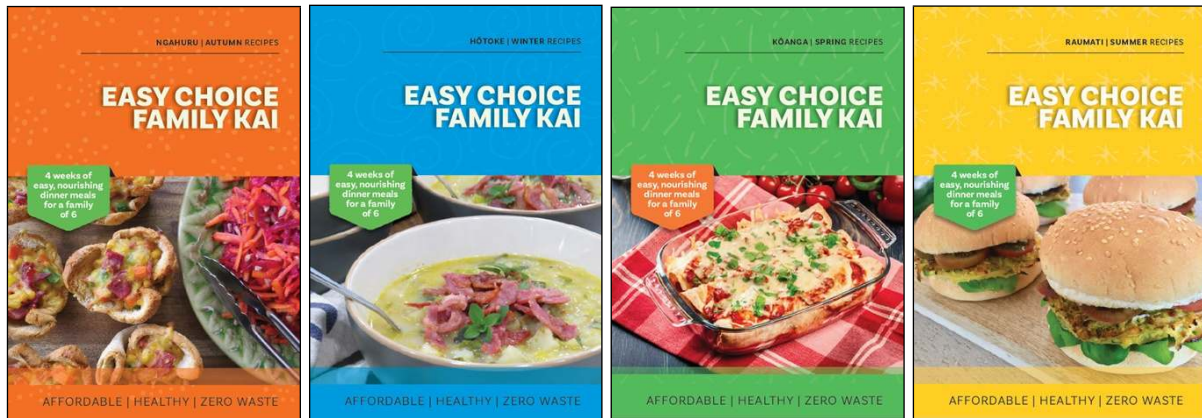


Figure 4. Easy Choice recipe book covers

**Recycling Contamination Media Campaign - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\***

With the ongoing high recycling contamination rates (>20%) a regular awareness campaign continues to cut down contamination. Non-recyclable materials continue to cause issues at the recycling facility and have a big impact on processing costs which will have a knock on effect to rate payers. The next campaign will focus again on 'keeping it clean' and expanding into various target audiences by developing content and blogs through our Zero Waste Taranaki site, and looking into alternative information outlets such as billboards and google ads.

NPDC have been promoting the recycling app after improvements were made as part of the new kerbside service roll out in September 2019. The RWMO updates the search lists for the app regularly.



**For more information**  
visit our website: [newplymouthnz.com/Recycling](http://newplymouthnz.com/Recycling)

**Download our app!**

- See which bins go out each week.
- Set reminders for which bins to put out.
- Check the Recycling Guide for what's recyclable.

**How to download:**

1. Our app is available on the App store and on Google Play.
2. Search for "NPDC Recycling & Rubbish" and install the app.
3. Fire up the app and enter your address.



**Public Place Recycling - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\***

The public place recycling trial taking place at sites across the New Plymouth District has been operational for nearly a year. The data from last year's audit will feed into a review of future site suitability for the bins across New Plymouth and eventually Taranaki wide. The RWMO will be working with Parks to develop and improve this. STDC are keen to model the system NPDC has in place.

**Para Kore Regional Meeting - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\***

All three district councils continue to support Para Kore with annual funding. The RWMO and representatives from STDC and SDC met with our regional Para Kore representative in November to discuss and review annual activities that our funding had supported in the last 12 months.

Let's compost - \*NPDC\*

New Plymouth District Council has been supporting Barbara Hammonds and her composting workshops since 2018. The workshops have been very successful and feedback received pre and post workshop through surveys suggests that those people who engaged with the workshops have in some way changed their behaviour towards composting and diverted around 3.5 tonnes of food waste annually from landfill which is a great result.

STDC are looking at organic waste diversion through supporting a local business out of Whanganui called *Easy Earth* on a trial basis. The service provides food waste collection for local businesses which is composted in a purpose build facility in Whanganui (funded through the national waste levy contestable fund). SDC are considering a composting option within their district in 2020/2021.

**Three workshops run**

Hosts: Brooklands Kindergarten, Kaitake Kindergarten, Devon Kindergarten

**Number of households attending**

41

**Subsidised bins purchased**

14 Bokashi

1 Compost bin

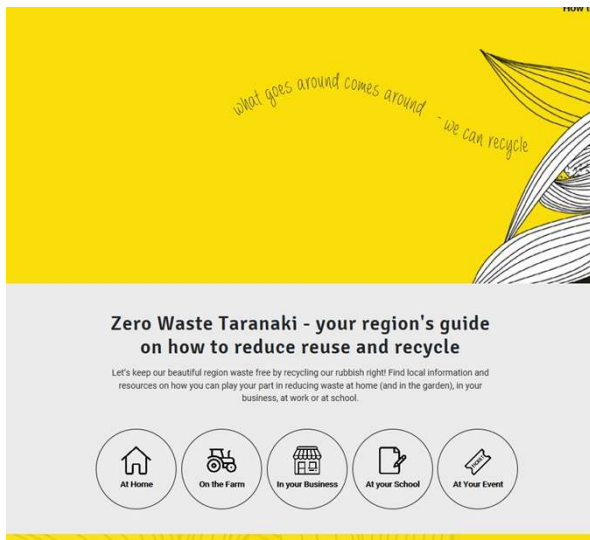


**ORGANIC WASTE DIVERSION  
PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**

OCTOBER 2019

Zero Waste Taranaki regional website - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

The Regional WMO continues to work with all three district councils to develop and update content for the Zero Waste Taranaki regional website. This is in progress and is a focus from March.



The RWMO has been busy putting in place waste minimisation support and funding opportunities for public events within the community. Interest in zero waste events has increased since the introduction of the Toitupu Toiora bin infrastructure was created last summer and launched at the Festival of the Lights and the Toto concert.

Waste minimisation needs to be a priority when planning public events and will have to be considered in any new events from September 2020 as a requirement under the NPDC Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw. To make this transition as streamlined as possible the RWMO has been reviewing and streamlining the process this summer for a number of events.

**EVENTS: 2019**

- Inglewood- Taranaki Tui Mai (3,000 Pax)
- Waitara – Puanga Festival (3 days 5,000-8,000)) Expanding in 2020 to 5 days.

**EVENTS: 2020**

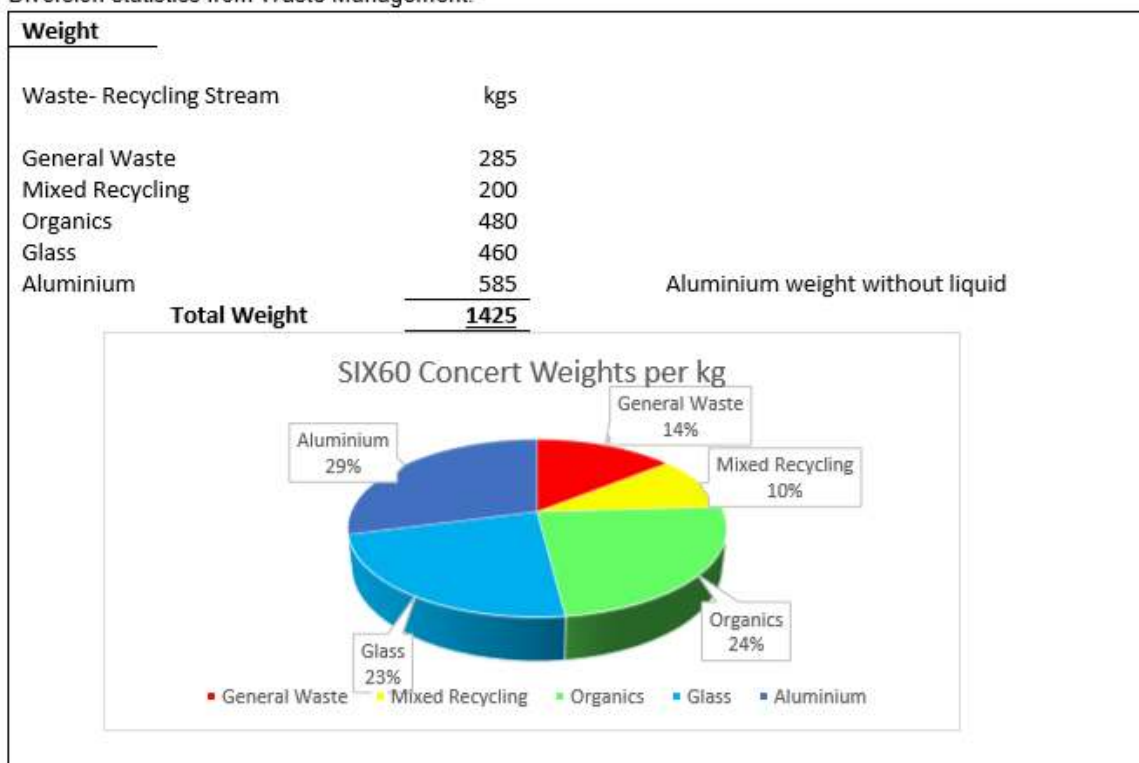
- Breakers Basketball – TSB (3,000 PAX)
- Six60 – Bowl of Brooklands – (15,000 PAX)
- Ben Harper (12,000 – 15,000 PAX)
- Americana: Inglewood, Waitara, New Plymouth(20,000 Pax)
- St Pius School Gala day (2,000 PAX)
- WOMAD (40,000 PAX)



The Six60 concert at the Bowl of Brooklands was held on 1 February 2020 and implemented a best practice Zero Waste approach utilising the Toitupu Toiora infrastructure, reusable cups, compostable food containers and Zero Waste volunteers to sort waste throughout the event and during clean up afterwards. The concert successfully diverted 86% of event waste from the landfill which is a great result considering the size of the event which was sold out.

