

## 8. COMMERCIAL COMPOST PLANT DEVELOPMENT AT METRO PLACE

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This report seeks Council approval for the planning of a commercial compost plant development at Metro Place.

### BACKGROUND

In finalising the 2004/05 Long-Term Council Community Plan, Council resolved on 30 June 2004:

*“That the Council confirm its decision to construct an enclosed compost plant for processing commercial food waste with capital funding of \$300,000 in 2004/05, \$3,125,000 in 2005/06 and \$3,125,000 in 2006/07, and associated operating costs.”*

Prior to implementing the above resolution, the Council must first agree to the project terms of reference (Attachment 1) and confirm that Metro Place is the preferred site for the enclosed commercial compost plant.

### SITE SELECTION - METRO PLACE

Any enclosed compost plant selected for the city must be in the same location as the greenwaste compost plant because the two operations are intertwined. For example, shredded greenwaste is needed to compost foodwaste successfully and open-air windrowing will be required to mature the compost produced from the enclosed plant. The cost of relocating the existing open-air greenwaste compost plant has been estimated at \$7.2 million  $\pm$  25% (D McLernon, 2004, ‘Christchurch City Council Compost Review’ Octa Associates Limited). Consequently, relocating the greenwaste plant is not considered a viable option and so the enclosed compost plant must also be located at Metro Place.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft terms of reference (TOR) have been developed that set out the project aim, objectives, its structure and estimated timeframe (see Attachment 1). The overall aim of the project is:

*“To reduce organic waste going to landfill through the provision of an efficient, modular and reliable enclosed processing facility able to compost organic waste received from commercial businesses in Christchurch within approved resource consent conditions and in the future, able to easily expand to process organics collected from households.”*

The Council must now agree to the TOR, which see the project completed by December 2009 (realistic estimate) or as late as December 2010 (pessimistic estimate, depending on the resource consent appeal process). The timing of capital and operational expenditure (as allocated in the 2004/05 LTCCP) will be updated through the 2005/06 Annual Plan process to align with the TOR schedule.

### SUMMARY

The Council has agreed to build an enclosed compost plant for the processing of commercial organics. It must now agree that Metro Place is the preferred site for this development and to the terms of reference for the project.

#### Committee

- Recommendation:**
1. That Metro Place be the site for the commercial compost plant development.
  2. That the Committee approve for implementation the project plan described in this report.