

16. COMPOSTING OF SCREENINGS AND GRIT FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT USING THE IN-VESSEL HOTROT™ SYSTEM

The Committee considered a report from Mike Bourke, Operations & Maintenance Manager, informing the Committee of the recommendation of the Waste Initiatives Subcommittee regarding the purchase of a new HotRot™ in-vessel composting system to enable the treatment and eventual reuse of screening and grit solids removed from the wastewater treatment plant.

The report detailed the background to the process and trials undertaken together with details of the current budget allowance for installation of a single HotRot™ unit at the treatment plant.

The report noted the recommendations of the Waste Initiatives Subcommittee to install a larger plant.

The advantages for the Christchurch City Council were seen as:

- Additional capacity to ensure long residence time and good product quality
- Additional capacity to allow for future city growth
- Opportunity to trial other organic and putrescible wastes streams through the larger unit
- Potential revenue earner from processing other commercial waste products until the proposed new in-vessel composting system is operational
- Reduced operational costs
- 1200 tonnes of highly putrescible waste no longer going to landfill
- Purchased at a discounted capital cost (35% discount)
- Support for a local business

The report noted that advantages would accrue to the supplying company in terms of allowing it to trial a larger unit and allow for monitoring and tuning of performance.

As detailed in the report the capital cost of purchase would be \$582,000 to which needed to be added siteworks, foundation, electrical supply, leachate collection and soil biofilter at an additional cost of \$30,000 – total cost \$612,000.

Current budget provision provided for \$150,000 in the 2001/02 financial year and \$250,000 proposed in the 2002/03 financial year and the remaining cost of \$182,000 was proposed to be met by monthly rental payments over a five year period.

The Committee **decided** that a HotRot™ 3518 in-vessel compost system be installed at the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment plant for a total capital cost of \$612,000 as outlined in the report.

(Note: Subsequent to adoption of this resolution and following discussion with Financial Services staff an additional report was provided to the Annual Plan Subcommittee seeking approval for an additional \$182,000 to be added to the capital budget in the 2003/04 financial year with a consequent \$30,000 reduction in the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant operating budget for 2002/03 and subsequent years and a further reduction in the long term operating budget of \$20,000 from the 2003/04 year. The Annual Plan Subcommittee has recommended this alteration for adoption by the Council at the Council's Annual Plan meeting on 8 April 2002.)