



AGENDA

Taranaki Solid Waste

Thursday 3 March 2022, 10.30am

Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

03 March 2022 10:30 AM

Agenda Topic	Page
Membership and Health and Safety	3
Apologies	
Notification of Late Items	
1. Confirmation of Minutes	4
2. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report	9
3. Ministry for the Environment Consultation - Proposed Waste Strategy Regional Submission	19
4. Update on Current Significant Projects for Taranaki	40
4.1 Update on Significant Projects for Taranaki	42



Membership of Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

Neil Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
Alan Jamieson	Stratford District Council
Bryan 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.

COVID-19

Under the Red Traffic Light Setting we are encouraging any meetings to be held virtually.

If you have to attend a meeting in person, all visitors are to hold a current vaccine pass. If you are sick, please use the remote options to attend any meetings.



Date 3 March 2022

Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes - 4 November 2021**

Approved by: AJ Matthews, Director - Environment Quality
SJ Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3003766

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- 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 4 November 2021 at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee held at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Thursday 4 November 2021 have been circulated to the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council for receipt and information.

Matters arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document 2903618: Minutes Taranaki Solid Waste Committee Meeting - 4 November 2021



Date: 4 November 2021, 10.30am
Venue: Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford
Document: 2903618

Present	Councillors	N W Walker	Taranaki Regional Council
		B Roach	South Taranaki District Council
		A Jamieson	Stratford District Council
		M Chong	New Plymouth District Council
Attending	Councillor	D H McIntyre	Taranaki Regional Council
		Ms A Matthews	Taranaki Regional Council
		Ms H Gerrard	Taranaki Regional Council
		Miss L Davidson	Taranaki Regional Council
		Ms L Campbell	Stratford District Council
		Mr J Cooper	Stratford District Council
		Ms K Hope	New Plymouth District Council
		Ms J Dearden	New Plymouth District Council (<i>zoom</i>)
		Mr H Denton	South Taranaki District Council
		Mr J Beeslaar	South Taranaki District Council

Apologies An apology for lateness was received from Councillor R Handley (NPDC), Aaron Green (Envirowaste) and Rebecca Martin (STDC).
 Jamieson/Roach

Notification of Late Items AG-Recovery.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 12 August 2021

Resolved

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- 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 12 August 2021 at 10.30am
- b) notes that the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee held at the Taranaki Regional Council, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Thursday 12 August 2021 have been circulated to the New Plymouth District

Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council for receipt and information.

Jamieson/Roach

Matters arising

- 1.1 Waste Reduction Plan – It was clarified that the threshold for commercial projects to submit a Construction Waste Reduction Plan (\$500,000) was decided based on the current number of commercial builds, and consideration of the availability of both Council and contractor resources, particularly during the set-up phase. This threshold will be revisited when the bylaw is next reviewed. It is anticipated that these requirements will eventually roll down to residential builds in addition to commercial builds.
- 1.2 Clarity is still being sought around developers, whether they are considered commercial or residential.

2. Taranaki District Health Board COVID-19 Associated Biohazard Waste

- 2.1 Ms M Cashmore, Sustainability Lead, Taranaki District Health Board, spoke to the memorandum providing the Committee with an update on the following:
 - Development of a process to manage Taranaki DHB's COVID-19 associated community biohazard waste.
 - Taranaki DHB's COVID-19 community healthcare service and associated waste.
 - Seek key council contacts to discuss this further.
- 2.2 Teams are being put in place to prepare the region for biohazard disposal associated with COVID-19 SIQ (self-isolation quarantine). Taranaki DHB is looking to identify secure (lockable) facilities to house biohazard waste storage bins to enable the appropriate disposal of PPE and medical equipment etc. from community isolations. It was requested that contacts from District Councils get in touch with Maria about potentially suitable facilities.

3. Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Activity Report

- 3.1 Ms J Dearden, Regional Waste Minimisation Officers, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum informing Committee members of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the district council officers of New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.
- 3.2 While COVID-19 lockdowns have disrupted workflow, staff have been working on different approaches and ways of doing things to enable business to continue.
- 3.3 The organic waste feasibility study is in the very early stages. Engagement with stakeholders is currently underway. Tonkin and Taylor (consultants) have been engaged to assist.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.
Roach/Jamieson

4. Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Regional Annual KPI Summary

- 4.1 Ms K Hope, Manager – Resource Recovery, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum providing a summary of NPDC, SDC and STDC's progress towards the five-year targets outlined in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plans, for the information of the Committee.
- 4.2 Contamination is an ongoing issue throughout New Zealand. About 25% of recycling is contaminated. Major contamination contributors are cling film wrap and food. Education will continue.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum and notes the progress towards meeting selected KPIs for the councils' Waste Management and Minimisation Plans.
Chong/Roach

5. Ministry for the Environment Consultation – Waste Strategy, Waste Legislation and the Emissions Reduction Plan

- 5.1 Ms K Hope, Manager – Resource Recovery, New Plymouth District Council, spoke to the memorandum to introduce and summarise a number of recent proposals from MfE relating to the waste and resource sector.
- 5.2 It was noted that the timeframes for consultation on issues coming out of central government are tight and do not always provide sufficient time to engage.
- 5.3 A copy of the submission will be sent out to the Committee once completed.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum entitled Ministry for the Environment consultation (MfE) - Waste Strategy, Waste Legislation and the Emissions Reduction Plan.
Roach/Jamieson

6. General Business

- 6.1 Ag-recovery – it was noted that Farm Source now have disposal bins for some agriculture waste. District Councils will look into this further and see whether it is linked with the AG-Recovery programme.

There being no further business, Committee Chairperson, Councillor N Walker, declared the meeting of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee closed at 11.54am.

Confirmed

Chairperson _____

N W Walker

3 March 2022



Date: 3 March 2022

Subject: **Regional Waste Minimisation officer's Activity Report**

Approved by: AJ Matthews, Director - Environment Quality
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3001533

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Committee of significant activities undertaken by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, in collaboration with the district council officers of New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Regional Waste Minimisation officer's Activity Report*
- b) notes the activities of the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer.

Discussion

2. The Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's activity report is attached.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have 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 3001541: Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's Report



NPDC reference: 8726780

Agenda Memorandum

Date: 3 March 2022

Memorandum to Chairperson and Members Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT
THIRD QUARTER 2022**

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.

This report provides information on activities in the wider community and matters of potential interest to the Committee from November 2021 – March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee:

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

DISCUSSION

Covid -19 impact on services and education campaigns *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

Since the last meeting of the Committee held on November 2021 New Zealand has moved into a traffic light system. The whole of New Zealand has moved in RED (25 January 2022) due to a number of Omicron community cases around the country.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to make planning for future events and community engagement uncertain and a challenge. Officers are continuing the dialogue and discussions, looking at new ways to communicate, sharing best practice and knowledge of waste minimisation. Larger public events such as L.A.B have been held at the Bowl of Brooklands venue in New Plymouth. However since New Zealand has moved to the Red level, Symphony has been postponed until April. The NPDC waste minimisation team has received some applications for zero waste event funding but smaller events have generally been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. In SDC and STDC events started to run again from January 2022, where previously they were restricted.

The RWMO and NPDC Education Officer have been working on providing an education pop up event in New Plymouth and our aim is to have a regional pop up event involving all Councils and partners in March/April 2022 subject for developments with the pandemic.

Zero Waste Taranaki website *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

The RWMO has been coordinating regular themed blogs for the community on waste minimisation during December to March on the Zero Waste Taranaki website with number of ideas and tips being shared with the public through social media platforms and Council websites. The Zero Waste Taranaki website is currently being reviewed by the Behaviour Change team to identify opportunities for a better viewer experience.

Blog titles:

- [Reducing Christmas waste](#)
- [Take nothing new for 22 Pledge](#)
- [Love food hate waste value your food and budget](#)
- LFHW- Meal plan review

What's happening blog?

What's Happening

Keep up to date with our latest tips, campaigns and events.

New Plymouth Resource Recovery Facility Tours are open for future bookings.

[Click here for Resource Recovery Facility Tour bookings and further information](#)

Categories

- [All \(11\)](#)
- [Blogs \(14\)](#)
- [Campaigns \(8\)](#)
- [Events \(0\)](#)
- [Workshops \(0\)](#)



Love Food Hate Waste - Value Your Food And Your Budget
Resource Recovery Team
8/2/2022

[Read More](#)



Nothing New for '22
Claire Oag NPDC Education
1/2/2022

[Read More](#)

Waste Free with Kate workshops in schools and community *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions that are in place and uncertainty around the spread of the current outbreak, the Councils have moved to offering online options for the menstrual up workshops in

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schools. Council waste officers from all districts are working to make sure this important education and valuable resources reach the schools and students in need.

