

### 3. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to clarify the situation regarding potential conflict of interest for Buddle Findlay who act as the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee (CWSC) legal advisers.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Subcommittee members are aware that from time to time the question of potential conflict of interest has been raised concerning Buddle Findlay who act as Canterbury Waste Subcommittee legal advisers and also provide advice to Transwaste Canterbury Ltd (TCL). An opinion on this issue has been sought from Buddle Findlay themselves and this is outlined in the attached letter of 15 March 2000 from Mr Philip Taylor.

#### **SUMMARY**

Mr Taylor's letter contains a detailed analysis of points of potential conflict of interest. He explains that legal firms in New Zealand are experienced and adept at considering and dealing with this issue. Buddle Findlay has given careful consideration to each legal issue they have to date handled for CWSC and TCL and are of the clear view that no conflict of interest arises. Mr Taylor explains that in fact there are clear advantages of synergy in CWSC and TCL retaining the services of Buddle Findlay. Each future issue will be monitored by Buddle Findlay for potential conflict of interest and if this ever arises then they will advise CWSC and TCL of the appropriate action to take.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.