The RWMO and NPDC Zero Waste Education Officer worked closely with the NPDC venues team to assist with Zero Waste aspects of the event and volunteers from Pukekura Tennis Club worked hard to make the Zero Waste stations successful.

Diversion statistics from Waste Management.



Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee - Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report  
 As a region we aim to support public events in minimising or reducing waste by at least 50%. Guidance has been written by the RWMO based on research around practices in other regions. Continued reflection on our practice and behaviour is essential for us to have an impact on waste disposal regionally at our public events.

Currently the following support for events can be provided to event organisers:

- Funding the collection and disposal of waste, recycling and organics at local events.
- Providing bin infrastructure (bin wraps and lids).
- Advice i.e. site planning, health and safety.
- Providing support on how to minimise waste.
- Suggesting how to facilitate sorting stations and waste volunteers/ambassadors.

The following improvements are in development for 2020/2021:

- New bilingual signage aligned nationally (WasteMINZ).
- Relabelling and updated wording/signage.
- Further developing a Zero Waste Event application process and advertising the service regionally. This includes a new form and the establishment of a rental / bond process within NPDC (completed), with plans to expand the process to STDC and SDC who already have event bin infrastructure.
- Establishing an Event Information page on Zero Waste Taranaki website.
- Toitupu Toiora branding style guide.
- Volunteer management - volunteers are needed to run larger events as the sorting of waste streams is essential for achieving higher rates of diversion from landfill.
- Use of auditing results and event reports to support further waste minimisation and process improvements.



**Para  
Rubbish**

Public events online application form **\*NPDC\***



**New Plymouth  
District Council**



**FORM**  
Event Waste Management  
and Minimisation Plan  
funding application

10:1 Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019

Complete this form to apply for New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) Zero Waste funding for a public event. Please refer to the waste event guide on our Zero Waste website or contact the Resource Recovery Team at NPDC for assistance when filling out this form.

The aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from your event by 50% or more by putting in place compostable, glass and recycling stations at your event.

The Resource Recovery Team will contact you once your application has been submitted. The approval process will take a minimum of 15 working days. If your plan meets NPDC guidelines funding for waste management collection and disposal may be approved by NPDC.

**Bond payment**

A bond of \$100 is required to be paid when this application is submitted to ensure the return of Zero Waste lids and wraps. Bond paid

**1. Event organiser details**

1a. Name of organisation

1b. Contact person

1c. Contact details

	Work	Home	Mobile
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1d. Email

**2. Event details**

Waste Free With Kate May and September 2020 - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\*

Waste Free Living, Parenting and Food Lovers Masterclass workshops are coming up in New Plymouth and Hawera for 2020. The RWMO and STDC Waste Minimisation Officer are facilitating these workshops with Kate Meads through waste levy funding.

Work shop	Date	Venue	Facilitator
Waste free living	13 May 2020 6pm	TSB Hub	Kate Meads
Master classes	14 May 6.30pm	NPDC Council chambers	Kate Meads
Parenting	15 May 10am	NPDC Council chambers	Kate Meads
Master classes	3 September 6.30pm	NPDC Council chambers	Kate Meads
Parenting	4 September 10am	NPDC Council chambers	Kate Meads

Submission to Ministry of Environment on proposed changes to Landfill Waste Levy, February 2020 - \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

From November 2019 to February 2020 the RWMO worked on the submission to the Ministry of Environment on behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC). The submission represents views from Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), New Plymouth (NPDC), Stratford (SDC) and South Taranaki District Councils (STDC). More information and the submission is provided in a separate memo.

The Truth about Plastic Recycling in Aotearoa New Zealand 2020 – \*NPDC\* \*STDC\* \*SDC\*

In ground-breaking research, a national audit<sup>1</sup> has been carried out on the plastic containers in New Zealanders' rubbish and recycling bins. The findings were released in late January in a report: "The Truth about Plastic Recycling in Aotearoa New Zealand 2020".

Initiated by [WasteMINZ's Territorial Authorities' Officers Forum](#) the report has found that in household rubbish and recycling:

- Kiwi households throw out a staggering 1.76 billion plastic containers per year.
- The most common item being disposed of to either recycling or rubbish bins is the single-use drink bottle - 188 per household per year.
- An estimated 97 million plastic drink and milk bottles that could potentially be recycled go straight to landfill.
- 39 per cent (by weight) of household plastic bottles and containers that have the potential to be recycled go to a landfill.

**How can we increase the quantity and quality of plastic recycling?**

The Truth About Plastic report identifies several actions for manufacturers, councils and individuals and recommends the following behaviour changes:

Councils: WasteMINZ has begun a programme of work with recyclers and councils to agree on standardising what recyclable materials are collected nationally from the kerbside. Councils who do not currently accept plastic 5 are encouraged to investigate how plastic 5 could be separated out at their recycling facility, as it can be recycled onshore.

<sup>1</sup> 867 households in 8 locations around New Zealand had their rubbish and recycling analysed with the results extrapolated to provide national figures.

**Manufacturers:** The report identified that as a minimum, manufacturers should include a visible plastic identification code on all plastic packaging. However, they are encouraged to go beyond this and adopt evidence-based recycling labels such as the Australasian Recycling Label to provide Kiwis with clear information on the recyclability of packaging. Manufacturers could also ensure the recyclability of their product by switching to plastics 1, 2 and 5.

**Individuals:** There are a number of actions individuals can take:

- Reduce your overall plastic consumption and choose not to buy items packaged in plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 such as biscuit and cracker trays, tomato sauce bottles and soft plastics.
- Take a reusable coffee cup and water bottle when out.
- Some stores allow you to bring refillable containers for meat and delicatessen purchases, whilst others allow you to refill shampoo and cleaning products.

The research has informed the development of some infographics (see below) and a media pack to enable the report findings to be easily communicated and encourage further action to improve the options for plastic recycling which have become extremely limited with the international market of 3-7 plastics becoming unavailable. There are opportunities to use this information within Taranaki within our education and behaviour change programmes as well as support national initiatives that will drive manufacturers to change their packaging and improve consistency in recycling across New Zealand.



Figure 1 One years' worth of plastics 1-7





Prepared by

Jessica Dearden

*REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER  
New Plymouth District Council*





**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **Kellogg Rural Leadership - Trish Rankin**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2425562

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce Trish Rankin and the research that she has undertaken relating to farm waste and the circular economy.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the presentation by Trish Rankin "What a Waste! – My Story" Improve Farm Waste & Journey towards a Circular Economy

### **Background**

2. The four Taranaki councils supported Ms Rankin in undertaking the Kellogg's Rural Leadership Programme. Her research considered rural waste management. Regular updates have been received by this committee in previous agenda memorandums (specifically the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer Reports).

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.



**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **TSWMC Regional Submission on Landfill Levy February 2020**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2425755

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Members that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) had released a consultation document, Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy. Submissions were open up until 3 February 2020. A draft submission was circulated to the Members of this Committee.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives and notes the final submission to MfE on behalf of the TSWMC.

### **Discussion**

2. The submission and a covering memorandum are attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

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### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2425773: Memorandum MfE Consultation - Proposed Changes to Landfill Waste Levy

Document 2425773: Submission on the Proposed Reducing Waste: A More Effective Landfill Levy



When replying please quote: 8236818

Date: 11 February 2020

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

**SUBJECT: MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO LANDFILL WASTE LEVY**

**Background**

Under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, a waste levy of \$10 per tonne is applied to every tonne of waste disposed to landfill. This levy is collected by Central Government and used to fund waste minimisation projects through a national contestable fund and returning an allocation to territorial authorities.

Ministry for the Environment called for submissions between November 2019 and February 2020 on a proposal to the increase on the landfill waste levy, and expand its application to include a wider range of landfills (it currently applies to Class 1 municipal landfills).

It is acknowledged that New Zealand has a waste problem. We lag behind other countries in our reuse and recycling rates, and are disposing of more and more waste into landfill. We have one of the highest rates of per capita waste production in the developed world. The waste levy is one of the most effective options for improving our waste problem.

The table below summarises the options proposed:

**Table 1: Landfill types and levy options**

Landfill types	Options (all figures are GST exclusive)			
	A (Increase then expand)	B (Expand and increase)	C (Expand then increase)	D (Expand then higher increase)
Municipal landfills (class 1)	\$20 1 July 2020	\$20 1 July 2021	\$30 1 July 2022	\$30 1 July 2022
	\$30 1 July 2021	\$30 1 July 2022	\$50 1 July 2023	\$60 1 July 2023
	\$50 1 July 2022	\$50 1 July 2023		
Industrial monofills (class 1)	\$20 1 July 2021	\$20 1 July 2021	\$10 1 July 2021	\$10 1 July 2021
Construction and demolition fills (class 2)			\$20 1 July 2023	\$20 1 July 2022
Contaminated soils and inert materials (managed and controlled fill sites; class 3 & 4)	\$10 1 July 2023	\$10 1 July 2023	\$10 1 July 2023	\$10 1 July 2023

More information and the consultation document can be reviewed at <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/landfill-levy>.

**Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee submission**

Council officers have been working over the last two months to bring together a submission on the proposed levy changes on behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee. We have also provided input into a national submission on behalf of all Territorial Authorities through WasteMINZ and much of our Taranaki submission is consistent with the national WasteMINZ TA submission.

The submission was circulated to the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee in late January and was successfully submitted to the Ministry for the Environment on 3 February 2020. The final submission is attached (NPDC Ref: ECM8229876).

Kimberley Hope  
MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY



When replying please quote: 8229876

Date: 3 February 2020

To: Ministry for the Environment (MFE)

**SUBJECT: SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED REDUCING WASTE: A MORE EFFECTIVE LANDFILL LEVY**

On behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC) provides oversight on waste management and minimisation issues within the Taranaki Region and is represented by Councillors from Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), New Plymouth (NPDC), Stratford (SDC) and South Taranaki District Councils (STDC).

We thank the Ministry for the Environment (MFE) for the opportunity to provide feedback and be part of the consultation process. Our submission is based on a region-wide perspective for Taranaki, with input from the regional and district councils noted above. We have collaborated with WasteMINZ Territorial Authority Forum (TA Forum) as a strategic working party on the proposed centralised options MFE proposes. Waste officers regionally have contributed feedback on the MFE consultation document and the proposed changes to increase the landfill levy rates and to apply it to more types of waste.

Overall we support the proposed changes in the MFE consultation document on 'Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy'. We support steps to transition New Zealand toward a circular economy which aligns with international best practice strategy on waste disposal, management and minimisation.

We acknowledge that waste management and avenues to minimise waste are a huge concern in New Zealand, which needs to be addressed at local, regional and national levels. The proposed expansion and increase of the landfill levy shows a clear signal from central government that the current levy system does not sufficiently account for the impact of waste on our environment.

We recognise that disposal to landfills is increasing and does not represent a sustainable use of natural resources. New Zealand's waste disposal levy is currently one of the lowest in the world and it can be argued that it is narrowly applied, as such it does not effectively incentivise waste recovery or waste reduction.

Currently due to the low levy landfilling is cheaper than more longer term sustainable alternatives like municipal organics and recycling collection and processing, despite the net environmental benefit that composting and recycling offers in reducing greenhouse gas



emissions, encouraging reuse and providing nutrients back to the soil, while diverting materials from landfill where it cannot provide any further benefit. We believe the proposed levy changes will incentivise and promote investment in alternate waste minimisation strategies and infrastructure addressing the growing concerns about high rates of waste disposal to landfill, and allow councils to increase their focus on complementary local options and behaviour change education in regard to disposal of waste.

The Taranaki region is an advocate for change and is committed to working towards zero waste as a community. This change can be assisted by a more effective and balanced collection and use of landfill levy at national level. Our region supports the product stewardship proposal as per our previous submission. In the past our region has focused on the recycle, treat and dispose end of the waste hierarchy. Over the last three years we have been transitioning to focus more on avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle and a much more circular system of waste management. Our three pronged approach to achieving this uses policy, infrastructure and behaviour change education. This will be strengthened and more successful with central government support and funding from an increased levy. It also requires more meaningful implementation of multiple product stewardship schemes than the present and previous governments have delivered to date.

In New Zealand waste disposal is becoming an increasing issue due to the recent collapse of international recycling markets. Thus making it less possible to send our waste products overseas, placing increasing restrictions on effective waste management regionally and nationally. Limited waste data presents us with difficulties in identifying opportunities for innovation, and creating new markets and infrastructure investment opportunities. Increased funding would be welcomed to support this area.

It is important to note that the collection, communication and processing of data should be managed and a reasonable timeframe provided to set up the infrastructure to allow landfill levy changes to be effective. Review and further research will be required to determine if the levy increase has been effective and has not resulted in any perverse or unexpected outcomes. A pragmatic approach to this levy is encouraged.

The proposed changes to the waste levy could impact on and be impacted by existing legislation, therefore it is important that there is alignment across the legislation to avoid unintended consequences or perverse outcomes. In particular, the Litter Act, ETS Trading Scheme, Zero Carbon Act and RMA may all be affected by and affect changes to the waste levy. To enable an increase to the levy to be most effective, alternatives to disposal must be readily available and easily accessible for communities.

We look forward to future consultation processes to incorporate the proposed amendments into relevant statutes and into effect, and would welcome the opportunity to comment on any issues explored during their development.





## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

***Do you agree the current situation of increasing amounts of waste going to landfill needs to change?***

Yes.

***Do you have any comments on the preliminary Review of the effectiveness of the waste disposal levy outlined in appendix A?***

Yes, we agree that the indicated increase of waste to landfill over the last decade is a cause for concern and needs to change. Both local and central government recognise the need to move to a circular economy to ensure that valuable resources are recycled and reused effectively as our current consumption patterns are unsustainable and landfill disposal is currently often the cheapest option.

Our region has in place goals for working towards zero waste. The levy as an economic instrument provides funding for waste minimisation activities and infrastructure and if set at a higher rate can make reuse and recycling viable financial alternatives to landfilling.

At present we are operating in an economy where we do not pay the true environmental price for our actions. Our current model of TAKE – MAKE - USE – DISPOSE does nothing to incentivise waste prevention as we know that when our economy does better our waste to landfill increases. There needs to be incentives in place to drive waste prevention and better support of reuse, recycling and recovery of waste within New Zealand rather than sending it offshore. Supporting a suite of complimentary systems, such as mandatory product stewardship, behaviour change education, infrastructure and data collection, as well as increasing and expanding the levy beyond \$10 per tonne will help to eliminate and divert materials being wasted. The review of the effectiveness of the waste disposal levy highlights the lack of robust data available and the need to collect more data from a wider range of waste disposal classes in order to (a) quantify waste disposal and (b) encourage waste reduction.

***Do you think the landfill levy needs to be progressively increased to higher rates in the future (beyond 2023)?***

Yes, we also agree that the landfill levy should be progressively increased to a point where the price differential between landfilling and recycling or other methods of diversion is eliminated and landfilling becomes the most expensive option for all waste types. A significant progressive increase to the proposed levy, alongside the expansion across landfill classifications, will better support the purpose of the levy under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA), raising vital revenue for infrastructure and waste minimisation activities and signalling the true costs of disposal and product design choices to producers and manufacturers. In particular, construction and demolition waste and organics are significant contributors to landfill waste and alternative options and technologies such as composting, reuse and minimisation already exist, but need to be better incentivised.



**Do you support expanding the landfill levy to more landfills, including:**

- i. waste disposed of at industrial monofills (class 1)**
- ii. non-hazardous construction, demolition waste (e.g., rubble, concrete, plasterboard, timber) (class 2)**
- iii. contaminated soils and inert materials (class 3 and 4) (whether requiring restrictions on future use of site or not)?**

We support extending the landfill levy to class 1-4 landfills, however we would like to note the following, incorporating our regional view from both district (a waste minimisation focus) and regional council (environmental effects) perspectives.

- Diversion and minimisation opportunities exist for all these classes of landfills and extending the levy would reduce the risk of unintended consequences such as waste being disposed of inappropriately to avoid a levy. Where diversion options don't currently exist, applying the levy will create additional diversion options and encourage innovative thinking around process change to avoid creating the waste in the first place.
- The consultation document notes the purpose of the levy is stated as being a tool for minimising waste with four objectives:
  - better reflects the full social and environmental costs of disposing of waste to landfill
  - provide incentives to reduce waste
  - make alternatives such as recycling more commercially viable
  - raise revenue that can be invested in modern resource recovery infrastructure, services and other waste diversion initiatives.

There does need to be consideration of the how the objectives apply to Class 3 and 4 landfills. It is important that minimisation of wastes currently disposed in Class 3 and 4 landfills is incentivised and the levy is one tool that can be utilised to facilitate this. However, as the end environmental costs of this form of disposal are likely to be low, the timing and value of the levy will be key in enabling operators to put in mechanisms to comply with levy requirements and reduce perverse outcomes such as inappropriate disposal.

