

4. RESOURCE RECOVERY FROM CLEANFILL SITES – CHRISTCHURCH CITY

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The purpose of this report is to promote the Christchurch City Council's draft cleanfill licensing bylaw to other members of the Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

In early 2003 the Christchurch City Council commenced a process aimed at establishing a new bylaw to licence those sites that receive building construction and demolition waste and roading waste. The motivation for this innovative step was two-fold; to encourage recovery of resources and to supplement the funding available for waste minimisation initiatives.

This project was initiated in support of the city's own waste reduction goal and targets as set out in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2003 (Part 1), as well as supporting construction and demolition waste targets in the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

Following the initial reports to the Council in July and August 2003 public submissions were invited and the hearing of submissions took place early in October 2003. In response to the submissions (including issues raised by the Waimakariri District Council) a number of important changes were made to the proposed bylaw and a final report will be presented to the 20 November 2003 meeting of the Christchurch City Council recommending the making of the amended bylaw - to come into effect on 1 March 2004. Intensive dialogue has occurred with stakeholders in developing the bylaw.

The proposed bylaw has the following key features:

- Cleanfill sites will only be permitted to operate if a licence has been granted by the Christchurch City Council.
- Promoting the recovery of resources, thereby reducing disposal.
- Restricting the disposal of materials to those permitted in the Ministry for the Environment guidelines for cleanfill site management.
- Imposing a \$9 per cubic metre levy on certain listed materials (construction waste and demolition materials) to act as a disincentive to disposal of waste and to fund waste minimisation. Site owners will be compensated for collecting the levies on behalf of the Council.
- Natural hardfill materials (which are mostly used for rehabilitation of sites) will not be levied.
- Cleanfill site operators will need to keep records of materials received including volume, source of materials, type of activity generating materials etc, and make it available to the Council. This will be useful for planning and management of waste reduction initiatives.

Existing resource consents issued by Environment Canterbury are concerned with the potential environmental effects of disposal activities at cleanfills, whereas the new proposed bylaw is a waste management tool focusing on recovery of resources and discouragement of disposal.

REGION WIDE COOPERATION ON WASTE MINIMISATION

During the hearing of submissions the point was made by several submitters that in order to create a level playing field for industry across the region, a similar bylaw needed to be in place in adjacent territorial authorities such as the Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils as waste could flow to these areas with the proposed new financial disincentives within the city. (It is unlikely that it would be economical for such low-value 'waste' materials from Christchurch to be transported beyond these two areas.) In the interests of a consistent regional approach it is recommended that the remaining member councils also consider this approach.

The principle of co-operation between members of the Subcommittee is a key feature of the Constituting Agreement which has been endorsed by all participating councils. The Subcommittee has already made progress by commissioning reports relating to the reduction of regional organic waste, the reduction of regional construction and demolition wastes and options for efficiencies in region-wide transportation of recyclables. Working together on the promotion of resource recovery at cleanfill sites is yet another opportunity to advance waste reduction and resource recovery practices in the region.

A copy of the proposed new cleanfill bylaw is attached for information, and as an input into the waste planning processes of member councils.

SUMMARY

In addition to the regional waste minimisation initiatives already actioned by the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee, the Christchurch City Council's proposed new Cleanfill Licensing Bylaw is a tool which has potential to be effective not only in the areas of member councils, but also in all territorial local authority areas throughout New Zealand.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That subject to the Christchurch City Council resolving to make the proposed new Cleanfill Licensing Bylaw at its meeting on 20 November 2003, the Selwyn District Council and the Waimakariri District Council be requested to consider also implementing a Cleanfill Licensing Bylaw.
 2. That other Canterbury territorial authorities also be similarly requested to consider implementing a Cleanfill Licensing Bylaw.

Chairman's

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