

Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Karen Brewster, Section Leader - Policy and Planning

Solid Waste Management for Wairarapa – Public Discussion Document

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee that a Public Discussion Document has been prepared by Waste Management Wairarapa (“WMW”) to seek community comment on Solid Waste Management (Refuse Disposal) issues in the Wairarapa.

2. Background

- 2.1 In the early 1990s a report was commissioned by the three District Councils to consider future waste disposal options. The report concluded that consideration should be given to the possibility of a shared regional landfill.
- 2.2 In 1996 the three District Councils initiated a review of the original report and decided to collaborate on the region’s waste problems. A jointly funded Wairarapa Regional Landfill Committee was established, which subsequently agreed to operate under the name Waste Management Wairarapa. Membership of WMW also includes local iwi and Wellington Regional Council representatives.
- 2.3 Through the activities of the group, the District Councils have agreed to find a long-term solution for solid waste disposal prior to the existing facilities becoming full.
- 2.4 The Wairarapa’s landfills are approaching the end of their lifespans. Masterton’s landfill is not expected to last more than seven years, the Greytown and Martinborough landfills have approximately ten years remaining, while Carterton has the longest time remaining at an estimated 17 years.
- 2.5 The District Councils have agreed to develop a solid waste management plan on a Wairarapa-wide basis in accordance with the

provisions of the Local Government Act – Amendment No.4 1996. The benefits of preparing this plan jointly include a co-ordinated approach to solid waste disposal and consistency of types of waste accepted.

- 2.6 WMW has produced a Public Discussion Document identifying Wairarapa's waste management issues, and giving a number of options to consider.
- 2.7 A full copy of the Public Discussion Document is available from the Policy & Planning Section.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The Public Discussion Document was launched on 27 July 1999, and is available for public comment until 14 September 1999. Comments are to be forwarded to Mike Longworth at the Masterton District Council.
- 3.2 WMW will consider the views expressed by the public, and then produce a Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. The Draft Plan will have a formal consultation period, which provides the community and councils with an opportunity to make formal submissions. Once the consultation phase is completed, any amendments necessary will be incorporated, and the amended plan will be put forward to the three District Councils for adoption.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 A number of solid waste disposal options have been identified in the Discussion Document for the community to consider. These include:
 - (1) *Zero Waste* – concept of having zero waste through reuse and recycling strategies.
 - (2) *New Landfill for each Wairarapa Town* – would require a new site for each of the towns.
 - (3) *Regional (Wairarapa) Landfill* – would be developed at an environmentally acceptable site, and served by several transfer stations.
 - (4) *Out-of-Wairarapa Landfill* – transportation of rubbish to another area.
 - (5) *Incineration* – incineration of rubbish at the old Mere Mere Power Station.
 - (6) *Combination of the above.*
 - (7) *Other options?*
- 4.2 WMW seeks community feedback on all these options. While Wellington Regional Council officers contribute to the decision-making role of WMW, the Committee has an opportunity through this

process to comment on the Discussion Document, and subsequently to submit on the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

- 4.3 In particular, the Committee may like to consider whether it wishes to endorse a particular solid waste disposal option. Regardless of any preference, any landfill proposal in the region will require resource consents for discharges to land (waste), air (methane gas), water (leachate), and the diversion and discharge of stormwater from the Regional Council.

5. Communications

The Regional Council does not have any direct responsibility for publicity of the Public Discussion Document. An extensive publicity campaign has been launched by WMW in order to ascertain community views on how waste management should be addressed. During the consultation period, various newspaper articles will be produced, press and radio advertising will occur, and display boards have been arranged in the libraries, District Council Offices, and in the Chapel Street Office of the Wellington Regional Council.

6. Recommendation

- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.*
- (2) That the Committee considers the identified waste disposal options, and indicates any preferred option/s if so desired.*

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