- We would like to ensure that the implementation of a levy does not result in positive activities reducing or in the options for disposal/diversion being more limited due to current operators leaving the market and higher costs falling on ratepayers for unavoidable and necessary activities. In the rural context inert fill material is useful for improving land and remediating sites (e.g. filling in quarries).
- The consultation document recognises that existing data on class 3 and 4 landfills is poor. By applying a levy, data collection and further research can be undertaken to fully understand these activities, the specific nature and environmental outcomes for those waste streams, related activities and opportunities for diversion.



- There is inconsistency in the definition of different landfills across the country therefore we support the incorporation of definitions from the Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land within a regulatory framework for district and regional planning purposes to ensure a consistent approach to definitions of landfill sites.

Most of the consented cleanfills in Taranaki do not meet the class 5 definition. These sites would fall into the class 2, 3 or 4 landfills. Those fills receiving material from properties other than their own require a resource consent from the Regional Council. TRC administers consents for approximately two dozen such sites. These consent holders are therefore already subject to inspections and monitoring/consent administration costs. Given the relatively small size of these operations and the type of material that they are receiving, consideration should be given to the additional regulatory cost impact.

***Do you think that some activities, sites, or types of waste should be excluded from being classified as disposal facilities subject to the landfill levy, including:***

- cleanfills (class 5)***
- farm dumps***
- any others (e.g., any exceptional circumstances)? If so, please specify.***

### **Cleanfills**

We acknowledge that there is currently limited data available on the number and location of cleanfills (accepting virgin soil only, Class 5), as well as limited data on the number and size of farm dumps. We agree that there is potential for farm dumps and clean fills to be excluded from this levy.

As mentioned in the previous section, it would also be beneficial to apply a more consistent definition of landfill classes across NZ to better quantify the number of such fills.

However, we strongly encourage the Ministry to establish and implement a programme of work to identify and register cleanfills (class 5) and investigate how they can be monitored to prevent their misuse as a way to avoid the levy.

In your document you state that the levy is intended to cover sites acting as controlled fills and should exclude sites where the primary purpose is site remediation and you give the example of filling in a quarry. Most of our Class 3 and 4 sites (most Taranaki cleanfills) involve some remediation work as the site is typically an old quarry and therefore one of the objectives of the activity is to improve the usability of the land at that location. There is good potential for this to create a considerable grey area around the definition of what the primary purpose of the activity is. If the definitions are not clear, the potential for loopholes to be used will increase and this is likely to result in unfair market conditions for the different facility operators or undue costs and penalties for landowners seeking to improve their properties.

### **Farm Dumps**

Equally, we see the need for a programme of work to identify and register farm dumps and their compliance status separate from the levy proposed. Further research and investment



in addressing farm dumps is supported. Many farm dumps are located next to vulnerable waterways and there are concerns that chemicals may be leaching into these waterways, and or the water table. There are also concerns that climate change and rising sea levels may also uncover and wash away some farm dumps. Nationally some councils have reported farm dumps comprising significant tonnages of waste. In such a situation the farm dump may be operating as an unconsented landfill on rural land. The levy system may not therefore be the right tool for dealing with farm dumps as we do not actually want to encourage them at all by allowing them to operate within the levy system. When considering how to address farm dumps, further consideration should be given to their definition and where the responsibility for administering any solution, to ensure practical identification and management.

One option for farm dumps might be an annual fee. While it would be very difficult to administer a per tonne levy it may be possible to apply an annual fee for any farmer with an open/active farm dump. The fee could be initially set low but with the intention of gradually increasing it as more rural waste options become available including silage wrap being included as a priority product under the proposed Priority Waste Stream for Product Stewardship Intervention. Currently there are not many well supported alternative solutions for farmers dealing with rural waste.

We are mindful of the need to increase and improve waste services to the rural sector in conjunction with any regulation or legislation that represents a change to current waste management practices. Establishing effective product stewardship schemes and increased waste levy funding to other classes of landfill could assist that. Equally funds generated through an annual fee could be ring-fenced specifically for programmes to minimise agricultural waste. However we do not want to be insinuating that the disposal to land by farmers is an acceptable activity. This would be a perverse outcome that we really want to avoid.

***Do you have any views on how sites that are not intended to be subject to a levy should be defined (e.g., remediation sites, subdivision works)?***

The categories of landfill in the consultation document that are proposed to be included or excluded from the levy are based on the descriptions in the Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land. For the waste levy to be effectively extended it is recommended that these guidelines are formally adopted by the Ministry for the Environment prior to the expansion of coverage of the levy. Whilst some regional councils have already aligned their definitions of cleanfills and other classes of fills to the Technical Guidelines others have not.

***Taranaki Regional Council's current definition of cleanfill:***

*Cleanfill means materials consisting of any concrete, cement or cement wastes, bricks, mortar, tiles (clay, ceramic or concrete), non-tanalised timber, porcelain, glass, gravels, boulders, shingles, fibreglass, plastics, sand, soils and clays, and/or tree stumps and roots, or any other material (subject to the exclusions listed below) that when placed onto and into land does not have the potential to render that land or any vegetation grown on that land toxic to vegetation or animals consuming vegetation, or result in leachate. Unless specifically provided for otherwise through a consent issued by the Taranaki Regional Council for a cleanfill, cleanfill is free of: food wastes, paper and cardboard, grass clippings, garden*



*wastes including but not limited to wastes containing foliage or other vegetation (other than tree stumps and roots), sawdust, textiles, steel, galvanised metals, construction materials containing paint or fillers or sealers or their containers, oils or greases or any liquids or sludges or their containers, any industrial process by-products other than as permitted above, any poisons or solvents or their containers, batteries, or general domestic refuse other than as permitted above.*

As in the discussion above on the extension of the levy we are supportive of clear wording that ensures that both the remediation of land and land based remediation of material is excluded where the material used has little environmental impact or is class 5 material. Examples of solid waste being discharged to land for remediation application of biosolids to land, green waste used in dune stabilisation and land farming (a process whereby rock cuttings and muds resulting from drilling of well sites are applied to land). Typically there are some forms of amelioration of the waste and the sites in this process.

In terms of filling in of gullies and quarries, further clarification would ensure that this does not produce a loophole for sites which should be captured as a class 2, 3 or 4 landfill.

Given that methane generated at landfills contributes significantly to carbon emissions, there is the opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the ETS in relation to landfills by using this measure in conjunction with the levy. We recommend that any increases to the ETS are synchronised with the changes proposed to the landfill levy, to measurably reduce environmental impacts from both the emissions and disposal fronts.

#### **Exemptions/exclusions/legacy landfills:**

Note that under the current Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) waste generated due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake can qualify for an exemption. However from a google search, it does not appear that any such provision has been made within the regulations to date. Our submission requests that as a matter of urgency, the government make regulations exempting wastes arising from natural events such as but not limited to earthquake, flood, cyclones, etc. The consultation document currently proposes that a coastal landfill exposed due to rising sea levels or flood waters (such as occurred with Fox River) and may need to be relocated as a preventative measure, would not qualify for an exemption as climate change is a foreseen event. In many cases with historic landfills, sea level rise may not have been foreseen when these sites were chosen and used.

Our view is that the WMA should be amended to allow for an exemption if waste from a closed landfill is uncovered due to sea level rise and /or flooding or if a historic landfill needs to be relocated due to sea level rise (a historic landfill would need to be defined i.e. pre RMA or WMA). Firstly, there is no opportunity to minimise or reduce that waste. Secondly, with changing population patterns and the drift from rural to urban living, many rural councils will have a much smaller rate payer base now than they had in the past and it may place an overly high burden on existing ratepayers.<sup>1</sup> Finally, in the future in some instances waste uncovered by climate change impacts may have already been subject to a levy.

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<sup>1</sup> Westland District Council has a current population of 8,900. At its height it had a population of well over 25,000.



***Do you prefer the proposed rate for municipal (class 1) landfills of:***

- i. \$50 per tonne***
- ii. \$60 per tonne***
- iii. other (please specify e.g., should the rate be higher or lower)?***

Our preference is for the levy to be \$50 - \$60 per tonne, noting that based on international experience we believe that the levy rate needs to be considerably higher than \$50 - \$60 per tonne if we are to see waste diversion and minimisation outcomes maximised. Therefore, we support a continued raising of the levy in gradual increments over a longer time period that is signalled well in advance. A 2017 Eunomia report<sup>2</sup> investigating the effectiveness of the waste levy suggests that the best practice waste levy rate for Aotearoa New Zealand would be \$140 per tonne on landfill.

Whilst the levy is currently reviewed every three years it is noted that councils operate their long term plans on a 10-year timeframe so it would assist local government and business if the Ministry of the Environment also developed a longer term plan or forecast for waste minimisation and levy increases. Aligning the timing of the waste levy review more closely with the long-term plan process would also assist as it currently falls in Year 2 of the long-term plan process.

