

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** David Stephenson, Utilities Asset Engineer

**REFERENCE:** R399

**SUBJECT:** **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan – RESC-10-11-11**  
Report prepared for meeting of 11 November 2010

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## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on progress towards a joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, publication of the revised New Zealand Waste Strategy and to call for nominations for members of a joint working party with Nelson City Council.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires Council to prepare a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) and allows for joint WMMP's to be prepared by a number of territorial authorities. The Act requires a review of each council's WMMP by July 2012 and thence every six years.
- 2.2 Council has in the last year developed a joint "Waste Assessment" with Nelson City Council, which was adopted by Nelson City on 25 March and by the committee on 15 April. The committee resolved:

***THAT** the Council receive the Joint Waste Assessment dated March 2010 as the basis for the development of a Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan;*

***AND THAT** staff and the joint waste working party continue to develop the joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, including the investigation of the priority waste streams identified in the report;*

***AND THAT** staff and the joint waste working party report back to the Combined Shareholders Committee with preferred options for governance arrangements for joint solid waste management.*

- 2.3 The joint Waste Assessment was developed by staff with the assistance of a waste working party, consisting of staff and two Councillors from each Council.
- 2.4 Since adoption of the Waste Assessment in April discussions have continued at a staff level on governance options (particularly for landfill operations) and a report has been commissioned for consideration by the Councils in December.
- 2.5 Development of the joint WMMP has been delayed, pending the release of the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

### **3 NEW ZEALAND WASTE STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Waste Minimisation Act requires Council to “have regard to” the New Zealand Waste Strategy. On 13 October the Minister for the Environment announced the release of the revised Strategy.
- 3.2 The new Strategy differs significantly from the previous (2002) and from a draft consulted on in May 2009. Rather than setting specific targets and programmes of work, the new strategy sets out two overriding principles (or “goals” in the Strategy) of waste management.
- 3.3 The goals are:
- reducing the harmful effects of waste, and
  - improving the efficiency of resource use<sup>i</sup>
- 3.4 This change in the strategy means that, rather than taking specific objectives from the strategy, Council will be able to set its own specific policies, objectives and targets, but consider the potential harmful effects and resource efficiencies of various options.

### **4 LANDFILL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 Landfill management and governance was identified by the working party as the single most importance issue affecting waste management practice in the wider region.
- 4.2 A report on governance options is in preparation and is expected to be tabled at the next Engineering Services Committee meeting (in the absence of the Combined Shareholders Committee being confirmed).

### **5 DEVELOPMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN**

- 5.1 In the adoption of the joint waste assessment, Council endorsed the investigation of the following “priority waste streams”:
- organics
  - recyclable packaging and paper
  - inorganic and ‘special’ wastes
  - timber (and other C&D waste)
  - hazardous waste
- 5.2 Staff are now in a position to recommence work on these priority waste streams, taking into account the goals of the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

## **6 KERBSIDE COLLECTION MODELS**

- 6.1 In addition to consideration of the priority waste streams above, staff will be evaluating a range of kerbside collections for waste and recycling, as signalled in the Ten Year Plan. Staff will also be considering options for processing and sale of recyclable materials and the role of Council in kerbside waste collections.
- 6.2 In recent years a wider range of models have been implemented by Councils within New Zealand and overseas. Council staff will be considering local and international methods and acknowledge the material supplied to date by Cr Inglis, which will assist in this review.

## **7 MEMBERSHIP OF WASTE WORKING PARTY**

- 7.1 The formation of the waste working party has been useful for the development of the waste assessment and initial consideration of governance options. While not delegated any decision-making authority, the working party has been useful for considering issues and developing recommendations prior to consideration by each Council.
- 7.2 It is recommended that this term the membership be increased to three members of each Council, to widen the scope of the group and provide alternates in the event of unavailability. To provide consistency, it is recommended that the past members (Cr Bryant and Cr Dowler) be reappointed if willing.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 THAT the report RESC-10-11-11 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan be received.**
- 8.2 THAT the Committee nominate three Councillors as members of a joint Waste Working Party to provide assistance in the development of a joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan with Nelson City Council as outlined in the report RESC-10-11-11.**

David Stephenson  
**Utilities Asset Engineer**

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<sup>i</sup> Foreword to the New Zealand Waste Strategy (<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste-strategy/index.html>)