Two further community workshops planned in the New Plymouth District will now go ahead online. These were originally planned to be held at the Civic Centre.

Here are the links for the online programs.

Waste Free Parenting

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/events/711738833123737>

Web: <https://katemeads.co.nz/products/new-plymouth-online-waste-free-parenting-workshop>

Waste Free Living

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2998808907099359>

Web: <https://katemeads.co.nz/collections/new-plymouth/products/new-plymouth-online-waste-free-living-course-includes-a-120-gift-pack>

Operations education campaign: 'Keep it level' 'Care for your collectors' *NPDC* *STDC* *SDC*

Over the festive period in December 2020 to January 2021, the amount of glass going into household crates at kerbside increased significantly and led to many crates being over filled. This resulted in these crates being too heavy to lift and increasing incidents of broken glass reported. The RWMO collaborated with waste officers from the councils' operations teams to try to front foot this issue in the recent 2021/2022 holiday period by developing the 'Keep it level' campaign to try to reduce the risks for glass collectors, and ensure our streets remained free of broken glass from the kerbside collection service.

Social media and local new papers were used to communicate these messages. The regional team collaborated on an image and animation that focused on the message 'Keep it level' over two phases. Phase 1 showed glass crates should be filled up to the rim only, reducing the weight of the glass crates. The focus of phase 2 (NPDC) in January was to encourage any excess glass residents had stored to be taken to transfer stations to be recycled.



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A Blog was written by the RWMO which was linked to the Facebook posts run by the three councils. <https://www.zerowastetaranaki.org.nz/whats-happening/care-for-your-collector-keep-it-level/>

Key messages:

Phase 1 (6 & 20 December 2021):

- 'Keep it level', be kind to your glass collector
- Care for your glass collectors, by keeping the glass bin levels low; this stops spilled and broken glass, and means collections are completed on time.
- The crate is easier to lift and empty for the collector if crates are kept level.

Phase 2 (5 & 17 January 2022)

- Use your local transfer station for the glass that doesn't fit in your crate. [Transfer stations](#) are open..... take you glass here free....
- Check the times of your local transfer station. Transfer stations are closed on observed public holidays.

Table 1 Summary of social media engagement during glass campaign

Focus	Description	Reach	Likes	Clicks	Shares	Comments
NPDC 6 Dec 21	Post 1: Image Keep it level	3023	19	196	7	13
NPDC 20 Dec 21	Post 2: GIF Keep it level	7082	17	235	2	0
NPDC 5 Jan 22	Post 3: Image excess glass taken to TS for free	2,046	11	47	7	8
NPDC 17 Jan 2 2	Post 4: GIF excess glass taken to TS for free	9,524	36	300	7	0
SDC December	Post 1 and 2 Keep it level	1,998	20	75	1	2
STDC December January	Post 1 and 2 Keep it level	3,971	13	84	3	11

The two GIFs got the most reach at 7082 and 9524 on the NPDC Facebook site. All the posts by the councils had more than 50 clicks per post. December recorded 83% new visitors to the Zero Waste website which was linked to the Facebook posts created by councils. Sixteen percent were returning visitors to the Zero Waste site, an increase of 4% compared to May 2021 when our returning visitors were 12%. We will be working with our NPDC Marketing and Communications team to create a checklist for any future social media posts to improve social media interactions and shares.

Table 1 shows the amount of glass recycled regionally during December and January for the past two years. In the New Plymouth and Stratford districts, there was a decrease in the total amount of glass collected this year from the kerbside over the festive period in comparison to last year. Glass volumes at kerbside in STDC were similar or slightly higher this year compared to last year.

Most transfer stations had an increase of glass collected in January 2022 compared December 2021 although volumes compared to the same months of the previous year showed no particular trend.

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Table 2 Tonnes of glass recycled during glass campaign, compared to the same months in previous year (TS=Transfer Station)

	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
NPDC kerbside	271.88	307.55	251.76	257.41
SDC kerbside	14.79	18.72	10.82	18.12
STDC kerbside	68.17	69.53	73.23	69.77
NPDC TS	56.01	64.22	63.24	71.32
SDC TS	13.80	7.99	7.30	11.15
STDC TS	11.23	88.57	25.56	19.23

Anecdotally, glass was managed slightly better at kerbside with five service requests relating to spilled or broken glass this year compared to six last year for NPDC and drivers commented that they noticed less overfilled glass crates this year.

While it is difficult to quantify the success of the campaign and link lower kerbside glass recycling volumes to the campaign, overall based on the social media engagement, the 'Keep it level' campaign appears to have had a positive impact on glass recycling at kerbside and transfer stations.

Zero waste festive pop up's *NPDC*

The NPDC Resource Recovery team held a Zero Waste pop up stall at the staff festive market located in the Civic Centre Basement in December. It was a lively internal event for staff that had a steady flow of attendance. The focus of the pop-up was 'Ways to reduce waste this holiday season' with ideas and examples of how to do so. Wrapping paper in particular creates a lot of waste that can be unrecyclable due to the plastic coating in the wrapping itself. Alternative ways of wrapping gifts can be done sustainably and still provides the excitement of opening a present. Using newspaper, cardboard boxes, unneeded packaging from boxes, and traditional brown paper are all alternative suggestions for gift wrapping. Using ribbons or rope are also a way of wrapping gifts without using plastic sticky tape which cannot be recycled. During the Festive season, unnecessary food and gifts can generate large amounts of waste, which can be avoided. On average, 30% more rubbish is generated during the festive period, most of which is destined for the landfill due to its unrecyclable nature.

In addition to the pop up event a [blog](#) was posted on three areas to reduce waste over the festive period.

- Food waste
- Gifting
- Wrapping and decorations

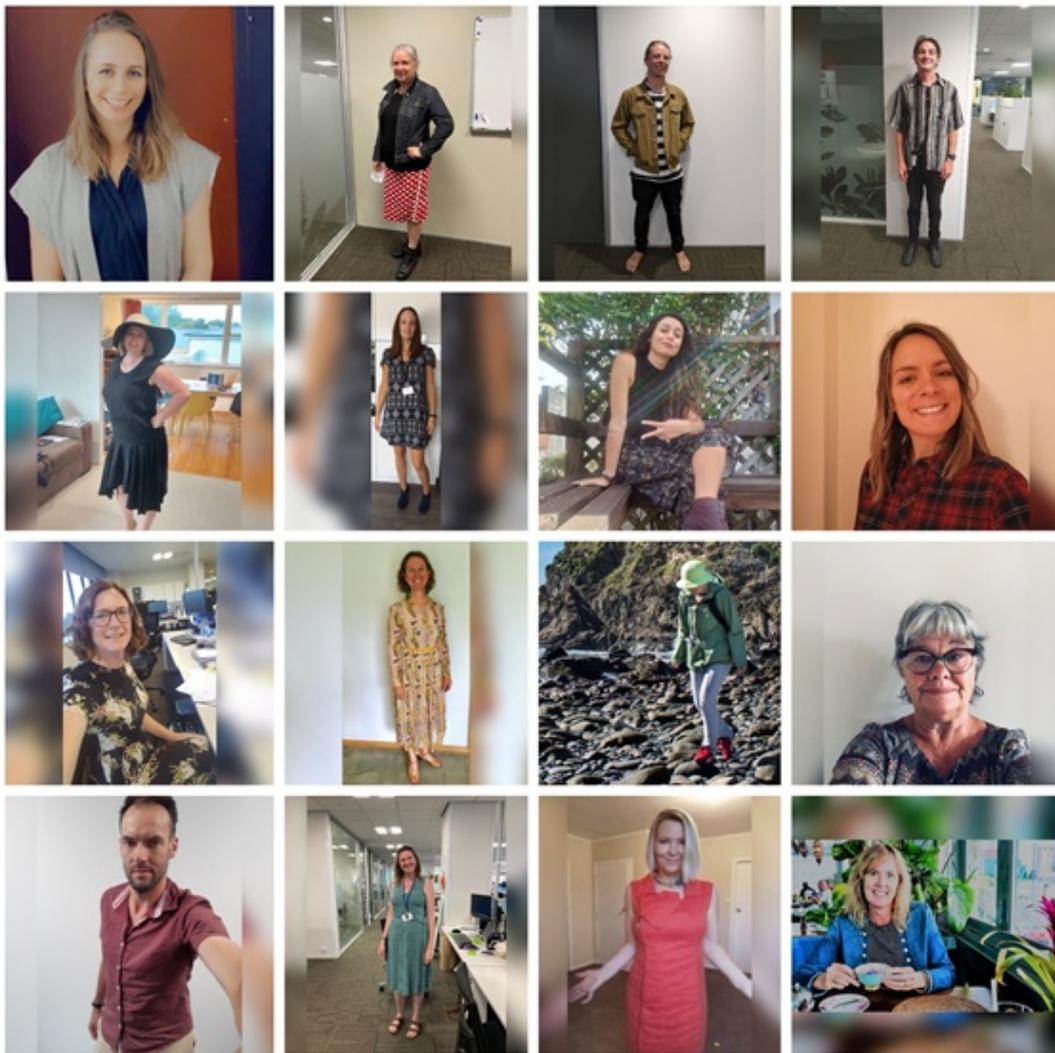


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Nothing New for 22 *NPDC*

The fashion industry creates about ten percent of the global CO² emissions - more than aviation and shipping combined (according to the United Nations). At Auckland's four landfills, textile waste accounted for four per cent of the waste in 2010, and in 2040, that's expected to increase to six per cent. To help raise the profile of waste in the fashion industry, staff at NPDC have decided to make the commitment of Nothing New this year and develop more mindful shopping habits in the future by pledging to buy no brand new clothes, shoes, bags and non-essential personal items.