***Do you think that the levy rate should be the same for all waste types? If not:***

- i. should the levy be highest for municipal landfills (class 1)?***
- ii. should the levy be lower for industrial monofills (class 1) than municipal landfills (class 1)?***
- iii. should the levy be lower for construction and demolition sites (class 2) than municipal landfills (class 1)?***
- iv. should the levy be lowest for contaminated soils and other inert materials (class 3 and 4)?***
- v. should a lower levy apply for specified by-products of recycling operations?***

Our preference is for the levy to be the same for all levied landfills in order to encourage diversion to reuse and recycling from all disposal facilities and to reduce the likelihood of waste being disposed at inappropriate facilities to avoid costs. However, it is acknowledged that some transition for the landfills that are new to the levy to ensure these landfills are can manage the regulatory impact of cost and administration. Therefore we would support a longer transition period for class 2-4 landfills with a review of the effectiveness during the transition.

The intent of a lower levy for specified by-products of recycling operations is clear, but it is possible that this could be open to misuse and would need to be carefully monitored and audited which could increase administrative costs. It may be better to use the collected levy to provide ways of better supporting recycling operations through other mechanisms.

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson et al, Eunomia, 2017. The New Zealand Waste Disposal Levy: Potential Impacts of Adjustments to the Current Levy Rate and Structure: Final Report.



If different rates are put in place, mitigation measures need to be established to avoid perverse outcomes. In addition, alignment needs to be made between waste levy regulation and other legislation that can support enforcement.

***Do you support phasing in of changes to the levy, and if so, which option do you prefer – increase then expand (option A); expand and increase (option B); expand then increase (option C); expand then higher increase (option D); or none of the above?***

Option B (expand and increase) is supported by Taranaki Councils as this:

1. Allows time for councils, facility operators, and central government to prepare for and incorporate the changes (12 months)
2. Reduces the potential for inappropriate waste disposal at unlevied facilities
3. Establishes more comprehensive data on facilities which are currently not levied
4. Generates revenue to support innovation and new waste diversion activities.

From a district council perspective there is no need to install new infrastructure such as weighbridges under the data collection criteria proposed. However this may need to be considered for landfills that are currently not levied.

We are concerned at the potential for levy avoidance behaviour, in particular inappropriate disposal of waste at landfills with cheaper disposal fees. Gate fee avoidance behaviour due to higher waste disposal costs has been noted anecdotally in Taranaki as a result of recent increases in the cost to dispose of special waste to landfill (from \$170.34 to \$264.50) resulting in some contaminated soil being disposed to local class 3 or 4 landfills rather than a class 1 landfill outside the region, due to the higher costs and inconvenience of access to appropriate disposal.

We recognise that the role of the levy is to minimise waste to landfill and that there are some classes of landfill where it may be more difficult to minimise or divert waste. However, some types of waste that can only be disposed of appropriately at a Class 1 landfill may have no minimisation potential. We suspect that avoidance behaviour is an exception rather than the norm, however the implementation of the levy must have provision to mitigate these unanticipated outcomes.

Regardless of which option is chosen the following pieces of work would need to be undertaken:

- All existing landfills realigned to the definitions to the Technical Guidelines to Land;
- Monitoring, data gathering, and compliance measures implemented for landfill classes 1-4;
- Monitoring targeted at potential perverse outcomes;
- Research undertaken to determine what exactly are the opportunities to reduce or divert waste from the known industrial mono fills, construction and demolition fills and class 3 and 4 landfills.

Until the tonnage and types of waste handled by Classes 2-4 and industrial monofills are known in more detail, the diversion potential and opportunities understood, and



compliance regimes implemented, there will be ambiguity around the exact impact of implementation of a differentiated levy. We consider that robust compliance regimes, good definition around the new regulations/requirements and careful implementation will assist in avoiding unanticipated outcomes.

Implementing other policy changes including product stewardship schemes alongside levy increases will support the reduction in the generation of wastage in the first place, and ensure that re-processing facilities that have the capacity and capability to deal with current or new waste types are established.

***Do you think any changes are required to the existing ways of measuring waste quantities in the Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulations 2009?***

We recommend some more specific conversion factors be developed as the application of the levy across Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4 will require more specific identification and quantification of different waste streams.

Regulation 14 3 b states the allowance of an estimated volume should be removed from the regulations. A site should have a weighbridge for consistency or be able to weigh in at another facility (regulation 12 2a) OR the process for calculating conversion should be more specific and leave less room for errors/better assumptions. Allowing a facility to guess at weights when the cost is escalated is going to cause difficulties.

We support the input of a relevant clause/regulation to state that weighbridges must be calibrated regularly – especially those facilities using more than one weighbridge across operations to minimise data discrepancies.

***Do you think any changes are required to the definitions in the Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulations 2009?***

The definition for ‘disposal facility’ could be expanded to include all the different classification of landfills subject to the levy adopting the Technical guideline definitions.

***What do you think about the levy investment plan?***

We support the development of a levy investment plan. Whilst we agree with the six priorities listed in the consultation document, we notes the following two items:

- monitoring and enforcement of the levy is required, including measures to combat inappropriate forms of disposal (littering, fly tipping, illegal dumping); and the cost of implementing monitoring should also be recoverable from the levy.
- data on waste quantities and composition, behaviour or economic incentives may not strictly meet the criteria under the existing wording of the Act as Section 32 1a states that levy expenditure must be spent on matters to promote or achieve *waste minimisation*.

Two additional suggested priorities are:





- Initiatives that have the potential to prevent waste being created in the first instance i.e. designing out waste from the point of production e.g., the redesign of products and packaging that is sustainable.
- Behaviour change education initiatives. For example, the funding of programmes such as Para Kore Marae Incorporated and Enviroschools. Public understanding and support of waste minimisation and the circular economy is crucial to the success of other waste minimisation initiatives.

We note that the six priorities listed are very broad and could encompass almost any project and that more detailed guidance would also assist in refining these. In 2013, the MFE developed a framework for assessing waste streams by priority. The tool assessed different waste types using three criteria – risk of harm, quantity of waste, and benefits from minimisation – and developed a simple rating for each waste type. The creation of an investment plan could include such a framework to determine expenditure priority.

We ask MFE to also consider placing a climate lens over the levy investment plan, prioritising projects and initiatives that have a clear climate change mitigation or adaptation focus in line with the Zero Carbon Act, which allows decision-makers to make specific consideration of climate impacts. In particular, both construction and demolition waste and organic waste (food and biosolids) make a significant contribution to the total tonnage of waste to landfill and contribute significantly to emissions during production and use, and subsequent emissions from landfill upon disposal. These waste streams have huge diversion potential and a combination of increasing the levy while investing in projects which aim to circularise these waste types could have very positive outcomes for waste and emissions prevention.

We would prefer to see a longer term investment in initiatives by the government that will ensure on-going employment opportunities and greater returns both in terms of being financially independent, but also in terms of initiatives contribution to overall waste minimisation. The rigor applied to larger grants should not result in disproportionate amount of small projects being successful. It is in fact desirable that the bulk of the funding at central government level service large infrastructure projects.

The levy investment plan should also align with MBIE's Economic Development Plan. It does appear to be complementary with regards to some of the key economic shifts that that plan supports e.g. land and resource use delivers greater value and improves environmental outcomes. Specifically of relevance to Taranaki is the support of strong and revitalised regions and we would like to see some consideration given to where, when and how investment is targeted.

Tapuae Roa, the Regional Economic Development Strategy proposed the development of an energy development centre which was subsequently granted \$27 million in funding by the current government. The investment plan should be able to work complementary to initiatives such as this one. For example, the development of waste to energy initiatives has been identified as a project area in which the National New Energy Development Centre could specialise in.



### **Discrete vs. ongoing funding**

We note that the consultation document suggests that levy funding should primarily be discrete rather than ongoing and that levy funding should be directed to initiatives that need capital at the start to cover setup costs that might otherwise be uneconomical, but over time can become self-sustaining.

Currently the requirement for funding to be discrete rather than ongoing is only a requirement of the Government's levy spend through the Waste Minimisation Fund and not a requirement for council expenditure as there is no mention of this in the WMA or the Waste Levy Spending: Guidelines for Territorial Authorities 2013<sup>3</sup>. We ask for this distinction to continue.

A number of councils use waste minimisation funding to employ waste minimisation staff or to support educational programmes such as Enviroschools, Para Kore Marae Incorporated, and/or Waste Free Parenting workshops. Whilst the programmes remain the same the participants change, as young children and new parents learn about waste minimisation. Equally some programmes may never become self-sustaining until compulsory product stewardship schemes are implemented. Some councils also use waste levy funding for e-waste, hazardous chemical and farm chemical collections which are ongoing.

