

## 7. REDUNDANT AGRICHEMICAL COLLECTION PROGRAMME



<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment Group, DDI 941-8656
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	City Water and Waste Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Diane Shelander, Senior Resource Planner

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report summarises the results of the agricultural chemical collection programme that has been running in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula over the last three years.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Old and unwanted agrichemicals that have been accumulating on farm and rural properties can pose a threat to the environment. Beginning in financial year 2003/04, a Canterbury-wide collection of these chemicals was initiated, with funding provided by participating district councils, Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).
3. A total of 187 properties in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula have participated in the agrichemical collection programme, with 14.4 tonnes of agrichemicals collected. Among the chemicals collected were banned pesticides including approximately 430 kg of 2,4,5-T, 525 kg of Aldrin, 700 kg of DDT, and 150 kg of Lindane.
4. A completed report of the results of the agrichemical collection programme is provided as Appendix 1 (attached).

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. A modest budget allocation of \$10,000 will be required in financial year 2007/08, by substitution out of the current budget, if the Council adopts the recommendations of this report.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Undertake, through the regional agrichemical collection programme, a final 'clean out' collection of agrichemicals from agricultural properties in the greater Christchurch area in financial year 2007/08.
- (b) Allocate \$10,000 in the current budget for the 2007/08 financial year for a final round of collections in the greater Christchurch area.

## **BACKGROUND ON REDUNDANT AGRICHEMICAL COLLECTION PROGRAMME**

6. Evidence from other areas of New Zealand has shown that redundant agricultural chemicals (agrichemicals) have been accumulating on farms throughout the country. Of particular concern are older, deregistered agrichemicals that may present risk of contaminated sites from improper disposal of agrichemicals and/or leaking containers, particularly in areas overlying unconfined aquifers. Accumulation of these redundant chemicals is also inconsistent with New Zealand's obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
7. The Regional Waste Working Party of the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee initiated a region-wide agrichemical collection project that began in fiscal year 2003/2004. The overall aim of the programme was to collect redundant agricultural chemicals, to reduce the risks to human health and the environment posed by these substances, and to assist the nation in meeting its obligations under the Stockholm Convention.
8. Funding for the regional collection programme has come from the participating district councils, Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). MfE funding was allocated solely to the disposal of agrichemicals collected through this programme. ECan and district councils covered all collection costs and a minority proportion of disposal costs.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

9. Of the almost 2,800 properties contacted in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula between 2003 and 2006, 187 properties participated in the collection of unwanted agrichemicals.
10. Over the three years that the collection has taken place, approximately 14.4 tonnes of agrichemicals were collected. Approximately 72 per cent of the agrichemicals collected were "intractable" chemicals, for which no treatment facilities are available in New Zealand. These chemicals are shipped to Europe for thermal destruction. The remaining agrichemicals were treated in New Zealand and subsequently disposed either to landfill or as trade waste.
11. Of the 14.4 tonnes of agrichemicals collected between 2003 and 2006, 2.5 tonnes were banned or deregistered chemicals. These included:
  - 2,4,5-T: 428.4 kg
  - Arsenic pesticides: 263.6 kg
  - Chlordane: 524.5 kg
  - DDD/DDT: 701 kg
  - Lindane: 147.8 kg
  - Pentachlorophenol: 83.5 kg
12. A more detailed report of the programme as it was conducted in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula is provided in Appendix 1.

## **OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE**

13. It is believed that the bulk of eligible properties in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula have been given the opportunity to participate in the agrichemical collection programme. However, a final sweep through the district is suggested to provide greater assurance that unwanted agrichemicals, particularly POPs and other banned and deregistered chemicals, have been removed from rural and agricultural properties.
14. It is estimated that a clean sweep of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula will require a budget allocation of \$10,000.