New Plymouth District Council has 23 employees committed to the pledge to buy nothing new during the year. A Nothing New '22 Facebook page has been created with 89 people joined up. Here are some of our staff looking fantastic in their reused, pre-loved finery.



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Education Report *SDC*

Stratford District Council appointed Peter McNamara, the Water and Waste Minimisation Education Officer, in 2022 with the aim of “getting the message out there” to mould a change in behaviour.

Currently the Education Officer is making calls to various businesses in the Stratford CBD to engage them in an offer of assistance in carrying out waste audits and helping them to find ways of reducing their waste streams going to landfill. This has resulted in Peter successfully engaging a local ECE centre and negotiating with a local eatery.

At this early stage the focus will be on identifying waste streams and developing strategies to help reduce the volumes going to transfer stations and landfill for commercial and business operations. A targeted education plan aimed at SDC residents will be the focus for May – July programme.



The Education Officer has also developed a communication channel through our CentralLink page in the Stratford Press and SDC Facebook platforms to include “did you know?” fun facts with the aim of educating residents on avenues available to them to reduce waste volumes. This initiative will include both water and solid waste information.

Further projects will include developing pathways to promote the Zero Waste Taranaki site and to develop relationships with organisations like Sustainable Taranaki and Waste Swap.

Education Report *STDC*

Organic materials recovery facility feasibility study

Progress with this project is covered in a separate report to the committee.

Event waste minimisation in South Taranaki

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions have caused STDC to cancel many of its Council-run events for the 2021/2022 summer. Most large-scale community run events over the summer have also been cancelled.

STDC was able to host one event in February 2022. This event, Concerts in the Park, had to be moved inside to the TSB Hub due to bad weather. Despite Covid audience number restrictions and inclement weather, the event was still hosted successfully. STDC's event minimisation stations (pictured to the right) were used at this event. However, due to low attendee numbers the amount of waste diverted was negligible.

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STDC Main Admin Building Office Waste Audit

In February 2022, STDC completed its annual waste audit of the Hāwera Main Administration Building. This audit involved daily sorting of the waste collected by the building's cleaning team over a three day period. The audit was carried out by three Environmental Services summer university students under the guidance of STDC's Environment and Sustainability Officer. The photo to the right shows the sorting of one landfill bin into piles for compostable materials, recyclable materials, and actual rubbish.



Initial findings show a key opportunity for improvement is to divert more organic materials out of the landfill bins and into the compost bins. A report will go to the STDC Senior Leadership Team with recommended follow-up actions.

Enviroschools Community Workshops

In January Enviroschools hosted a "Turning green into gold – Using your green waste as a tool" community workshop at King Edward Park in Hāwera. The workshop was a part of the contract Enviroschools has with STDC to deliver sustainability-themed community education workshops across the district.

This workshop received a good level of engagement by park users and helped to equip residents with valuable composting and mulching skills. Unfortunately, the workshop Enviroschools planned to have in Ōpunakē in February had to be postponed due to the arrival of Cyclone Dovi.

Contributions from

Louise Campbell, *ASSET MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR* *SDC*

Peter McNamara, *WATER AND WASTE EDUCATION OFFICER* *SDC*

Brittany Rymer, *ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER* *STDC*

Claire Oag, *WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER (EDUCATION)* *NPDC*

Prepared by

Miss Jessica Dearden

REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER

ECM8726780



Date: 3 March 2022

Subject: **Ministry for the Environment Consultation - Proposed Waste Strategy Regional Submission**

Approved by: AJ Matthews, Director - Environment Quality
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3001613

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is for the Committee to receive and endorse the submission on the proposed waste strategy changes.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Ministry for the Environment Consultation - Proposed Waste Strategy Regional Submission*
- b) endorses the submission on the proposed waste strategy changes.

Discussion

2. The Regional Waste Minimisation Officer's memorandum and submission are attached.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have 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 3001599: Ministry for the Environment Consultation on the Proposed Waste Strategy

Document 3001601: Submission on the Proposal for a new waste strategy



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**New Plymouth
District Council**

Date: 3 March 2022

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC)**

SUBJECT: **MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION – PROPOSED WASTE STRATEGY REGIONAL SUBMISSION.**

Background

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) called for submissions in November 2021 on a new national waste strategy and further discussion and options for developing a more effective and comprehensive waste legislation to regulate and manage waste, and the products circulating in our economy. Once developed the new legislation will replace the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979. Originally the submission was due in November but was extended until December.

It is acknowledged that New Zealand has a waste problem. New Zealand is one of the highest generators of waste per person in the world. We lag behind other countries in our reuse and recycling rates, and are disposing of more and more waste into landfill. Changing how we manage our waste and taking action to avoid creating waste altogether will mitigate the harm for future generations.

More information on the proposed strategy and the consultation document can be reviewed at <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/waste/taking-responsibility-for-our-waste/>

Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee submission

Council officers from New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), South Taranaki District Council (STDC), Stratford District Council (SDC) and Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) coordinated by the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO) drafted a regional submission on the proposed waste strategy changes on behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC).

The submission was circulated to the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee via email and submitted to the Ministry for the Environment on 10 December 2021. The final submission is attached (NPDC Ref: ECM8670589).

Jessica Dearden
Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO)



Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee submission

Te kawe I te haepapa para Taking responsibility for our waste

Proposals for a new waste strategy; Issues and options for new waste legislation.

On behalf of the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC)

The Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC) provides oversight on waste management and minimisation issues and opportunities 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 regional perspective for Taranaki, with input from the district and regional councils noted above. We have collaborated with the TA Waste Liaison Group and the WasteMINZ TAO Forum and also support these submissions where they are consistent with ours.

The Taranaki region is an advocate for change and is committed to working towards Zero Waste within its communities. We recognise that waste disposal is becoming an increasing issue due to the changes imposed by the China National Sword policy. We support MfE's recent initiatives including the increase to the waste levy, proposed product stewardship schemes, proposed phase-out of hard to recycle and single-use plastics, recommendations for standardising kerbside collections and now the ambition of becoming a total circular economy by 2050. As a region, we have already taken steps to minimise waste by promoting reuse over single use items and improving the quality of our recycling at transfer stations and kerbside collections by only accepting plastics numbers 1, 2 and 5's. New Plymouth District Council offer residents with a weekly kerbside food scraps collection and STDC offer a fortnightly kerbside greenwaste collection service, which are contributing to the reduction of organic waste in landfill. The district councils are also working on the feasibility of organic waste processing options in Taranaki and NPDC is constructing a Commercial waste sorting facility in 2022.

The TSWMC generally support the proposal for a new waste strategy and the legislative approach. Detailed responses are provided in the questions below.

Part 1: Why we need to transform our approach to waste

1. Do you think changes are needed in how Aotearoa New Zealand manages its waste?

Yes

2. Do you support tackling our waste problems by moving towards a circular economy?

Yes. The circular economy approach will reduce waste and also facilitate wider benefits, such as reduced emissions, job creation and improved use of natural resources. The emissions reduction potential based on development of a Circular Economy are unparalleled by any other measure. This is acknowledged by both the UN Environment Programme, United Nations Framework



Convention on Climate Change, International Resource Panel and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

“The extraction and processing of natural resources causes half of global emissions and over 90% of biodiversity loss. The shift to a circular economy is therefore crucial to achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times.”¹

This approach would also be more effective if the same principle is integrated across all sectors of central and local government, and – not solely as part of waste policy and legislation. Significant funding and transitional capability development and support from central government will be needed to enable the shift towards a circular economy, particularly in requiring changes of manufacturers, industrial producers and retailers; funding remanufacturing and recycling infrastructure, particularly in regional and/or rural areas; and supporting the significant behaviour change needed across the commercial sector and from purchasers that will be needed to work towards a circular economy.

