

#### 4. RESTRICTION OF USE OF CLOPYRALID BASED HERBICIDES: REQUEST FOR CO-FUNDING

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The purpose of this report is to present a request from Living Earth Ltd for a financial contribution towards an application to the Environmental and Risk Management Authority (ERMA) to restrict the use of Clopyralid based herbicides in New Zealand.

##### BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee in 2003/04 made \$2,500 available for a viability study on restriction of the use of clopyralid based herbicides in New Zealand. The presence of this substance found in some herbicides restricts the use of compost in certain circumstances. This is a current problem for Christchurch City, and a potential future problem for other members of the Subcommittee and elsewhere in New Zealand. There are other non-clopyralid based herbicides available on the market in New Zealand. Clopyralid based herbicides have already been banned in the urban market in some countries.

Living Earth Ltd has now submitted a request to the Subcommittee for co-funding of the actual application to ERMA which will cost an estimated \$18,000 plus GST (see attached letter). Auckland and Waitakere City Councils have together contributed \$6,000, the Ministry for the Environment has indicated contributing \$4,500. In the letter the Subcommittee is approached for a contribution of \$9,500. However, it is understood from Living Earth that \$5,000 would be sufficient as other contributors have been found in the meantime.

While clopyralid poses a potential problem for all territorial authorities, it is Christchurch City of the Subcommittee member councils which at present has an actual problem with clopyralid in compost. Should the Subcommittee consider contributing co-funding the application, it is proposed that the standard population-based contribution formula whereby Christchurch contributes 68% not therefore be used, and that instead Christchurch contributes 80%, with the other member councils contributing the balance. If an amount of \$5,000 is approved it means Christchurch City would contribute \$4,000 and the other nine territorial authorities together will contribute \$1,000.

The 2004/05 budget for non disposal related projects, generally used for waste minimisation projects is \$75,000 and \$5,000 can be accommodated for this purpose. (*See elsewhere in the agenda for consideration of regional waste minimisation projects*).

##### SUMMARY

The request from Living Earth Ltd for co-funding of the application to ERMA regarding clopyralid is considered to have merit and it is proposed that the funding be apportioned as set out in the report.

##### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee support the application for co-funding the application to ERMA on restricting the use of clopyralid by contributing \$5,000, to be apportioned as set out in the report.

##### Chairman's

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