

## 9. HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR DOMESTIC REFUSE DISPOSAL UNDER A WASTER PAYS REGIME

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The purpose of this report is to gain approval for a proposed method of providing assistance to those experiencing hardship in paying for their domestic refuse collection under a waster pays regime.

### BACKGROUND

The Council, in considering a move to waster pays for refuse collection, wished to ensure assistance was provided to those in need, to minimise the illegal disposal of household refuse and to make the waster pays system as fair as possible. The part of the resolution (adopted by the Council on 16 July 2002) of particular relevance to this report is:

*"4) That, to eliminate the personal dumping of unwanted household rubbish and taking into account social issues, a line item be provided in the budget for the supply of rubbish bags and/or stickers to address cases of hardship."*

### PROPOSAL

That a hardship fund be established so that those in need can apply and receive some free refuse disposal via black bags, from the Council, provided they meet certain criteria. This assistance can be provided as part of existing support offered to the community by the Mayors Welfare Fund based on the following process.

#### Suggested Process

1. An individual experiencing hardship applies to the Mayors Welfare Fund for support.
2. On a case by case basis the individual is evaluated by the Mayors Welfare Fund based on its already established criteria.
3. The criteria for refuse collection support (apart from the other criteria applied by the provider to establish the level of hardship) is: That the person live in a fixed abode that requires refuse disposal, by the individual applying for the hardship.
4. The provider distributes a suitable number of refuse bags to those that meet the criteria.

#### Funding

The cost of the assistance provided is estimated to be around \$40,000 per annum based on 1,250 households (based on the number of hardship cases that the Mayors Welfare Fund already deals with) receiving bags for 6 months, worth around \$1.15 each bag (excluding GST).

#### Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That following confirmation of the Councils decision to move to waster pays for domestic refuse collection, the committee supports the inclusion of \$40,000 for consideration in the 2003/04 draft Solid Waste Budget, to address cases of hardship related to domestic refuse collection.
  2. That the Council endorse the process for hardship assistance outlined in this report.

#### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.