

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager
DATE: 10 June 2009
SUBJECT: **SOLID WASTE – PROPOSED CHANGES TO KERBSIDE COLLECTION**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend changes to the draft Ten Year Plan to reduce the number of additional kerbside collection services proposed in Year 4 (2012/13).

2 BACKGROUND

The Solid Waste AMP (and subsequently draft Ten Year Plan) signalled a significant increase in kerbside services provided by Council, in order to increase diversion of compostable and recyclable material from landfill. Current estimates indicate typically 50% of residential refuse is compostable and 35% recyclable. Diversion of this material (in conjunction with some commercial and industrial waste streams) is key to maximising the life of the Eves Valley landfill.

While the specific form and scale of new kerbside collections was not identified in the AMP, a three bin collection system (similar to that of Christchurch and Timaru) was used as a basis for planning and budgeting. Diversion rates from similar systems were used to estimate predicted reductions in waste to landfill.

It was proposed that the detail and extent of any proposed services would be the subject of consultation during the development of a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) in the coming 12 to 18 months.

Since publication of the draft Ten Year Plan, the proposal has been highlighted by commercial operators and the subject of many submissions. A large number of pre-prepared forms as well as many considered submissions have been received. These indicated a widespread satisfaction with the existing service, and/or reluctance to significantly increase the scope and cost of the service.

3 DISCUSSION

Staff have considered the multi-bin proposal in the light of submissions, and recommend a change to the proposal outlined in the Solid Waste AMP and draft Ten Year Plan.

The proposal to provide a multi-bin service was driven by a recognition that volumes from the existing crate recycling service appear to be flattening, and that a significant amount of material is continuing to be disposed in landfill.

Existing private wheelie bin services provide a convenient service, but in isolation probably hinder recycling and waste minimisation initiatives. Provision of wheelie bins for organics (food scraps and garden) and recyclables was seen as a useful method to reduce landfill volumes, and as a starting point for development of options. Supplying a residual waste bin in addition to these two was seen as cost-effective and worked well with the operational and plant requirements for the other two bins.

It is clear from submissions that the proposal presented a number of perceived difficulties. It is accepted that many of the submissions were well considered and raised issues that require attention. An issue noted by staff in submissions was a desire for choice in services – particularly in the greenwaste and waste bins.

It is now proposed to retain the existing kerbside services for the duration of the Ten Year Plan. Removal of the multi bin approach will reduce additional operational and new capital costs significantly in Year 4, but are likely to bring forward capital spending at the Eves Valley landfill by two years.

On this basis, staff consider that it is prudent for budget purposes to retain existing services in 2012 (Year 4), but that this approach to recycling services and any other services (including the existing waste bag collection) be subject to review through the WMMP and future LTCCP processes.

Staff would like to highlight a positive outcome of the inclusion of the multi-bin proposal in the draft Ten Year Plan. Since recent publicity surrounding the plan, staff have fielded calls from commercial operators looking to provide alternative recycling and greenwaste collections. This is seen as positive, and Council staff are exploring potential options to support development of these services in the private sector.

4 RECOMMENDATION

That the Tasman District Council Ten Year Plan:

- 4.1 Removes the introduction of a multi-bin recycling, organics and waste collection service in Year 4**
- 4.2 Provides for retaining the existing kerbside collection services from Year 4**
- 4.3 Brings forward capital expenditure for Eves Valley landfill (Stage 3) to commence in Year 6**
- 4.4 Includes wording noting that the Council will explore recycling and waste management options through a review of its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.**

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager