

5. FREE WASTE DUMPING

Officer responsible City Water & Waste Manager	Author Simon Collin, Solid Waste Manager DDI 941-8380
----------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal for a policy to deal with the small but steady flow of requests for free dumping received by the City Water and Waste Unit.

BACKGROUND

Each year the City Water and Waste Unit receives a number of requests for free dumping ranging from a few free bags through to trailer or truck loads of waste. The number is not large (10-15) each year) and the organisations and individuals who contact the Council are often working in the community interest. Examples range from kindergartens having a clean up, through individuals cleaning up their street frontage to organisations such as the Avon Estuary group looking for ongoing support for their clean-ups of the estuary foreshore. At the upper end have been requests for reduced fees for large quantities of contaminated soils.

Historically these requests have been handled in a somewhat ad hoc fashion, although assistance of free bags and free dumping has been consistently provided by City Water and Waste for the annual 'Clean up the World Day'.

PROPOSAL

Requests for free dumping can be broadly divided into two categories:

1. Clean Up Of Community Areas

The Council's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan (SHWMP), supported by the New Zealand Waste Strategy, contains the principle that the generator of waste should pay the cost of managing that waste in a visible way. In other words the cost of waste disposal should not be hidden or subsidised in some way. Clearly the generator of waste in instances where free dumping is requested for clean-ups of community areas is generally other sections of the community so the principle cannot strictly be applied. In any case, it seems eminently reasonable to provide free dumping to individuals or groups willing to voluntarily pick up refuse on behalf of the community and therefore it is proposed that assistance should be provided in such instances. The question then arises as to where the cost should lie. It is suggested that the appropriate approach is for the cost to lie with the Council Unit responsible for maintaining the area in question, rather than they be hidden in City Water and Waste costs. Ultimately of course any 'free' dumping is funded by the ratepayers.

2. Businesses

It is considered that the principle in the SHWMP noted above is applicable to businesses and that free dumping assistance should not be provided. It is proposed that this would include businesses such as educational institutions and recycling businesses.

SUMMARY

The City Water and Waste Unit receives a small, but steady flow of requests for free dumping that can be broadly split into two categories, community organisation clean-ups and business related activities. It is proposed that the Council adopt an approach to dealing with these requests as set out in the recommendations below.

Recommendation: 1. That the Council adopt the following policy for dealing with requests for free or reduced fee waste disposal:

(a) **Community Cleanups (Those with community public benefit)**

Free waste disposal will be provided with the charges falling to the Unit responsible for the maintenance of the area being cleaned up.

(b) **Businesses**

Free or reduced charge waste disposal will not be provided to businesses (including educational institutions and businesses engaged in recycling).

2. That should exceptional circumstances be identified by the City Water and Waste Manager, then, in consultation with the Chairman, a report be provided to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee on the justification for a special dispensation, but not on a retrospective basis.