

**4. GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION FOR WASTE MINIMISATION:  
PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND REMIT** RR 9625

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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to propose that the Council put a remit forward to the 1999 LGNZ Conference asking that Local Government New Zealand initiate a process to persuade the government to give legislative and other national support to waste minimisation.

The Government has long been committed to the principles of waste minimisation and the waste reduction hierarchy. The Local Government Amendment Act No 4 gave effect to those principles by requiring local authorities to produce waste management plans and enabling them to use economic instruments to fund those plans and promote the achievement of the plans' objectives.

However, effective waste minimisation requires more than local authority action. The key players are industry and commerce, the government and local authorities, and getting progress on waste minimisation at the national level requires the support and co-operation of all these players. The Recovered Materials Foundation has recognised this by establishing a subcommittee to begin a lobbying campaign with Members of Parliament aimed at achieving appropriate national legislation for waste minimisation.

To further back this campaign it is proposed in this paper that the Council:

1. Sponsor a remit to the 1999 Local Government Conference to be held in Auckland in July that asks that LGNZ establish a working party involving Local Government New Zealand and its members, the appropriate central government agencies and industry. The role of this working party would be to recommend to Central Government what legislative and other action it needs to take to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved in New Zealand.
2. Approach the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce and the Canterbury Manufacturers' Association asking that they support this initiative and seek to have their national sector organisations endorse it. This will enable Local Government New Zealand and the major national sector organisations to jointly approach government seeking the establishment of a working party.

The Recovered Materials Foundation paper which led to the Recovered Materials Foundation establishing the subcommittee referred to above made reference to specific actions including: national targets for the reduction of volumes of waste going to landfill; requirements for a minimum recycled content in the manufacture of such goods as newsprint, and some plastics; and deposits on packaging and containers. These are some of the areas in which a clearer national framework is required. However, the issues are complex and the best way of achieving the best waste minimisation outcome is to involve the key players rather than pushing for specific legislative proposals at this stage.

Both the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce and the Canterbury Manufacturers' Association are represented on the Recovered Materials Foundation, and the Council has developed good working relationships with them in its efforts to promote waste minimisation in Christchurch. If they can work with their national organisations to get them to support this initiative then the approach to central government will have powerful backing. I have discussed this joint initiative with Graeme King the Chief Executive Officer of the RMF and he is very supportive.

Remits to the Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand need to be forwarded to LGNZ not less than two months before the Annual General Meeting (meaning a deadline of 14 May for this year's Annual General Meeting). They have to be in writing and have the Council seal affixed. They also need to be seconded by another Council with seal affixed.

The proposed remit is:

*That Local Government New Zealand approach central government proposing that LGNZ establish a working party involving appropriate representatives from local government, central government and industry and commerce with a brief to investigate and advise government on what legislative and other national initiatives are needed to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved in New Zealand.*

- Recommendation:**
1. That the above remit be forwarded to the Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand and the use of the Council's seal on the remit be approved.
  2. That the Council approach the members of the Canterbury Joint Waste Committee asking for their support for this remit and seeking a seconder from amongst their number.

3. That the Council approach the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Canterbury Manufacturers' Association asking for their input and support for this initiative and seeking to have their national sector organisations endorse it.