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<p>Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste</p>	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of Waste Management Unit’s intention to encourage businesses to put out only regulation refuse bags in the Central Business District.

BACKGROUND

The Central Business District (CBD) area is covered by a separate Refuse Collection Contract which is performed by the Works Operations Unit. This provides a comprehensive pick-up of all refuse in the inner city, being two nightly collections, one commencing at 9pm and another commencing at 6.30am. This coverage ensures that each morning of the week, the inner city streets are clear of all refuse.

An agreement with the Central City Retailers Association, just prior to amalgamation, has had all CBD business purchasing their own Regulation Bags (as opposed to the free supply for the residential collection) in exchange for this comprehensive nightly collection.

Progressively over time an increasing number of inner city businesses have been putting out for collection, non-regulation refuse bags, as well as items of refuse too large to fit in any bag. Also there are a lot of recyclable items, which get put out for the collection, which end up in the landfill. The bulk of these recyclable items are typically glass bottles from the bars and restaurants and cardboard put out on the wrong night, thus ending up in the refuse collection instead of being collected as recyclables.

Works Operations Unit have been picking up everything that is put out for collection but have recently alerted the Waste Management Unit to the problem of the non regulation bags. A survey by the Waste Management Unit of the situation showed an average of 30% of the bags out at the kerbside are non-regulation bags. The current revenue loss to the Council is estimated to be \$13,000 per annum.

PROPOSED ACTION

To overcome this problem, it is proposed to run an advertising/education campaign followed up by an instruction to Works Operations to only collect complying refuse. If this is carried out at the same time as Onyx’s proposed recycling service is offered (the subject of a separate report to the Committee in June) a positive incentive for CBD businesses to participate in recycling will also be provided.

The potential consequences of a more rigid enforcement policy, as occurs in the rest of the city, is that initially, there may be some untidy streets in the CBD on the mornings following. This situation may exist for several days until all the CBD businesses understand the situation and comply by using only regulation bags.

MEASURES TO ENSURE TIDY STREETS AFTER CHANGE

- Advertising would be done of the intended change in the following media:
 - Press, Star, Radio, any relevant Inner City Retailer circulations.
- Staff would be engaged short term to visit the businesses concerned as well as contacting the commercial cleaners operating in the CBD. Businesses currently putting out non regulation bags would be specifically targeted for education visits.
- After the change date, a staff member will personally visit the remaining businesses which put out non regulation bags, to reinforce the message of the change. In addition labels would be applied to non regulation bags explaining the situation.
- All existing recycling contractors will be contacted to advise of the change of regime and encouraged to take advantage of the new situation by offering as competitive rates and services as possible to enable new businesses to move to recycling.

It should be noted that a sticker system is already available for non-regulation bags. These can be purchased from Service Centres. This system will be promoted with inner city business as part of the new collection initiative.

PROGRAMME FOR THE CHANGE

The following timetable is proposed:

- 1 June 1999 - Advising all existing recycling contractors of the new regime
- 18 June 1999 - Commence advertising and door to door visiting of businesses;
- 5 July 1999 - Monday commence tightened up collection regime.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the proposed approach to central city refuse collection outlined above be endorsed.