

## 6. UPDATE ON COMPOST MARKET RESEARCH

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	City Water and Waste Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Tony Moore, DDI 941- 6426

### BACKGROUND

1. On 14 November 2005 the Subcommittee approved \$8,000 for research into potential markets in Canterbury for composts and soil enhancers. A further \$4,300 could be allocated to this project based on the recommendations of a CWSC report entitled Update on Action Plan.

### UPDATE

2. Terms of reference for this work have been agreed by staff and industry/research representatives. This project will be performed in three phases.
  - (a) **Identification of key target markets** (e.g. crop types) in Canterbury via literature review and stakeholder workshops (later in March). Stakeholders at this meeting would include Council officers, compost manufacturers and agricultural/horticultural scientists/advisers.
  - (b) Development of an **action plan** via workshops with representatives of the target markets identified above (e.g. people representing the growers and food processors/manufacturers).
  - (c) **Joint implementation** based on the action plan developed from the above workshops (e.g. field trials, publications, education etc).
3. The allocation of \$12,300 should achieve the first two phases of this project. Once this work is completed a report to CWSC will outline further research and funding opportunities and requirements.
4. It is desirable to link this CWSC Canterbury-focused research programme with other related work. Two projects have been proposed by a WasteMinz working group:
  - (a) A *Sustainable Farming Fund* project that aims to **demonstrate** through field trials the benefits of compost and fertilizer mixes in three different crop types and locations (Attachment 1). Canterbury has been selected as a suitable location and the crop type will be identified through phase a) above.
  - (b) A *Sustainable Management Fund* project is proposed to **raise awareness** about the NZ Compost Standard, the methods of composting, resource consenting issues and the benefits of compost (Attachment 2).
5. An initial application by WasteMinz has been made to both of these Funds and if successful more detailed applications would be required. These WasteMinz projects would be assisted through the support of the CWSC (given that end-user involvement is a key criteria for project evaluation). This support could be in kind (e.g. by running workshops, promotion through Council-based media etc) or financial. Other parties (e.g. Living Earth, Perry Environmental and Envirowaste) have put forward \$10,000 per year for three years. The CWSC should consider what level and type of support it could contribute to these projects. Staff suggest \$10,000 per year for three years to support the field trials in Canterbury. (Note: If the CWSC decided to undertake this research independently it would cost significantly more than this and joining this research programme would provide wider benefits to the region in terms of scientific expertise and market development.)

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the CWSC consider the level and type of support it is willing to offer these WasteMinz projects.