### **50% funding split**

We strongly support the continued hypothecation of 50% of total waste levy revenue to territorial authorities. Councils are uniquely placed to reach and understand the needs of local communities and influence behaviour, regularly consulting with and engaging ratepayers as well as working alongside industry where possible. A number of councils have set up their own waste minimisation funds allowing businesses and community groups, who may not have the resources to apply to the Government's Waste Minimisation Fund or the time to wait for approval, to apply for funding for smaller projects.

We note, however, that allocating the 50% split to councils on a per head of population basis has left smaller councils at a disadvantage. Some smaller councils such as Stratford are struggling to provide the infrastructure required from their rates and waste levy funding. Instances such as geography offer challenges in terms of distance from markets or have a number of smaller communities where there is a need to replicate services from neighbouring larger councils but these smaller councils do not benefit from the economies of scale applicable to larger councils. We are open to a review of how the 50% of council funding is shared and suggest that a more equitable approach would be to allocate a minimum level of levy funding per council with the rest allocated on a per head of population basis, thus enabling smaller councils like Stratford and South Taranaki to implement effective programmes to promote and achieve waste minimisation. There also needs to be further consideration of how monitoring for compliance with the levy is to be delivered, including by whom. It is unclear which agency is to undertake the expanded scope of waste levy compliance, or how it is to be paid for.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste-levy-spending-guidelines-territorial-authorities>



### **The need for a national programmes' agency**

We also note that a number of other countries have national programme agencies that fund ongoing national campaigns and research. WRAP in the UK is one example with ongoing work on food waste, clothing and recycling. NSW EPA is another example where research and regional campaigns are funded at a state level e.g. Anti-littering, illegal dumping, behavioural research. We have collaborated and part-funded a number of nationally coordinated initiatives such as Love Food Hate Waste and Rethinking Rubbish and Recycling which provide efficient and more effective options for behaviour change programmes which are consistent throughout the country. The limitation of using the waste minimisation fund as a funding vehicle for these programmes is the length of time for approval processes, the restriction to a three year time frame for funding, the requirement for significant amounts of match funding and the inability of all councils to contribute to the funding.

We urge the Ministry to consider ring-fencing funding for research, particularly behavioural insights or detailed analysis of waste streams, and to fund national communication campaigns that would benefit all councils. Examples could include research and campaigns tackling fly tipping and illegal dumping, fabric and textiles; construction and demolition hazardous waste management and disposal etc.

### **Transparency of reporting**

Additionally, we call for transparency from the Ministry for the Environment on what the waste levy funding is invested in. Long term investment of waste diversion facilities and reuse infrastructure covering all waste would benefit New Zealand and can provide valuable state of the nation information that all districts can benchmark against. The consultation document proposes mandatory reporting from local authorities to the Ministry on their levy expenditure but does not mention mandatory reporting back on Ministry expenditure. In particular, timely reporting on what projects have been funded and whether the project achieved its goals or not is suggested.

### ***If the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 were to be reviewed in the future, what are the changes you would like a review to consider?***

As noted previously, our view is that the WMA should be amended to allow for an exemption from the levy if waste from a closed landfill is uncovered due to sea level rise and /or flooding or if a landfill needs to be relocated due to sea level rise.

Secondly, the wording of the Act may need to be amended to allow monitoring and enforcement of the levy; data on waste quantities and composition; ongoing behaviour change and education; and economic incentives eligible to be funded by the levy. The specified rate of levy (section 27) will need to be amended to align with the outcome of the current levy expansion proposal. There also needs to be amendment to section 32 relating to spending of levy money by territorial authorities and also section 33 (secretary spending of levy instead of TAs in certain circumstances) and also section 37. In summary, there needs to be more specificity around what the levy can be spent on and there needs to be accountability and reporting requirements.



Thirdly, with changing population patterns and the drift from rural to urban living many rural councils will have a much smaller rate payer base now than they had in the past and it may place an overly high burden on existing ratepayers.

Finally, the waste definition in the Act needs to include diverted materials for the purposes of data collection. It's currently not possible to license collectors and operators that deal with diverted materials, so no data can be collected on recycling / reuse / recovery data through licensing. This limits effective future planning locally and nationally.

***Do you agree that waste data needs to be improved?***

Yes, we agree that the collection and quality of waste data needs to be improved and suggest a national waste data framework be implemented so that data currently collected can be accurately aggregated at a national level.

Better waste data will have a significant positive effect across all aspects of the sector. It will allow councils, the private and community sectors, and Government to benchmark their performance, identify areas where performance could be improved, plan with greater confidence, and to monitor and measure the effectiveness of actions.

New Zealand lacks comprehensive, reliable waste data. We have good data on the quantity of material that goes to Class 1 (levied) disposal sites, and most councils hold reasonable data on the waste that they manage through their services and facilities. But there is very poor data on the total amount of waste generated, the amount of material that goes to Class 2-5 disposal sites and farm dumps, material that is collected or managed by private operators, and material that is recycled and recovered. This means that our overall understanding of waste flows is severely limited.

Three key actions are required to improve waste data:

- Require (under section 37 of the WMA) the Waste Data Framework to be used by TAs for compiling and reporting data.
- Develop and implement regulations under Section 86 of the WMA to provide a mechanism for requiring reporting of recovered material data.
- Establish a platform for key parties to enter data into, compile data, and make aggregated data available which will support both MFE and local government's data needs.

***If the waste data proposals outlined are likely to apply to you or your organisation, can you estimate any costs you would expect to incur to collect, store and report such information? What challenges might you face in complying with the proposed reporting requirements for waste data?***

The main challenges and concerns that we have are:

- Implementing changes in short time frames when most waste management services are contracted through third parties;



- Complying with reporting requirements without additional funding or resource support as some Councils have no or only a part time FTE to complete this work;
- A lack of necessary infrastructure to implement significant changes, such as standardised software or weighbridges i.e. STDC, SDC;
- Current levy spend reporting is challenging to use.

### Timeframes

As mentioned previously the main challenge relating to complying with the proposed reporting requirements is the implementation time period. Councils would require a minimum of 12 months to set up reporting requirements at landfills and transfer stations once the exact details are known. A National Waste Data Framework would need to be agreed on before the weighbridge software requirements could be aligned. We currently use weighbridges but are aware some other regions do not have these. Consistency is needed.

### Resourcing, reporting requirements:

Every council will face its own unique challenges in complying with the data reporting requirements. Taranaki collaborates regionally with data management and reporting, and is working to align to the National Waste Data Framework. If the current National Waste Data Framework is adopted it will reduce the cost and implementation time, and reporting can be aligned both internally within councils (i.e. LTP performance measures) and nationally. If an alternative framework is created, this will increase the implementation time required. Some councils may need additional funding in terms of staff resource, installing weighbridges or upgrading existing reporting systems.

### ***What are the main costs and benefits for you of the proposals to increase the levy rate for municipal landfills, expand the levy to additional sites and improve waste data?***

We believe that the main benefit for the proposed increase to the levy would be the corresponding increased revenue which would allow the funding of additional waste minimisation projects, enable the establishment of onshore and localised processing and re-use markets for recyclables, and would fund the capital infrastructure needed to effectively sort more waste before it is sent to landfill e.g. recovery facilities for construction and demolition materials. International research and experience suggests that the levy would need to be raised substantially higher than what is proposed before diversion from landfill is driven by economic feasibility alone but we believe that if supported by other policy drivers, the proposed increase and expansion of the levy will result in improved diversion and more focus on a circular economy.

Improved waste data collection will also be a significant benefit as it will improve the accuracy of future waste assessments and reporting, and allow better investment decisions to be made. Although the cost of disposal will be higher for the community, councils are confident that this can be offset with improved waste reduction, reuse, recycling opportunities.

As previously noted, it is important that there is alignment across legislation. In particular, we have concerns over the effectiveness of the Litter Act given that an increase in illegal dumping and fly tipping may occur. Many councils have found it very difficult to enforce the



provisions of the Litter Act as it currently stands, as there is a high threshold for the evidence required to issue an infringement, and the cost of chasing fines often outweighs the fine itself. On this basis, it is necessary to review the Litter Act or other enforcement options under the WMA in line with the introduction of the expanded waste levy to enable more effective enforcement.

Furthermore, councils will need to be well resourced to carry out the regular monitoring that will be necessary to minimise instances of illegal dumping. While the Ministry's proposals suggest that enforcement activities can be funded through the council allocation of the WMF, and facilitated by bylaws, this type of enforcement would generally be carried out by councils under the Litter Act, not the WMA to which the fund relates. Effective monitoring and enforcement of levied landfills will also require additional resource for central government to manage perverse outcomes or levy avoidance.

As mentioned earlier definitions for different types of disposal facilities from the Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land should be adopted by the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) to ensure consistency across legislation.

Kimberley Hope  
**MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY**  
New Plymouth District Council



**Date** 20 February 2020

**Subject:** **Update on NPDC Kerbside Foodscrap and Landfill Collection Service**

**Approved by:** G K Bedford, Director - Environment Quality  
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

**Document:** 2425821

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### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on NPDC's Kerbside collection of foodscrap as well as the landfill collection service.