Further clarification on exactly what a ‘circular economy’ looks like for different sectors (TAs, industry and businesses) would help successfully implement this vision. Iwi/Hapū co-design and collaboration on how this is rolled out from the very beginning is essential.

Part 2: Proposed new waste strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand

3. Do you support the proposed vision?

Yes

4. Do you support the six core principles or would you make changes?

Yes.

One theme that could be more clearly prioritised in principle 6 is that of providing local solutions that cater for the diversity of different communities around NZ. What works for a major city may not work for a rural community, and vice versa.

Circular economy initiatives would need to be assessed holistically to ensure better environmental outcomes i.e. full lifecycle analysis of all products to establish whether recycling is the best option for a product, including the consideration of transport emissions or other long-term environmental impacts that negate any benefits of recycling (e.g., the significant emissions required to create and/or recycle plastics that are made from fossil fuels).

5. Do you support the proposed approach of three broad stages between now and 2050, and the suggested timing and priorities for what to focus on at each stage?

¹ UNFCCC: <https://unfccc.int/news/shifting-to-a-circular-economy-essential-to-achieving-paris-agreement-goals>



The staged approach provides a clear road map to how we can achieve a circular economy. The timeframes are probably feasible if there is urgency given to acting as soon as possible, given the status of current resources and infrastructure.

This timing will require an immense amount of upfront investment to get systems and new legislation integrated into operations and upgraded to global standards within eight years, especially given the ongoing reform of other environmental legislation and local government, which is already adding significantly to councils' workloads. Increased local investment (from central government via councils or regionally) coupled with more mandates around the minimum level of standardised infrastructure and services required within each council would ensure councils can bring their operations up to best-practice standards, and that this is done consistently across the country. As such we support further increase of the waste levy to deter landfill as a primary option for disposal of recoverable materials, alongside a consistent national marketing approach to educate the public about the rationale behind this increase.

The immense investment required in the first stage is also necessary to enable and provide a foundation for effective behaviour change, but changing mind-sets should be included in Stage 1, as this will be a long process and should be started as soon as possible. Research (drawing on international experience), development and piloting initiatives, and considering social and cultural attitudes will need to be the critical focus for the first 2-4 years before large scale implementation in stage 2. The mixture of support (campaigns, incentives and stewardship schemes) and pressure (regulation and enforcement) must be balanced to avoid negative behaviour change (e.g. illegal dumping and lack of buy-in). The new normal, developed in stage 3, will have the strongest social influence for behaviour change.

6. Looking at the priorities and suggested headline actions for stage one, which do you think are the most important?

All the priorities identified are important.

7. What else should we be doing in stage one?

There is a lack of resources (staff) that could implement the strategy, therefore promoting, upskilling and expanding our workforce must be a focus. Councils and contractors across the country are already struggling to attract and retain suitably qualified staff across many disciplines.

Establishing a baseline for our current performance in circularity, such as a 'circularity gap' country scan report, would be helpful to identify priorities for change and key areas of control and impact. This would also help to measure future success and focus actions where they are needed most.

Regulated phase outs of easily recyclable materials from landfill disposal, such as electronic waste, batteries, and food waste should be continued and expanded on.

Links to Emissions Reduction Plan

If we are to meet the proposed national Emissions Reduction Plan targets of reducing biogenic methane emissions from organic waste by 40 per cent by 2035, the disposal of agricultural and industrial organic waste to landfills will need to be phased out as soon as possible.



Significant work and enabling infrastructure will be needed across the country to support businesses to divert all food, paper and green waste from landfill, given many send these to landfill currently. Given organic waste is water-dense and heavy, localised disposal facilities need to be built, to reduce the transport emissions and costs associated with transporting organic waste over large distances.

Councils may need to be funded to provide or enable this infrastructure to be built locally, as within Taranaki, councils currently have little to no capacity to support businesses to reduce organic waste. This will be particularly challenging for small-medium enterprises, particularly for small volumes of food waste from kitchen/staff room areas, which on their own would struggle to financially justify a commercial compost collection. Councils may need to provide alternative infrastructure solutions alongside those offered by commercial waste collection contractors, such as local composting hubs where food scraps can be dropped off (ideally co-located with transfer stations where possible), or free paper and cardboard recycling drop off points in CBDs and industrial business areas.

We strongly support the TAO Forum recommendation for increased central government investment in reducing food waste along all parts of the food chain (including household food waste), potential mandated separate collection of organics (dependent on an analysis of regional options) and an eventual phased ban on organic waste to landfill, rather than directing organic waste to landfills with gas capture.

To be effective in influencing the reduction in timber waste, construction waste minimisation plans also need to have an accompanying local directory of options available locally where construction companies can take untreated timber (and other items) for reuse and recycling, and options for treated timber need to be provided.

We support strengthening the requirement for waste minimisation plans for building and development projects, in order to get companies to complete these plans. This could be required through the building consent process, but without altering the Building Act. Even though the requirement for waste minimisation plans is included in the NPDC Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw currently there is little motivation for construction companies to complete a plan, and it takes time to chase companies for a completed plan that is considered optional. Smaller councils will also need to be funded to have the staff time to carry out advisory and compliance functions if this is required across the board.

As well as introducing the requirement for construction waste minimisation plans, support and investment is needed for developing sharing and recovery infrastructure for the construction sector. A nation-wide sharing platform would be ideal, rather than different areas developing new platforms for their local area (noting that sharing platforms like Mutu already exist so may not need to be re-invented). This would also work for businesses who operate across the country.

8. What are the barriers or roadblocks to achieving the stage one actions, and how can we address them?

- Integration with other legislative reforms and across disciplines
There will be significant change for councils in the coming years, across a number of areas (Three Waters, RMA, Climate Change, Local Government),. There is a significant risk that many local authorities will simply not be able to handle another series of reforms at the same time, and will not have the capacity to react. As such, any changes to the waste system



need to provide enough flexibility and an achievable transition plan to cater for these wider changes, reflect the scale of other reforms and ensure appropriate communities of interest and understanding are catered for within the waste sector. The Ministry for the Environment may also need to provide ‘above and beyond’ support to local authorities for these reforms. This will ensure there are not significant delays in implementing the strategy. The circular economy approach is wider than just the waste sector, and we support this being included and integrated within changes and reform to other relevant legislation and sectors.

- In addition, for small to medium councils, the Three Waters changes will have serious implications for resourcing, as many of our operational waste staff also work in Three Waters, and many of the overheads for their positions are funded by Three Waters-related rates. When Three Waters is removed from councils, there will be significantly less resourcing and funding available than there has been to date.
- Ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic
Delays in procurement of infrastructure due to supply chain issues resulting from COVID-19 are ongoing (e.g. electric collection vehicles, construction material for new infrastructure etc). These delays are likely to impact the 8-year timeframe proposed for Stage 1, given they are likely to exist for at least another 1-2 years.

- Funding

Local government currently does not have sufficient funding or resources to contribute to all of the priorities identified in Stage 1, especially if there is to be extensive remodelling of our infrastructure and service delivery. A coordinated national transitional planning/change management approach to both the strategic planning and funding of these changes is needed to make any progress with implementation. Clearer mechanisms to fund (or facilitate) regionally important infrastructure (such as an organic waste processing facility within Taranaki) are needed.

- Commercial sector

To work towards a circular economy amongst industrial producers and businesses, we see some of the key barriers that will need to be overcome include:

- Finding other producers who can make use of a businesses’ waste materials as inputs for their business models, at the volume and frequency they are produced. This will require support from a local industrial waste coordinator to map waste and connect producers, as well as a tool to list available materials for other businesses to find.
- Transport of waste materials between businesses. Businesses are not generally equipped to transport this material themselves, so rely on waste transporters and/or professional waste management companies. These waste collectors generally make money from sending material to landfill or recycling, so are unlikely to introduce collection and transport services in the reuse space. Therefore, new transport solutions will need to be introduced, including safe containers for liquid, putrescible and gaseous waste. Encouragement and funding of industrial parks and precincts where businesses are located closer together may help overcome this barrier.
- Space and storage needs, and the consenting requirements associated with accumulating required quantities of inputs (waste collected from another business)



for a business, or storing them onsite if received volumes are larger than input needs. Businesses will not be keen to have materials building up on site before they are transported or taken, given the risks to sites, staff safety, environmental effects and consent compliance issues.

