

Council Briefing Meetings Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 30 August, 2017
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson) Cr Stu Bell Cr Crichton Christie Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Shelley Deeming Cr Sue Glen Cr Phil Halse Cr Cherry Hermon Cr Greg Innes Cr Greg Martin Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy
Not in Attendance	Cr Jayne Golightly

Also in attendance: Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Simon Weston (General Manager Infrastructure), Andrew Carvell (Manager, Waste and Drainage), Nicolene Pestana (Democracy Advisor), Chris Purchas (Senior Consultant – Tonkin & Taylor Ltd).

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Reports

2.1 Review of Waste Minimisation Plan Submissions

Counsellor Greg Martin convened the briefing at 13:00.

Chris Purchas presented and explained the content of each slide as outlined in the agenda report and presentation.

Presentation headings

- Activity to date
- Review of Waste Minimisation Plan Submissions
- Options for change
- Vision
- Goals
- Targets
- National policy issues
- Actions – infrastructure
- Actions – Education
- Actions – Policy
- Timeline / Indicative cost
- Timeline
- Comments
- Collections – procurement timeline
- Draft Whangarei Waste Minimisation and Management Plan

After each slide, the floor was opened to the elected members for discussion or questions.

Activity to date

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to prepare waste management and minimisation plans (WMMP's) and have these reviewed every six years. On 29 June 2017, Council approved for consultation the draft WMMP to replace the 2012 WMMP. The Act requires Council to publicly consult on the draft WMMP using a special consultative process made up of written and oral submissions, Have your say evenings and Te Karearea meetings. A total of sixty-three written submissions to the draft plan were received. On 24 August 2017, a hearing was held for submitters who wished to present their submissions.

Review of Waste Minimisation Plan Submissions and options for change

Submitters have raised a wide range of issues and provided constructive ideas to improve the draft WMMP. Where suggestions have added clarity to the plan, they have been incorporated into the plan. Examples of these suggestions include adding an action to advocate for product stewardship and treating waste as a resource. Some of the suggestions have operational implications for Council. Examples of these include amending the vision to include a commitment to “zero waste”, retaining

the current kerbside crate recycling, local recycling of materials and collection of bulky rubbish from households.

Elected members comments

- *There should be a recycling receptacle available at supermarkets for soft plastics.*
- *Plastic bags should be taken away completely or replaced with other types of plastic bags.*
- *Incentivising the community at transfer stations came through quite strongly, however there was some discussion as to whether this would lead to health and safety issues at transfer stations.*
- *Another point that came through strongly was that the community is opposed to the 240l bins and the cost of these wheelie bins is high. Chris advised that there is no reason why council cannot go to the market to get whatever system the public wants but as the draft WMMP has been worked through, they have moved away from the 240l bins. Simon Weston advised that there are pros to the wheelie bin such as the capacity, the ability to stretch between collections and there is also a safety benefit.*
- *E-waste is a problem as the user gets charged.*
- *Product stewardship makes sense.*

Vision and goals

The vision and goals for waste minimisation and management in the Whangarei district have been reworked to give effect to the public submissions. The new suggested vision reads “*to deliver community benefits and **work towards zero waste**. Whangarei businesses and households will be provided with efficient and effective minimisation and management services that **recognise waste as a valuable resource**.” Goal 3 has been amended to read as follows: To maximise community benefits, **treat waste as a valuable resource** and provide employment, multi-use facilities and cost effective services.*

- *Some of the elected members felt that zero waste is an unrealistic expectation and that it should not be included in the vision statement.*
- *Others felt that a sensible approach towards zero waste should be taken but supported the inclusion of a zero waste statement in the vision.*
- *There was a view that zero waste was an aspiration as opposed to a statement and it should be included in the vision. Chris advised that we should work towards zero waste but that it should be balanced.*
- *Comments were made about the implications of including a reference to zero waste in the vision statement particularly from a financial and educational*

point. To achieve zero waste would have a huge cost implication and the same would apply to recognising waste as a resource.

- *There was also a view agreeing with the vision of working towards a landfill and that the statement should be clear that it refers to zero waste going to refill.*

Targets

The draft WMMP has three targets namely waste reduction and kerbside and transfer station recycling.

Waste Reduction

The draft WMMP seeks to ensure a 2% reduction year on year and reduce waste to 600kg per person by 2023.

Kerbside Recycling

There is a choice between a similar system, where a percentage of recycling is done kerbside or additional capacity at a possibly similar price. Current kerbside collection is working well and is close to best in its class for the current system.

Transfer station recovery

Recycling at transfer station is good but low at rural sites. This requires additional services and there is potential to consider “dry waste” sorting and bulk waste collection.

Elected members comments

- *There was a discussion as to what Council can do to increase recycling in the community. A comment was made that it does not have to cost a lot of money to educate people about recycling.*
- *It was also stated that the elected members must look at the WMMP through the eyes of the community and that all targets should encourage recycling not landfill.*
- *Another view was that the environment must be conducive to people electing to recycle and that the WMMP must be simple.*
- *There was some discussion about changing the current one crate system to a two-crate system. One view was that a two-crate system would present contractors with serious health and safety issues. There would also be procurement and capability issues should the system be changed. Chris advised that some people are concerned about contamination with a two-crate system or a lack of flexibility of bins. Perhaps a solution is to provide an option ie a crate or a bin.*

- *Some of the elected members felt that a 2-bin system would solve the health and safety requirements and that separating plastics from glass had its benefits.*
- The elected members were advised that if the collection system is changed, there is a cost involved to educate the community. When kerbside collection was introduced, a huge education process was undertaken.
- *A question was asked as to how prescriptive can Council be in contracting with collection services?* Simon advised that to influence the outcomes envisaged in the WMMP, Council would have to put out a document that clarifies the outcomes.
- *A question was asked as to whether Council can do in-house recycling.* Simon advised that we could but he wouldn't advise it considering the health and safety and capacity issues.

National policy issues

Council is to engage in the national policy debate on priority issues which include plastic bags, e-waste and rural waste.

Actions – Infrastructure, education and policy

Some of the actions identified in the WMMP include:

- Council must progress procurement for a new recycling collection contract with a focus on the quality of materials collected, convenience and safety of collections for staff and the public.
- Council must progress procurement for a new rural transfer station with a focus on increasing the recovery of materials and maintaining a high level of service.
- Council must work with producers and importers to improve the management of hazardous waste, including e-waste.
- The WMMP must provide clear information to promote the effective use of recycling services and to educate the community about the negative effect of illegal dumping and what the alternatives are.
- Council must develop criteria for making grants available for new and expanded activities rather than supporting the status quo.

Timelines / Indicative cost

Some of the proposed actions would have an impact on budget and should be linked to the LTP. With regards to procurement, there are current contracts which are due for renewal but an indication is needed from the elected members as to what their views are, particularly on the issue of recycling.

Elected members comments

- *A suggestion was made to fit the WMMP into the next LTP. Council has already committed to this LTP and should not make further commitments. With the WMMP, more cash is being committed and this is not aligning with the LTP. Currently there are core services which council currently provides. Any additional services must go into the LTP for the Elected Members to decide on them. Andrew advised that we cannot keep status quo as far as what the market demands for recycling are.*
- *A question was asked as to where the funding would be coming from? Andrew advised that most of the funding comes from bag sales.*

Draft Waste Minimisation and Management Plan

Council is to adopt the WMMP on 28 September 2017.

Andrews suggestion is that the elected members look at the overall submissions and their impact on the current WMMP and then consider the timing as elected members may wish to hold another meeting prior to adoption of the plan.

Elected members comments

Some members were in favour of a further discussion while some did not think it was necessary.

The briefing adjourned at 14.39pm.