

5. INFORMATION SHARING BY MEMBERS

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TRANSFER STATIONS

The Chairman spoke regarding the request for information issued by the Christchurch City Council in respect to the change of function for its transfer stations to become sorting facilities for waste. He advised that the benefits seen to result from this were possible lower operating costs, increased waste minimisation and compliance with the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Canterbury Joint Standing Committee.

An issue arising from this proposal was possible vertical integration and control of the waste stream but this could be overcome by the appointment of independent managers at the transfer stations. He indicated he felt another additional bylaw would be needed for the Council requiring all waste to pass through a sorting station prior to transfer to the landfill. A regional waste transfer strategy would also probably be required which would work in association with the transport equalisation fund and he indicated his wish for other shareholder councils to consider this matter with a view to introduction of an appropriate bylaw and management systems by 2005.

The opportunity was then taken for discussion and Councillor Tasker indicated that the Ashburton District Council was currently moving towards separation of its composting and residual rubbish functions into two separate contracts and tenders for this would be finalised within the next few months.

Councillor Brine indicated that the Waimakariri District Council would probably support such an approach but had practical issues in terms of the funding required and possible increases in rates levels. Other solutions, such as the involvement of private enterprise or use of the Styx Mill transfer station were briefly discussed.

It was noted that in respect to the Hurunui District Council it would not be logical to have double-handling of waste on circular routes and it was noted that separate arrangements might have to be made for the Hurunui District Council area.

It was suggested that further discussion on this issue be undertaken early in 2004 when the Christchurch City Council's RFI process was more advanced and the Chairman indicated that he would seek a recommendation from the Christchurch City Council that it work with other councils to obtain a regional strategy when the matter was considered by his Council.

The Chairman concluded by requesting that all shareholder member councils give consideration to the matter and to bring their comments to the next meeting. In the interim staff would discuss this further and there would be a workshop on the topic to be held early in the New Year.