- Need for reprocessing, testing and quality control of waste materials, in order to meet quality and safety standards as new inputs.
- Health, safety and waivers of legal liability in collecting, transporting, storing and use of other business' waste as inputs by other businesses.
- Lack of local support to help businesses see their waste as potentially valuable inputs, and match businesses together. Councils or business development units could be funded to provide Commercial Waste Officers in all areas to help do this, or industrial waste research and engagement programmes could be funded in all areas. The development of eco-parks and industry hubs in regional areas with circular economy programmes run by funded facilitators/officers would be particularly important in overcoming this barrier.
- Time constraints and additional cost and resourcing requirements for businesses. Currently, waste from businesses is generally mixed together, and quickly 'out of site out of mind' for most businesses, because waste collectors remove it from site quickly. Sorting materials into different collection streams will take more time for staff, and therefore cost for the company. The currently low cost of waste to landfill also drives many businesses to dispose of valuable resources rather than taking the time to separate, advertise and share them, or recycle or compost.
- The low cost of virgin inputs in some cases makes it uneconomic to reprocess materials vs buying new materials.
- New Zealand and regional-based remanufacturers, recyclers, composters and the required infrastructure being in place, so that items don't need to travel across New Zealand, or internationally, producing further transport emissions.

There is a strong need to invest in alternative disposal options (e.g. new markets for hard to dispose of items, compost facilities, etc.) at a local level. If new waste management practices or services are required, then there needs to be local, end of life solutions.

A better framework of risk assessments for introducing new products or services would ensure we do not end up with unintended perverse consequences (e.g. how plastic was introduced as a great product and now is a huge problem due to lack of markets for end of life product; ensuring methane is captured and facilities are provided for proposed increase in organic diversion).

9. Do the strategic targets listed in Table 1 focus on the right areas?

The targets in table 1 certainly focus on areas that are consistent with our priority areas in Taranaki as reflected in our regional strategy and council waste management and minimisation plans. It is also good to see a target for the public sector, to demonstrate leadership and show how waste reduction can be achieved at an organisational level.

10. Where in the suggested ranges do you think each target should sit, to strike a good balance between ambition and achievability?



Table 1: Markers of progress for stage 1 – 2030 targets

Area	Responsibility	Strategic target (by 2030)
Waste	Whole country	Reduce waste generation by 5–10% per person
	Public sector	Reduce waste generation by 30–50%
	Businesses	Reduce waste disposal by 30–50%
	Households	Reduce waste disposal by 60–70%
Emissions	Whole country	Reduce biogenic waste methane emissions by at least 30%
Litter	Whole country	Reduce litter by 60%

Without a definition of what the baseline is, it is difficult to comment on what an effective target will be. Once a baseline is established, a target would also need to factor in those that are more advanced on the journey versus those that can implement new services or initiatives and make more of an impact. As there is a gap with current data, it may be prudent to determine some interim targets, and confirm these after some data has been collected and the first AIP is drafted.

All targets are ambitious but will provide motivation and contribute to good business cases to get the levels of service and resources in place to be able to reach the targets. Targets associated with waste generation as well as landfill disposal provides a good combination of indicators across the waste hierarchy.

- **Whole country target**

This target is consistent with what we are aiming for in Taranaki. Aligning this target with the targets from different sectors would be beneficial to ensure contributions from different sectors will ensure this target is also achieved.

- **Public sector target**

What entities are included in the public sector needs to be defined. Will it include things like the education sector and public health facilities as well as local and central government?

- **Business target**

In order to achieve this target, there is a need for good local infrastructure and reuse options for local businesses, particularly in regions outside the main large cities, as well as some strong policy / enforcement drivers. End markets for some key waste types, like treated timber, will also need to be established. Creating end use demand for some key waste streams will be key to driving this and should be a focus.

The measurement of business waste reduction will require much more comprehensive data collection, as currently many businesses have no data on the waste volumes (even just landfill waste) that they produce annually. This data will only be able to be sourced if it is made a requirement of Solid Waste Licensing, for waste collectors to provide tonnages and number of commercial clients they collected those total volumes from.

It would be ideal if waste collectors were required to weigh bins on pick up, rather than using proxies of average weights multiplied by the number of empties, which isn't as accurate.



- **Household target**

The targets are dependent on the current level of service available in each district/region (e.g. kerbside food scraps collection or greenwaste collection). This target will be easier to achieve for those areas not already providing this service. Will priority be given to those areas not currently providing this service? If so, will it limit opportunities for areas looking to expand into other waste reduction initiatives? These targets will also be dependent on the implementation of other schemes (e.g. phase out of difficult single-use plastic, product stewardship, container return scheme).

NPDC currently divert around 50% of the waste collected at the kerbside through their fortnightly landfill and mixed recycling/separate glass and weekly food scraps collection. Making further inroads into kerbside waste reduction will be focused on reducing recycling contamination, investing in education / behaviour change and offering easy, affordable alternative reuse / recycling options for items currently not collected at the kerbside. This will also need support and focus from producers and retailers as well as banning some difficult wastes to really make an impact. It is likely to be a long, gradual change rather than a fast step change as multiple initiatives are implemented.

- **Litter**

Litter is a key concern for NZ residents and needs to have a focus in the strategy. How this will be achieved, monitored and measured will need a multi tool approach, and additional funding will be required for councils to implement this. Having said that, the 60% target seems very ambitious for the first stage.

Part 3: Developing more comprehensive legislation on waste: issues and options

Embedding a long-term, strategic approach to reducing waste

11. Do you think new legislation should require the government to have a waste strategy and periodically update it?

Yes.

12. How often should a strategy be reviewed?

A central government strategy could cover a nine year period aligning with the three stages in the strategy, with Action and Investment Plans on a three year cycle. There should be some effectiveness/progress reviews mid-way. This would ensure the strategy is relevant and reflective of current waste trends. As demonstrated with the current strategy enacted in 2008, the waste strategies can become outdated if new measures and innovations are left too long, particularly as innovations and new markets develop in the interim.

13. How strongly should the strategy (and supporting action and investment plans) influence local authority plans and actions?

It's a balance – having national direction will assist with getting waste reduction projects traction; however, there needs to be enough scope for territorial authorities to undertake initiatives relevant to the local context and also enable an aligned funding package to deliver on the required initiatives. It should also be noted that any substantial direction will invariably compete with the principles of local democracy and limit the ability of locally elected members



to determine appropriate levels of service. On balance, we view that a local authority plan should be required to *give effect* to the strategy.

The strategy should be relatively high level but detail in the AIPs should definitely drive and influence local authority plans. These need to be timed to allow AIPs to be incorporated into local authority plans) i.e. AIP in 2022, WMMP to be adopted before or as part of the LTP to ensure there is alignment and then budget allocated to effectively implement actions. However, when aligning the consultation of the WMMP with the LTP process it is important that to ensure genuine engagement with the community and that the WMMP is not lost amongst other key issues in the LTP i.e. it should continue to have its own consultation process alongside the LTP.

More information on how the AIPs will be developed is needed. Local government need to be a part of the development of AIPs to enable more effective and efficient implementation.

14. What public reporting on waste by central and local government would you like to see?

Both central and local government reporting is needed. Central government defining core reporting requirements would provide clarity and consistency across New Zealand. Consolidating the reporting for local government so that it is streamlined and duplication in reporting is avoided would need to be considered for any new reporting requirements (also the practicality of collecting and reporting data need to be considered).

The following reporting would be useful

- Tracking on targets specified for Stage 1 including from the different sectors
- Annual waste trends (comparison) led by central government
- Summary report on regional waste movements.
- Enforcement actions, levels of compliance with legislation.
- Measuring success of new regulatory powers if enforcement was reported on (e.g. litter fines issues, suspended collections due to incorrect use of service).
- Indicators for reducing and reusing waste
- Standardising reporting on education / behaviour change programmes and their outcomes, and
- Capturing data from outside of just kerbside or council services

Licensing and waste levy reporting can capture some of this data and reference to the National Waste Data Framework could be used as a starting point, but we need to have more transparency on diverted material.

Local government usually reports progress through the LTP process and could be well placed to also report on progress towards targets outlined in Stage 1. If data is collected at the national level, there needs to be a process for local government to access aggregated data for their district or region so that this can be used for planning at the local level and inform WMMPs.

15. Do you agree with the suggested functions for central government agencies?

Yes, particularly additional support around national campaigns and messaging creating consistency across Aotearoa/New Zealand. We support central government taking the lead but there would need to be strong collaboration with local authorities and other NGOs on this.

While central government plans to collect and analyse national data and monitor progress, a particular emphasis should be placed on *how* they use the data to drive change and keep the industry informed (e.g. reporting against the waste strategy and action plans).