### **Recommendations**

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Update on NPDC Kerbside Foodscrap and Landfill Collection Service*.

### **Discussion**

2. The memorandum from NPDC is attached.

### **Decision-making considerations**

3. Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

### **Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan**

4. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

### **Policy considerations**

5. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

### **Iwi considerations**

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

### **Legal considerations**

7. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

### **Appendices/Attachments**

Document 2425837: Update on NPDC Kerbside Foodscraps and Landfill Collection Service





When replying please quote: 8236774

Date: 11 February 2020

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee**

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL KERBSIDE FOODSCRAPS AND LANDFILL COLLECTION SERVICE**

### Background

As part of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) action plan and Zero Waste vision, New Plymouth District Council introduced a change to the kerbside recycling and rubbish collection service on 30 September 2019.

The new service consisted of a food scraps collection and a change from red landfill bags collected weekly to a 140L bin collected fortnightly. The recycling collection (mixed recycling + glass) has continued unchanged. A summary of the full service is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 New Plymouth District Council kerbside collection service**

Bin/crate	Colour	Collection frequency	What can you include
23L bin for food scraps	Green	Weekly	Food scraps
240L wheelie bin for mixed recyclables	Green with a yellow lid	Fortnightly	Paper Card Plastic bottles and containers 1-7 Tin and aluminium cans
60L crate for glass	Blue	Fortnightly with landfill bin	Jars and bottles used for food and beverages
140L wheelie bin for landfill waste	Green with a red lid	Fortnightly with the glass crate	Non-recyclables

This memo briefly summarises the collection data for the first three months of the service and compares this to the WMMP targets related to the reduction of organic waste.

**WMMP targets**

The following targets identified in the WMMP are relevant to the changes in kerbside collection service.

Targets	2015/16 baseline data	Ref #
<b>Waste to landfill</b>		
Reduce the total waste volume per household going to landfill from the Council kerbside collection by 25% by 2023.	0.26 tonnes / household / year (7,132 tonnes; 27,536 households)	L2
<b>Diversion of waste</b>		
Increase the amount of household waste diverted to recycling by 1% per year (Council provided kerbside collection only).	Waste: 7,131 Recycling: 4,918 Proportion: 41%	D1
<b>Organic waste</b>		
Reduce the amount of organic waste in the Council provided kerbside rubbish collection by 50% by 2023.	4,510 tonnes / annum (3.4 kg per household per week)	O2
<b>Customer satisfaction</b>		
Total number of complaints received about the Council's solid waste service remains at or below three per 1,000 households.	0.84 complaints per 1,000 households (26 complaints; 31,000 households)	S2

**Summary statistics for first quarter of new service**

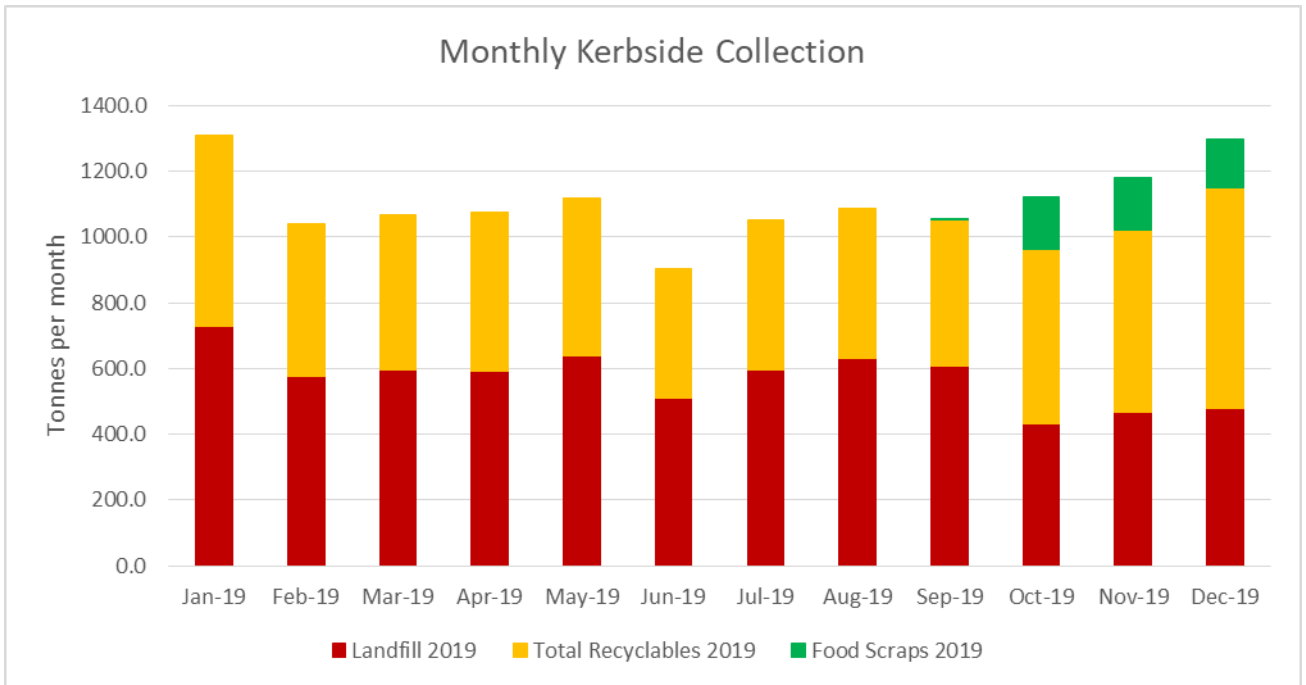
In the first three months of the new service a total of 465 tonnes of food scraps have been collected from the kerbside and diverted to a composting facility rather than landfilled.

The total amount of waste collected (landfill, recycling and food scraps) has been higher than previous months (Figure 1), which is likely due to the extended kerbside area introduced in October (150 households) and December (500 households) as well as the time of year.

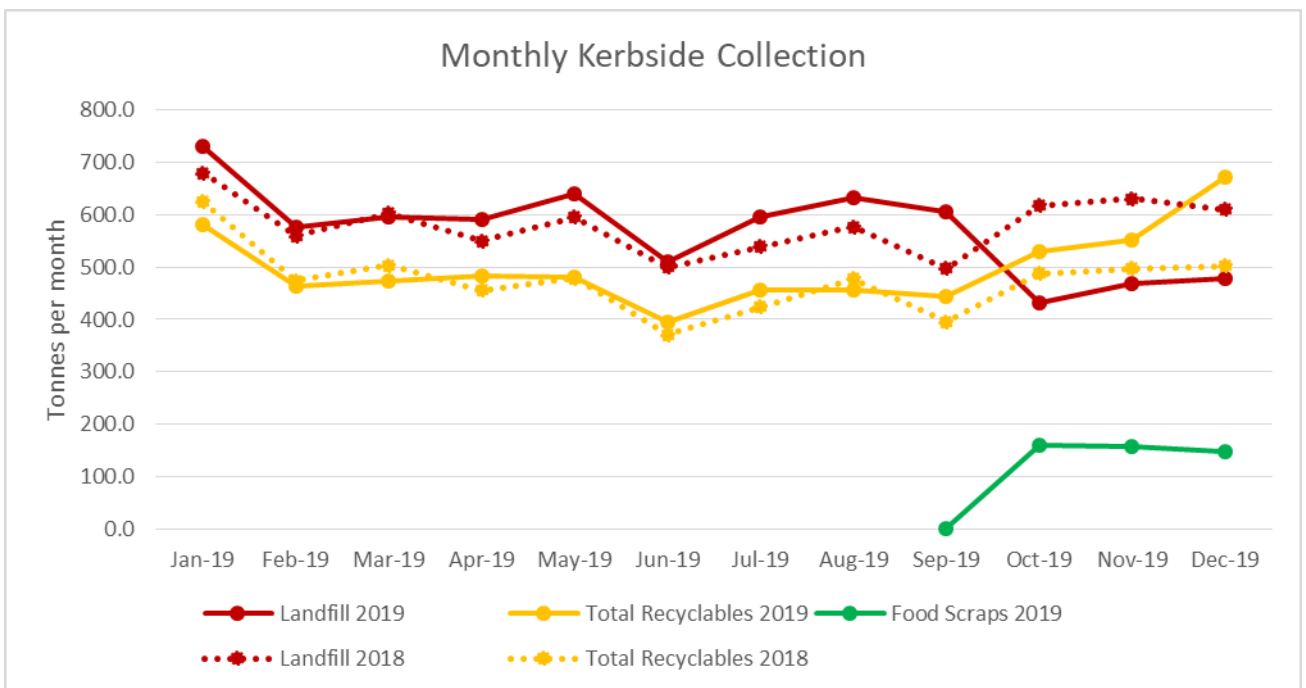
Landfill waste has also decreased, with 1,379 tonnes collected during the quarter, compared to 1857 tonnes for the same quarter in 2018 (Figure 2, Table 2). Recycling has also increased, particularly in December, compared to the same months in 2018.

