



Collection and disposal of refuse

Users:	Residents and businesses of Christchurch
General Benefit:	Public health, environmental

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Christchurch householders dispose of over 6,000,000 bags of domestic rubbish each year. Domestic waste is removed by the weekly roadside collection service and, along with commercial waste, is processed at the City's transfer stations at Sockburn, Bromley and Redwood for disposal in the Council's Burwood land fill site. This part of the refuse disposal service also includes dealing with hazardous wastes, along with a programme to monitor and rehabilitate old land fill sites. Waste minimisation is the other component of the Council's refuse service, including a composting facility, recycling, auditing commercial waste and promoting the minimisation of solid waste. Waste disposal and minimisation services are provided at an annual cost of \$19 million.

Rationale for assigning benefits

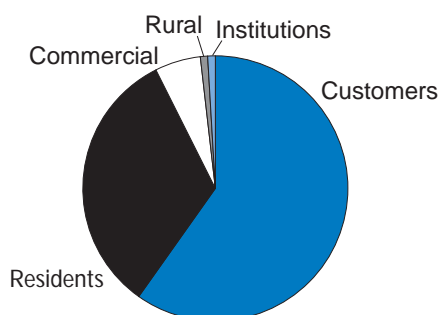
Clients receive direct benefit from the removal of rubbish. Tipping fees paid at transfer stations are a direct charge towards processing, carting to the land fill site, and the operation and maintenance of the land fill. The community as a whole receives general benefit from the public health and environmental advantages of a safe, managed and controlled refuse disposal system. Direct benefit of waste minimisation is gained by businesses seeking to reduce rubbish disposal. This service is partially paid for by users who invest in the service in order to reduce their own rubbish disposal costs. General benefits of waste minimisation are gained by the whole community from the reduction of environmental problems that can be associated with rubbish disposal. Revenue is also gained from the sale of recyclable materials and compost.

Other considerations

Community interest demands prompt and efficient removal of refuse, with no regard to individual economic circumstances. Disposal of hazardous wastes and rehabilitation of old land fill sites are strongly in the community interest. The cost of rehabilitating old Council owned land fill sites is charged against rates as it would be impractical to identify and charge those who benefitted directly from the service in the past.

While the direct benefit of waste minimisation is entirely paid for by users, the major cost of the general benefit of this part of the service has also been allocated to residential ratepayers.

Who benefits?



Who should pay?