16. What central government agencies would you like to see carry out these functions?

We support MfE being the lead with support from MBIE for innovation on waste levy and behaviour change. More information on the benefits of different organisations carrying out certain functions is needed however.

We are concerned that the split of functions between MfE and MBIE may limit the ability to achieve a circular economy. We recommend further consideration be given to the functional split between MfE and MBIE for product stewardship and manufacturing/packaging regulation. MBIE, as a primarily economic agency, may not always place sufficient emphasis on the environmental regulation required.

17. How should independent, expert advice on waste be provided to the government?

We support an independent governance board to ensure consistency and transparency. This board should have a wide range of industry representatives (private, local government – both elected member and staff representatives) and Maori representatives, should they wish to take part. The panel providing expert advice should include experts in the area under consideration.

18. How could the legislation provide for Māori participation in the new advice and decision making systems for waste?

This is best left for Government to liaise directly with Māori, iwi and hapū to discuss what level of participation would work best for them. If it can be resourced, we support working towards co-design, by and with Māori, as described by te Tiriti o Waitangi principles.

19. What are your views on local government roles in the waste system, in particular the balance between local and regional? Who should be responsible for planning, service delivery, regulatory activities like licensing, and enforcement of the different obligations created?

As an opening comment, the Government's Future for Local Government Review is taking a system-wide assessment of current and future roles for local government. Any questions on changing the current arrangements – particularly in transferring responsibilities between territorial authorities and regional councils – would best be considered as part of that Review or following it.

Currently, there is no statute that pulls local and regional authorities together to coordinate and collaborate on waste matters. Responsibilities for each are driven by various pieces of legislation.

Regional collaboration on waste is definitely a priority and has a number of benefits by providing a consistent approach to visions and goals (planning), provision of waste services and behaviour change programmes. District boundaries are often not relevant to residents and businesses who can operate across boundaries.

In Taranaki, while there is no legislative requirement, we have demonstrated a collaboration model that works well. A regional committee with political representation is set up (the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee) to oversee waste matters which has representation from Taranaki Regional Council and the three district councils. This committee currently has no decision making powers, so provides a governance role and opportunity to collaborate regionally, including feeding into consultation on national issues. Collaboration amongst council



staff is led by district councils through a regional role co-funded by NPDC, SDC and STDC and service-level agreements for particular services and infrastructure.

The Taranaki Regional Council currently has a regional strategy. However, the requirement and responsibility for this is not mandated through legislation, which means regular reviews may not be given priority.

Based on our experience in Taranaki, for local government, district councils probably have the most expertise across the waste sector and a better understanding around the practicalities of service delivery, operational complexities and approaches to behaviour change programmes which may mean strategy and planning undertaken by district councils would better achieve outcomes. However, some mandate to govern this at a regional level (i.e. through a formal committee with decision-making powers) would potentially enhance regional collaboration and put more priority on it.

A regional strategy may be beneficial to translate the national strategy into a local context. Currently, we do collaborate on developing our WMMPs between STDC, SDC and NPDC (with some collaboration with TRC) but still have separate WMMPs as there are some differences in priorities, communities (rural/small councils vs a medium-sized city) and budgets between the three councils. There is a risk of these priorities being watered down and progress slowed by having a combined regional WMMP. There are also big differences in waste levy and rates revenue funding streams between councils (due to population differences between districts) which does not allow for the same services to be rolled out regionally in some cases.

The TSWMC would support legislation that provides more direction on specific responsibilities for regional and district councils, where the responsibilities consider the interested communities and scale of waste issues that need to be considered and encourage regional collaboration. The requirement for a regional strategy and local WMMPs determined by district councils is also supported. If some responsibilities for regional councils were mandated, this would need to be resourced through the waste levy.

Littering – management of litter enforcement and clean up requires collaboration from multiple organisations – including NZTA, DOC, District Councils (multiple teams within) and TRC. Some clarity on agencies' responsibilities in this area would be very beneficial to achieve any reduction in illegal dumping and littering.

Putting responsibility at the heart of the new system

20. Do you see benefit in adapting the United Kingdom's duty-of-care model for Aotearoa New Zealand's waste legislation, supported by appropriate offences and penalties?

Yes, we support this approach which puts more responsibility on producers of waste as well as the people or organisation that transport and dispose of waste. However, more detail on how this approach would work and be enforced is needed.

21. Do you support strengthening obligations around litter by creating an individual 'duty of care' to dispose of waste appropriately?

Yes, litter and illegal dumping are a high priority for the community.

22. What else could we do so that litter is taken more seriously as a form of pollution?



Government also has a role to play in driving social norms through behaviour change that make litter and illegal dumping undesirable. To do this, we need to better understand the drivers behind littering and illegal dumping so these issues can be approached in an effective way (e.g. identifying and targeting specific behaviours, working with manufacturers of commonly littered/dumped items to demonstrate/improve communication for best disposal of items). If Government is proposing a systems-approach, we need to be thinking at higher levels, as tackling the issue at an individual level will require more work for a smaller impact.

A more flexible fine and enforcement process, enabling an increased ability to enforce would assist in the short term. However, fines are not the solution (especially if the fine is still less than the cost of disposing of the items responsibly). While enforcement and fines need to be able to be used, often when these are applied, the money is not recovered (i.e. the people who offend do not actually pay their fines). The potential for larger fines may also drive changes to behaviour.

However larger fines need to strike a balance between increased deterrent effect, while not pushing to a level that is disproportionate to the nature of the offence. Equally importantly, resources for enforcement will also need to be provided to ensure fines and prosecution are followed up with effective collection measures. An example of the effectiveness of the combination of large fines and effective enforcement/collection is the increased in farm effluent disposal fines from \$50,000 to \$200,000 – which was noted by TRC as having had a significant positive impact on compliance.

A well-researched national behaviour change programme alongside improved enforcement measures should be at the forefront of addressing this issue. In addition, making services available to the community for difficult and bulky waste may help with some types of commonly illegally dumped items, through product stewardship schemes for example.

23. Do you support a nationwide licensing regime for the waste sector?

Yes, implementing reporting requirements and a reporting system at a national level will reduce repetition and minimise variability in data (more consistent = easier for analysing/comparing).

We would support a nationally driven licensing approach as this would mean consistency in how waste businesses report as these are often national or regional organisations. However, the local knowledge (regionally or by district) would be needed to ensure the licensing system operated as intended, and possibly could act as the data collection and enforcement agency. Shared duties should be clearly defined and well managed through a national licensing process.

24. Should the new legislation include a power to require a tracing system to be developed for some or all types of waste?

Yes, a tracing system could be developed for some high risk or hazardous waste types. This could be addressed from the point of purchase as long as this is feasible and practical through a type of licencing system. This would then help prevent illegal dumping of waste which has been an issue in our region particularly for tyres, and construction and demolition materials.

25. What aspects of the proposals for regulating the waste sector could be extended to apply to hazardous waste?

Implementation of a tracing system and / or licensing.



Improving legislative support for product stewardship schemes

26. Should the new legislation keep an option for accreditation of voluntary product stewardship schemes?

Yes. Voluntary schemes could be used as case studies or an interim practice, allowing appropriate infrastructure to be set up initially, and tested before the scheme becomes mandatory.

27. How could the accreditation process for new product stewardship schemes be strengthened?

Ensure it is simple and equitable across Aotearoa/New Zealand. The TAO Forum submission suggests an independent body manages this which may facilitate an equitable and transparent process, but it still needs to facilitate co-design from all key stakeholders in the development process.

28. How else could we improve the regulatory framework for product stewardship?

Encourage expansion to other items (e.g. mattresses, carpet, etc.). As we get more data on different waste streams, we will be able to prioritise more items. A link to data collection and reporting requirements could identify priority waste streams to target.

Enhancing regulatory tools to encourage change

29. What improvements could be made to the existing regulatory powers under section 23 of the Waste Management Act 2008?

It is important to use the regulatory powers that are already in place. This could be reflected in the national strategy and AIP's to ensure that any changes in government in the future mean we can still progress as per the strategy. Increased requirements for disposal labelling on products, particularly to cater for those who are illiterate or vision impaired, would also help ensure products are recycled correctly. Labelling is especially important for recyclable items and compostable items. Recycling labels should only be allowed to be put on products that are physically recyclable in the country of purchase, not just theoretically recyclable.

30. What new regulatory powers for products and materials would be useful to help Aotearoa move towards a circular economy?

