

3. **SUBMISSIONS ON THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT “WASTE MINIMISATION IN NEW ZEALAND”. GUIDANCE FOR TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES ON PREPARATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLANS**

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The report recommends that the Canterbury Joint Waste Committee make submissions on the Ministry for the Environment report “*Waste minimisation in New Zealand*” which was released in March, with a closing date for submissions on 15 April 2009.
2. For information the report also refers to the guidance document on preparing statutory waste management and minimisation plans (WMMP) as required by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

BACKGROUND ON THE “WASTE MINIMISATION IN NEW ZEALAND” REPORT

3. The “*Waste minimisation in New Zealand*” report comprises proposals from Ministry for the Environment regarding the following areas of interest, brought to the fore by the introduction of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act). The proposals are set out in five parts:
 - (a) **Part 1** - Revising targets for the New Zealand Waste Strategy: The *New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002* is a non-statutory, non-binding waste strategy for New Zealand which inter alia contains waste minimisation targets which were formally reviewed in 2006. Part 1 offers a more drastic Revision that changes and reduces the number of targets.
 - (b) **Part 2** - Identifying products that are priorities for product stewardship: The Act sets out options for mandatory or voluntary product stewardship schemes for priority products.
 - (c) **Part 3** - Identifying funding criteria for the Waste Minimisation Fund: Part of the waste minimisation fund will be open to contestable applications and criteria for such applications are presented.
 - (d) **Part 4** - Monitoring waste in New Zealand: The issues of nationally consistent and reliable data on waste and diverted materials streams is again on the agenda, with proposals on making progress.
 - (e) **Part 5** - Improving the operation of the waste levy: Current wording in the Act relating to the \$10 waste minimisation levy at landfills means that the \$10 per tonne waste levy will also be imposed on all landfill cover materials.
4. Staff have made copies of the consultation document available to elected members for consideration, and **Attachment A** to this report contains staff recommendations to the Committee, following a staff workshop held at Environment Canterbury on 30 March 2009.
5. On 1 April 2009 the Ministry for the Environment held a day long workshop on the consultation document, attended by some staff and elected members. This workshop afforded participants the opportunity to ask questions of clarification.
6. **Attachment A** is structured around the five parts of the consultation document, listing the relevant text from the report, plus proposed comments which for ease of reference appear underlined. The consultation document does not mention that any hearings will be held to advance submissions.

BACKGROUND ON THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR PREPARATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLANS

7. The Ministry for the Environment is in the process of finalising a guidance document for territorial authorities on preparing statutory waste management and minimisation plans (WMMP) in terms of the provisions of the Act. The motivation for the report was to bring together the various requirements in the Act relating to WMMPs and to clarify possible areas of uncertainty. The final guidance document will also include a template for a WMMP which should be useful for all territorial authorities when they review their current waste management plans. By 2012 all existing waste management plans need to be replaced by a WMMP and the process of preparing the new plan includes doing a formal waste assessment in terms of the Act.
8. The guidance document was prepared by Morrison Low Consultants in Auckland, assisted by a group of territorial authority staff drawn from across New Zealand. Staff from Christchurch and Waimakariri were part of the advice panel.
9. The final guidance document is expected to be released by the end of May 2009 after which it will be presented to the committee for information and consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no direct financial implications relating to making submissions.

SUMMARY

- 11 **Attachment A** contains recommendations on the Ministry for the Environment's 2009 report "*Waste minimisation in New Zealand*" for consideration by the committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee consider the draft submissions in **Attachment A** relating to the Ministry for the Environment consultation document.