

7. SUBMISSION ON THE WASTE MINIMISATION (SOLIDS) BILL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	City Water and Waste Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to gain Council endorsement of a submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the proposed Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A Parliamentary Select Committee has requested submissions, prior to 1 September 2006, on the proposed Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill put forward by the Greens Party. This Bill addresses a range of important issues including:
 - National Waste Minimisation Levy;
 - The establishment and function of a National Waste Minimisation Authority;
 - The role of local government in waste minimisation;
 - Product Stewardship legislation; and
 - Disposal bans.
3. Officers have prepared a draft submission to this Bill on behalf of the City Council (Attachments 1 and 2) and now seek Council approval of this response.
4. An opportunity will also be provided to present the submission to the Select Committee and the Council will need to determine its representation at these hearings.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. No financial or legal implications flow directly from this report. However, the proposed legislation is likely to have a significant legal and financial effect on Council activities if passed in its current form.
6. This Bill proposes to establish a national levy, in the order of \$25 per tonne, on all waste sent to landfill. Officers advocate that at least half of this revenue be returned to the place of origin to be used to fund initiatives contained in the Council's Waste Management Plan. In this way, the national levy will replace the Council's Waste Minimisation Levy that was found to be ultra vires by the High Court on 31 March 2006.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Endorse the submission prepared for the Parliamentary Select Committee on the proposed Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill. (Attachments 1 and 2)
- (b) Decide on its representation at the Select Committee hearings.