New regulatory powers that could be useful include:

- Eco-modulation as a product manufacturer responsibility (e.g. penalising the use of materials that are less environmentally friendly and rewarding the use of those which are better).
- The right to suspend a service, issue a fine, or revoke a licence for those disposing of waste irresponsibly (e.g. hazardous waste).
- Legislation could also include the power to create national standards.
- Investigate further options to introduce something more bold/transformational, like the law the state of Maine have recently implemented to put the costs of waste disposal back onto suppliers: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/21/climate/maine-recycling-law-EPR.html>.



31. Would you like to see a right to return packaging to the relevant business?

Yes, a right to return packaging starts to push the problem further up the chain and incentivises use of recyclable materials. Although logistically, this will only be feasible for some households able to easily transport the items and a strong interest in reducing waste so some consideration to incentivising this practice would be needed. For businesses with a large volume of accumulated packaging, it may not be feasible to divide packaging into where it was sourced from and pay to courier it to different source locations. The strongest lever for reducing problem packaging waste would be to phase out polystyrene as a packaging material completely (given there are eco-friendly alternatives widely available), and to provide free or low cost collection points for soft plastics that the commercial sector can access through waste collectors.

32. Would you like to see more legal requirements to support products lasting longer and being able to be repaired?

Yes. This will also promote second-hand purchases (e.g. support climbing the waste hierarchy) if consumers know the products are more durable and have longevity. There seems to be an increasing trend towards decreasing life expectancy of products, which is counterproductive in terms of waste minimisation. We need to ensure the costs and accessibility of repairing are cheaper than buying new.

33. Is there a need to strengthen and make better use of import and export controls to support waste minimisation and circular economy goals? For example, should we look at ways to prohibit exports of materials like low-value plastics?

Yes. Consideration could also be given to use of tax incentives/breaks for producing/importing products that are more sustainable (and vice versa – higher taxes for products made with unsustainable materials). Product stewardship schemes for import and domestic manufacturing of products will be necessary, as the majority of the challenging materials New Zealand businesses and household purchasers are left with are sourced from overseas. Without import controls there is a limited ability for the commercial sector to reduce volumes of these problem materials.

Ensuring the waste levy is used to best effect

34. What types of activities should potentially be subject to a levy? Should the levy be able to be imposed on final disposal activities other than landfills (such as waste to energy)?

The levy should be imposed on all waste disposed to land. We would agree with waste levy being applied to final sites other than landfills where there are no alternative reuse or recycling options, as long as this does not adversely affect progress on waste reduction or behaviour change – perhaps this can be applied in time once initial landfill levies are comparable to international waste levies. If the waste levy were applied to biogas generation, it would make biogas much less financially viable. This could be a big issue for Taranaki and our industrial organic waste producers. If this is applied to waste to energy disposal, the additional funding created needs to be directed to creating alternative options higher up the waste hierarchy.

35. What factors should be considered when setting levy rates?

- Level of funding needed to implement the waste strategy nationally
- Level of funding at which localised alternatives to landfill disposal become economically viable. If we can get to this point, the establishment of infrastructure and initiatives to



reduce waste will start to be driven more by the private sector, as well as government and ensure that rate payers do not have to fund disposal.

- Level of funding to drive behaviour change towards the upper hierarchy rather than disposal.

36. How could the rules on collection and payment of the waste levy be improved?

The levy should be applied to all disposal to land to avoid movement of waste to cheaper disposal options and illegally dumping waste at cheaper facilities where the levy isn't required to be applied.

37. What should waste levy revenue be able to be spent on?

It would be good to expand spend to allow waste levy revenue to cover litter prevention activities and reducing environmental harm from waste. Additional resourcing to enable local government to build or support localised re-use infrastructure and carry out new initiatives, education and reporting requirements (e.g. admin, finances) will also be necessary.

There should be a more transparent and equitable process for accessing waste levy funds including should specifically for local government to invest in local infrastructure would progress infrastructure and service development, as well as allowing the levy to be spent on existing service operational costs as well as new services. In the current system, TAs have to take full responsibility for waste and diverted materials created further up the chain and need to find markets for recycling. If TAs could utilise more funding for operations, as well as access the national contestable fund to support capital and operational costs this would enable more local options outside of the larger metro council areas. One option to consider is that smaller councils could be supported with an infrastructure funding round - outside of metro councils, particularly if the infrastructure is designed to accommodate waste solutions on a regional scale.

38. How should revenue from the waste levy be allocated to best reflect the roles and responsibilities of the different layers of government in relation to waste, and to maximise effectiveness?

This should be proportional to the activities carried out by the relevant authorities, level of industrial activities based in that location/sector and population, and/or addressing the gaps between current services and what is required to get this up to international best practice standards.

39. How should waste levy revenue be allocated between territorial authorities?

The waste levy revenue allocation should be based on mandated responsibilities and whether there are any revenue generating activities being carried out.

Making the national contestable fund available to TAs may help for them to invest in larger scale (i.e. regional or district-level) infrastructure.

Providing adequate funding for smaller councils to be able to deliver on high-impact work programmes as this cannot be done at current funding levels based on population. It would be



good to have a base level of funding for each territorial authority and a top up based on population to enable all territorial authorities to take action to reduce waste.

Improving compliance, monitoring and enforcement

40. Which elements of compliance, monitoring and enforcement should be the responsibility of which parts of government (central government, regional councils, territorial authorities) under new waste legislation?

As noted in question 19, district councils are probably better placed to monitor and enforce at the regional or local level. However, there needs to be a level of monitoring and enforcement at central government level to ensure national consistency and compliance with legislation (particularly for waste levy, product stewardship schemes, etc.). Some collaboration at all levels is probably required to get effective coverage of compliance throughout the country.

41. The need for enforcement work will increase under the new legislation. How should it be funded?

We would support enforcement being funded by both waste levy and fines revenue, in proportion to the activities required to be undertaken.

42. What expanded investigation powers, offences and penalties should be included in new waste legislation?

Other countries have created a separate offence of littering from a vehicle, with responsibility resting with the registered owner. This means enforcement action can be taken if the number plate is known, even if the individual involved cannot be identified. This would be extremely helpful with enforcement as people often deny that they were in the vehicle when the littering took place, making it difficult to prove otherwise for enforcement agencies.

The fact that the Litter Act 1979 requires a Litter Control Officer to “observe” a person committing an infringement offence makes enforcement nearly impossible as they are seldom or never observed by such officer. Littering offences are normally reported by a member of the public, by either witnessing the offence occurring at the time or by finding evidence of offender in the litter/dumped rubbish. Evidence of offenders are often discovered in litter/dumped rubbish when a council’s contractors uplift litter or dumped rubbish for proper disposal. In such cases, enforcement agencies should be able to proceed with the relevant enforcement action (infringement/prosecution).

We support the proposed duty of care provisions where all people must have a basic obligation to dispose of their waste appropriately. However, where this is not being done, the appropriate enforcement action should be implemented. As a matter of interest, at NPDC there have been 1101 litter complaints logged in the Council’s service request system since 8 October 2003 and only 30 infringement notices issued.

There is currently no infringement offence provision for people dumping litter on their own land even if the waste is hazardous or considered to be a nuisance. Prosecution is the only option. Local councils do not enact section 10 of the Litter Act as prosecution costs generally outweigh the benefit to the general public/community. It would require the accumulation of a significant amount of rubbish to proceed with prosecution.



The provision for a council to issue infringement notices are generally not enough of a deterrent to people who are littering already – a ‘middle option’ between serving a notice, an infringement or prosecution may be more effective. This may include other means such as community service involving clean-ups etc.

Making progress with littering and illegal dumping requires good regulation, utilisation of all tools in the tool box, and a polluter pays approach. Taranaki Regional Council have noted that under the RMA where fines were increased for farm effluent discharges from \$50,000 to \$200,000 resulted in no prosecutions for the following two years.

Having said this, a cost / benefit analysis for various enforcement mechanisms for illegal dumping should be undertaken. This could be aided by ensuring simplicity of enforcement processes.

43. What regulatory or other changes would help better manage inappropriate disposal of materials (that is, littering and fly-tipping)

Incentives for proper disposal (such as container deposit schemes) and increased education, plus increased affordable and widely accessible waste disposal options will reduce littering. Working closely with the public, the community, community groups such as the Department of Corrections, Kainga Ora and Ministry for Social Development, Department of Education etc. to provide education and resources to the people they work closely with, may be a step towards working with potential offenders of littering.

Increased enforcement for littering will serve to address the offence after it has occurred but it doesn't address the fact that people litter in the first place, and it may not result in a change in behaviour. Large litter dumps of household rubbish may be as a result of a person's inability financially to take their household waste to a landfill. Small dumps are due to laziness, “don't care attitude” and a “not my problem / someone else will clean it up” attitude. Limited public waste disposal options also contribute to littering – not enough public rubbish bins in certain public places such as walkways, parks and reserves.