**Table 2 Monthly tonnage collected for each waste stream in 2019 compared to 2018**

Waste stream	October		November		December	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Landfill	617	432	630	468	610	479
Recycling	488	530	497	553	502	673
Food scraps	-	160	-	158	-	147



**Figure 1** Total monthly tonnage collected at kerbside



**Figure 2** Monthly tonnage collected at kerbside in 2019 compared to 2018

**1. Waste to landfill (target L2)**

The reduction in waste on a per household basis (WMMP target L2) for October to December 2019 quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2018 shows a 35% reduction in waste (Table 3), which indicates that the kerbside changes are on track to achieve WMMP target of a 25% reduction in waste to landfill per household by 2023.

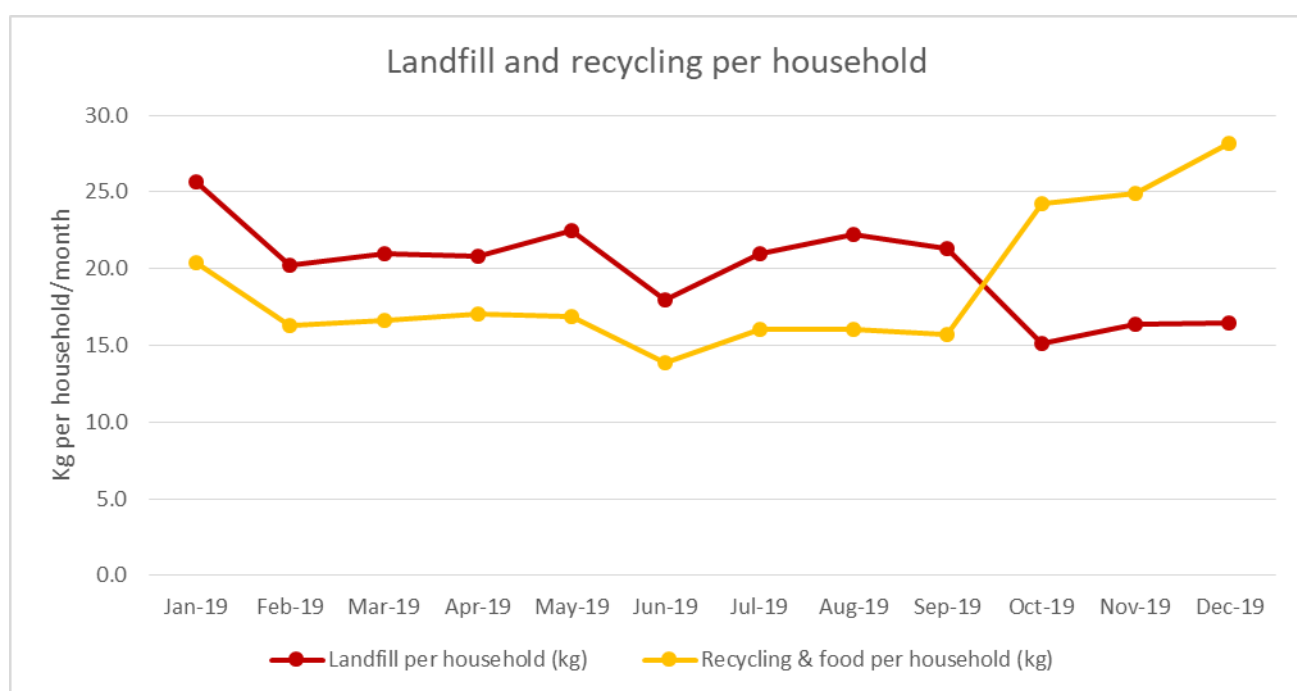
**Table 3** Change in the kerbside landfill and recycling collected in 2019 compared to 2018

		October	November	December
Landfill	Percentage reduction in total tonnage	↓ 43%	↓ 35%	↓ 27%
Recycling (mixed & glass)	Percentage increase in total tonnage	↑ 8%	↑ 10%	↑ 25%

**2. Diversion of waste (target D1)**

Similarly, the roll out of the new service provided an opportunity to provide information to all households in the district on what and how to recycle, which has seen a 14% increase in the overall tonnage of recycling collected compared to the same quarter last year (Table 3), exceeding the WMMP of a 1% increase year on year (WMMP target D1).

Households are also now diverting more recycling (mixed recycling and glass) and food scraps from landfill than waste (Figure 3), with 61% of kerbside waste diverted from landfill during the October to December 2019 quarter.



**Figure 3** Kerbside waste collected per household for 2019

**3. Organic waste (target O2)**

The WMMP has a target to reduce the amount of organic waste in the Council provided kerbside rubbish collection by 50% by 2023. While this will be confirmed by landfill bin audits closer to 2023, an estimate based on the amount of food waste collected, will indicate whether this target will be achieved following the introduction of the food scraps service.

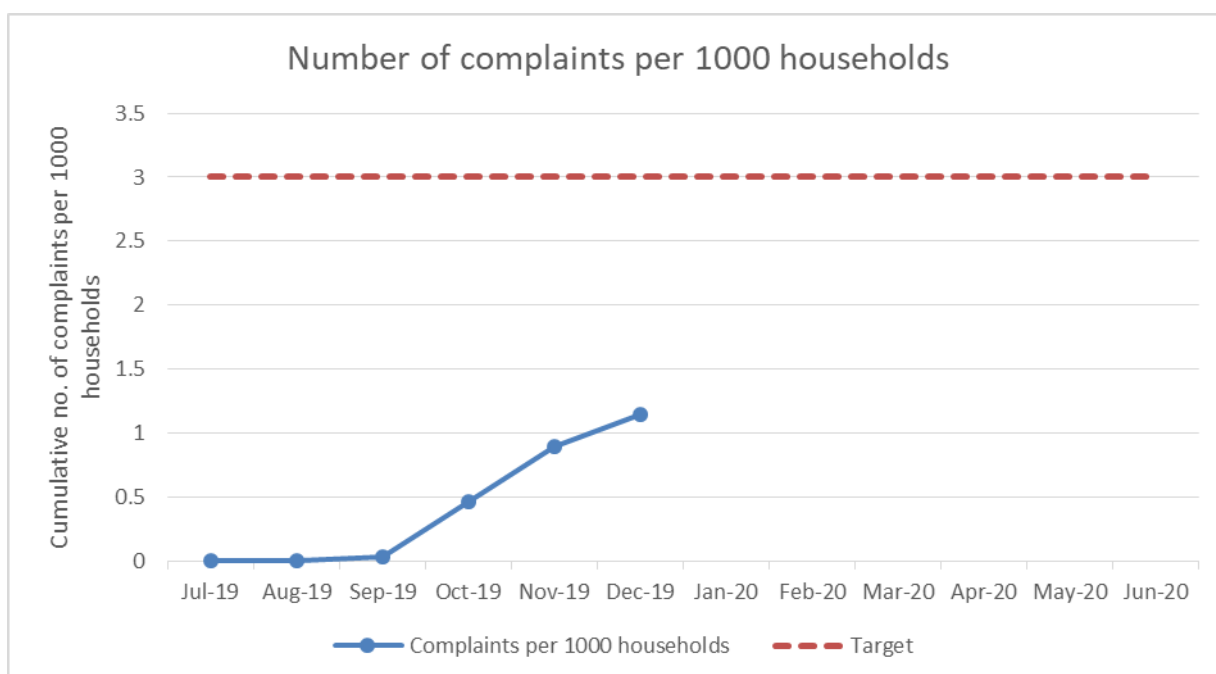
In 2016 (the baseline), 3.4kg of landfill waste per household was organic waste. Based on the volumes from the first three months of the food scraps collection, and estimated 1.64 kg per household has been diverted to composting, a 48% reduction, which is close to the 50% target in the WMMP.

#### 4. Customer Satisfaction

Two measures that can be used to indicate the level of customer satisfaction include:

1. Number of complaints reported to Council (WMMP Target S2)
2. Bin set out rate at the kerbside (how many residents use of the service)

With any change in the level of service, there is always community feedback. The number of complaints received since the start of July 2019 reflects this with the cumulative number of complaints increasing during October and November. The complaints are still well below the target of under 3 complaints per 1000 households.



**Figure 4 Cumulative number of complaints received for the waste management and minimisation service per 1000 households**

The use of the food scraps collection by residents is a good indicator of community engagement in the service. Based on the number of bins collected per month, on average 35% of households are regularly using the service. This is higher than expected based on use in other food scraps collection trials in New Zealand which range from 25% to 30%, indicating good participation in the food scraps collection.

**Table 4 Food scraps bin set out rate for October to December 2019**

	Number of bins collected	Bin set out rate
October	52,806	37%
November	50,926	36%
December	47,372	33%

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MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY