

9. REFUSE BAG ALLOCATION POLICY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	City Water & Waste Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to propose a change to the refuse bag allocation policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council adopted the current refuse bag allocation policy in 2001, which reflected both the valuation of properties at that time and the allocation of a coupon for two 26 Council rubbish bag packs which was in effect at the time. With changes to the valuations in 2004 and changes to the allocation of Council rubbish bag packs, the policy should be changed to reflect current conditions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council amend the refuse bag allocation policy, as follows:

- (a) That Council-owned community facilities be supplied with a coupon for one 26 bag pack and that non-rateable properties such as schools, churches etc which do not pay full rates not be eligible for an annual bag supply.
- (b) That a coupon redeemable for one 26 bag pack be allocated annually to all properties of capital value greater than \$21,000, except undeveloped sections, on which full rates are paid.

BACKGROUND ON REFUSE BAG ALLOCATION POLICY

3. On 26 July 2001, the Council resolved:
 - *That officers enhance the rates demand so that the refuse collection service is identified separately.*
 - *That Council-owned community facilities be supplied with a coupon for two 26 bag packs and that non-rateable properties such as schools, churches etc which do not pay full rates will not be eligible for an annual bag supply.*
 - *That a coupon redeemable for two 26 bag packs be allocated annually to all properties of capital value greater than \$14,000, except undeveloped sections, on which full rates are paid, and that ratepayers be encouraged to reduce to 26 bags per annum.*
4. In August 2004, State Valuation Office (SVO), an independent valuer engaged by the Council, conducted a three-yearly determination of capital values of properties in Christchurch. The SVO reported that the total increase in the capital value of the city was \$47,304 million, an increase of 50% from the previous valuation conducted in 2001.

PROPOSED REFUSE BAG ALLOCATION POLICY

5. With a 50 per cent increase in property valuations in August 2004 compared to the 2001 valuations, the current refuse bag allocation policy has become outdated, given that it sets a property value limit lower than current valuation. It is recommended that, in line with the 50 per cent increase in the average property valuation, the property value limit in the allocation policy be raised by 50 per cent, from \$14,000 to \$21,000.
6. In addition to the increase in property valuations, the number of rates-funded rubbish bags redeemed per coupon was reduced from 52 to 26, effective May 2004. It is recommended that the policy be updated to reflect this change as well.
7. With respect to the first resolution requesting that the rates demand be enhanced so that the refuse collection service be separately identified, this issue was debated during a subsequent Annual Plan process, and a decision was made not to proceed with this initiative.

SUMMARY

8. Changes in property valuations and changes to the number of rates-funded rubbish bags have rendered the current refuse bag allocation policy out of date. A revised policy is recommended, which incorporates subsequent changes in property valuations and changes in the number of rates-funded rubbish bags.