Farm/agricultural waste

There is no specific focus on waste disposal on farms within the strategy. This needs to be addressed, particularly if we are proposing an increase to waste levy and legislative requirements. Significant numbers of existing farm dumps operate within our region, with limited data on where farm dumps are happening. Controlling farm dumps is also challenging, as while some aspects are covered under the RMA and other legislation, there are multiple organisations responsible for enforcing these. There is currently a gap for farm dump regulations, as these often have less environmental impact, but high potential for reuse and recycling options. Improved legislation would at least support the ability to better control farm dumps in future.

Ideas on how we can manage waste production on farms and reduce emissions from farm dumps include:

- Improved localised access and incentives to reuse and recycling options for farm waste such as plastics, chemical containers.
- More localised resource recovery centres and transfer stations could help reduce dumping. However unstaffed drop off stations are very challenging to manage with regard to illegal dumping.



- On-site anaerobic digesters for biogas production should be investigated for installation on all farms producing effluent.

Coordinated by

Jessica Dearden

REGIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER

Pre pared by

Kimberley Hope

MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY



Date: 3 March 2022

Subject: **Update on Current Significant Projects for Taranaki**

Approved by: AJ Matthews, Director - Environment Quality
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3001545

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with an update on the large projects that are currently underway for the region in relation to waste management and minimisation.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Update on Current Significant Projects for Taranaki*.

Discussion

2. Attached is the report on the significant waste management and minimisation projects for the region.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.

Community considerations

6. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have 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 3001554: Update on Significant Projects for Taranaki



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**New Plymouth
District Council**

Date: 3 March 2022

To: **Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (TSWMC)**

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CURRENT SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS FOR THE REGION**

Background

A number of large projects are underway that may be of interest to the Committee. These projects are identified in current council Waste Management and Minimisation Plans and / or long term plans.

1. Organic material recovery facility - feasibility study (STDC)

The three district councils (STDC, NPDC and SDC) are co-funding a feasibility study into how they might collectively build, operate and/or manage an organic materials recovery facility, which could potentially process domestic, commercial and industrial organic waste streams from across the region. South Taranaki District Council is the lead coordinating Council on this project.

Iwi and hapū engagement

The Councils are engaging with iwi and hapū as a first step in this feasibility study. The councils have contracted [AATEA](#), a consulting firm specialising in Māori-led co-design, to facilitate iwi and hapū engagement for this study. The councils have also contracted [Tonkin + Taylor](#) to lead the technical options analysis portion of this study.

On 28 January AATEA facilitated a preparatory hui to provide participants with background information and general scene setting. Seven of Taranaki's eight iwi were represented at this hui (with Ngāti Tama being the only iwi not in attendance). The Kaihautū Matua (National Manager) of Para Kore also attended.

On 16 February, the official iwi and hapū engagement wānanga for this project was held. The same groups were represented, with the addition of Parihaka Papakāinga Trust. At the wānanga, feedback was sought on draft assessment criteria for any potential facility/facilities, and underlying mātāpono (principles) that will guide the project. The participant engagement level was high, and AATEA are now compiling a summary of salient themes from the wānanga.



Technical review

The next stage of the feasibility study will involve engagement with industry stakeholders and technical options analysis conducted by Tonkin + Taylor. Both Tonkin + Taylor and

Liardet Street, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4340, New Zealand

P 06-759 6060 | F 06-759 6072 | E enquiries@npdc.govt.nz

AATEA will author portions of a recommendations report. A draft of this report will go back to the iwi and hapū engagement group for feedback before the report is finalised, and will then go through the formal Committee processes at each Council.

2. Commercial waste sorting facility

The Commercial Waste Sorting Facility is a new innovative project being introduced by New Plymouth District Council to sort mixed skips of dry waste from across the region, in order to divert materials from landfill that can instead be reused, recycled, remanufactured or composted.

Currently, 60% or about 45,000 tonnes of the waste we send to the landfill across Taranaki is commercial and industrial waste. The facility aims to divert 5,000 tonnes of those materials from landfill in its first year, while also creating six new jobs.

Businesses will be able to bring sorted and unsorted waste to the Commercial Waste Sorting Facility with construction and demolition materials being a key target. Of the \$1.197m construction cost, grant funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Management Fund is providing \$420,550 with the rest funded by NPDC.

Following our earlier report in May 2021 further progress with construction and preparation for operation of the facility in 2022 is provided below.

The tender for construction of the facility on the site of the current Transfer Station on Colson Road, New Plymouth, is now open. The New Plymouth Transfer Station will move to its new site, past the Material Recovery Facility for kerbside recycling, in late March or early April. Construction of the Commercial Waste Sorting Facility is expected to be completed by the end of July.

The tender for operation of the facility is planned to open in April, with an operator appointed in June.

Following a user design workshop with waste collectors in late 2021, the key users of the facility, we are also planning a 'soft launch' for the facility for several months, to trial and refine the drop off and sorting process, and incorporate feedback from users.

TSWMC members will be invited to an official launch of the facility. Marketing and tours of the facility will then follow to promote the use of the facility by the construction and demolition sector, businesses, and home builders and renovators (either directly or indirectly through their waste contractors).

3. Retendering Regional Waste Services Contract

The Regional Waste Services Contract commenced on 1 October 2015, and is set to expire on 30 September 2024. It is a regional contract and includes waste services for NPDC, STDC and SDC. To allow sufficient time for a successful contractor to mobilise, work is now beginning of the procurement process for the new contract.

The purpose of the contract is to engage a contractor to provide kerbside waste and recycling collection services and the operation of transfer stations designed to maximise diversion of

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household waste. The key outcome that the councils are seeking from the contract is the competent delivery of collection services and facilities' operations which contribute to creative and innovative resource recovery and reduction of waste to landfill, consistent with Waste Management and Minimisation Plans.

The three district councils will work collaboratively through a project team, with the support of a consultant to review of the services and develop the new contract and tender documents. The review of the effectiveness of the services will take place in May, as per section 17A of the Local Government Act 2002 requirements. Scoping of the new contract and development of the tender documents will take place over the next six to eight months, after which the contract is planned to go out for tender.

4. Six-yearly review of district Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMP)

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires Territorial Authorities (TAs) to review and implement waste management and minimisation plans (WMMP) every six years. The WMMP is intended to be the guiding document for councils to promote and achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within their district. NPDC is due to adopt a revised plan by the end of 2023, while SDC and STDC need to adopt revised plans by 2024. An action within all three plans recommended the three TA's align the plan review process so a waste assessment and development of WMMPs can be undertaken collaboratively.

The Ministry for the Environment (2015) has published a guide for territorial authorities on reviewing their WMMP¹. A project plan has been developed in line with this guide and will be undertaken over the next 18 months.

The project has the following objectives:

- Fulfil the statutory requirement to review the WMMPs within six years
- Incorporate changes resulting from review of WMA, NZ Waste Strategy, Litter Act and MfE's work programme
- Provide transparency on how the councils will deliver on objectives, policies and targets for waste management and minimisation.
- Develop a document that is action oriented and provides a guide for decision making and community collaboration.
- Allows for co-design with Iwi/hapu
- Ensures early engagement with key stakeholders
- Provides a plan for improvements to data collection to achieve the requirement of the National Data Framework
- Provides a framework to drive behaviour change for waste minimisation within the community

¹ Ministry for the Environment. 2015. Waste Assessments and Waste Management and Minimisation Planning - A Guide for Territorial Authorities. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

- Incorporates other relevant legislation such as Climate Change and emissions reduction within waste services (including Emissions Reduction Plan), RMA reforms, and local government reforms.

A regional project team has been established and the Regional Waste Minimisation Officer (RWMO) will co-ordinate the project with assistance from staff within each council for specific aspects.

Key steps and approximate timing for the project are:

Milestone	Timing
Project plan	Completed January 2022
Community engagement plan	January to March 2022
Waste situation Effectiveness of current plans Early iwi/hapu and stakeholder engagement Data gathering	March to May 2022
Where do we want to be? Wider iwi and stakeholder engagement Key priorities, vision and goals	May to September 2022
How are we going to get there? Options development and evaluation Engage with key stakeholders	September 2022 to March 2023
Draft Waste Assessment and WMMPs	March 2023
Consultation (special consultative procedure)	April to August 2023
WMMPs adopted	October / November 2023

Kimberley Hope
MANAGER RESOURCE RECOVERY

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AGENDA AUTHORISATION

Agenda for the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 March 2022.

Confirmed:

A J Matthews
Director - Environment Quality

Approved:

S J Ruru
Chief Executive