

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: David Stephenson, Utilities Asset Engineer

REFERENCE: R377

DATE: 3 May 2007

SUBJECT: **AGRECOVERY LAUNCH**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the successful launch of the Agrecovery container recycling scheme at the Beach Road Resource Recovery Centre.

2 BACKGROUND

Until recently the environmentally-appropriate disposal of used agrichemical containers has been problematical both within the District and within New Zealand. The Agrecovery Foundation was formed in December 2005 with the purpose of providing a drop-off and collection service for the recycling of used agrichemical containers.

Since that time, work has progressed on the identification and establishment of up to 50 drop-off and storage sites around the country and the development of a certified collection, processing and recycling process.

The Agrecovery Foundation contacted Tasman District Council last year to request cooperation of a drop off point in the Tasman District, and since that time staff have worked with Council's contractor to integrate the service into day-to-day operations at the Richmond site. Facilities are now provided on site and Streetsmart staff have been trained in the assessment of the containers.

3 OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The Hon. David Benson-Pope, Minister for the Environment officially launched Agrecovery at Richmond Resource Recovery Centre on 19 April 2007. At this stage, the Richmond site was one of 22 operational sites around the country.

During his speech, the Minister made reference to the concept of extender producer responsibility (also known as product stewardship), and how the Agrecovery model is a good working example of this. Product stewardship is a concept likely to feature more prominently in the waste area in the medium and long term future, as central government develops waste minimisation law.

Although presently in the committee stages of the parliamentary process, indications are that the proposed Waste Minimisation Law will have provision for mandatory product stewardship provisions. Potential waste streams would include high hazard and difficult waste products, such as electronic waste (“e-waste”), tyres, oil, and end-of-life vehicles.

4 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

David Stephenson
Utilities Asset Engineer

Illustration: Mayor Hurley welcomes guests to the official launch of Agrecovery

