

9. REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Officer responsible Waste Manager	Author Don Young, Asset Manager, Mackenzie District Council for Solid Waste Staff Group
Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to present an update of the Regional Waste Management Agreement Attachment A which has now had input from participating Councils.

INTRODUCTION

Committee members will recall that the first draft of this Agreement was put before them last year. The outcome of that was a resolution seeking input from each constituent Council.

This has been sought, and the feedback is detailed below.

COUNCIL FEEDBACK

Kaikoura

Resolution

- The guiding principles as tabled be supported.
- Reference to central government responsibility for means of reducing waste at source be included.
- The document remains a Regional Waste Management Agreement.

Comment from Council

- Agreement doesn't go far enough.
- May constrain forward thinking initiatives.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Reference to central government included.

Hurunui

Resolution

- That the guiding principles be supported.
- That its preference for a title be "guidelines" rather than "agreement".
- That the document include a reference to Central Government responsibility for means of reducing waste at source.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Reference to central government included.

Waimakariri

Resolution

- The agreement be supported, with the amendments as detailed in Attachment B.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Have not included the qualifier “waste minimisation management”, as the issues apply to the whole waste management arena.
- Have included an extra purpose, regarding pursuing efficiency
- Have not reworded the document grammatically, as it is felt that it is more personal at present.
- Have not replaced “diversion” with “recovery and reuse”, as it is too limited.
- Have added to an existing principle so that costs being borne by generators are covered.

Christchurch

Resolution

- The agreement supported.

Selwyn

Resolution

- The document is supported, as long as it is renamed Regional Waste Management Guidelines.

Banks Peninsula

Resolution

- That the guiding principles of the Regional Waste Management Agreement as tabled be supported.

Ashburton

Resolution

- The guiding principles as tabled be supported.
- Reference to central government responsibility for means of reducing waste at source be included.
- The document be referred to as “Regional Waste Management Guidelines”.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Reference to government responsibility added.

Timaru

Resolution

- That provided the Timaru District Council reserves the right to revisit Clauses 1, 3 and 10 of the Regional Waste Management Agreement in specific instances, that the Regional Waste Management Agreement and amendments be forwarded to the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee for consideration.

Comment from Council

- Clause 1, the sharing of non confidential information and resources with Canterbury Councils, was questioned with a suggestion made that resources need to be limited to staff time for information sharing.
- Clause 3 regarding the support of equitable access to waste management operation was also questioned, with clarification requested on whether this would allow the Timaru District Council to have some profit margin.
- In regard to Clause 10 concerning economic/regulatory policies in the promotion of waste minimisation goals the committee was informed that the Christchurch City Council currently has a surcharge on its disposal fee which subsidises waste minimisation initiatives but whether this is to be adopted by the subcommittee or a more user pays approach implemented, has to be determined by local authorities individually.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Clause 1 has been amended to read “where practicable”.
- Clause 3 should be interpreted to allow profit margin.
- Clause 10 should be interpreted as allowing this flexibility of determination.

Mackenzie

Resolution

- The agreement supported.

Comment from Council

- The document will be much more useful as an “Agreement” than as “Guidelines”.

Waimate

Resolution

- That Council generally endorse the draft Regional Waste Management Agreement, and suggest the addition of statements providing some outward focus.

Comment from Council

- Could be expanded to provide outward focus.
- Try and exert influence nationally and particularly at Government level for more effective waste reduction (eg through legislation).
- Disseminate and promote nationally information regarding the initiatives being undertaken in Canterbury.

Solid Waste Staff Group Response

- Outward focus provided by adding “and others” to Clause 1.
- Central government issue added.

DISCUSSION

There appears to be general consensus on the document from all Councils, apart from one or two minor grammatical points and one larger issue.

The larger issue is whether the document should be an Agreement, or Guidelines. At present two District Councils prefer Guidelines, whereas the other eight prefer Agreement.

The arguments for Agreement are as follows:

- A more meaningful document that will be seen by the general population as more worthwhile.
- A firmer commitment by Councils, formalised by affixing the Council seal.
- Retention of flexibility for individual Councils, given that the bulk of the document is made up of “Guiding Principles”.

The arguments for Guidelines are as follows:

- Concern that the term Agreement is too binding on individual Councils.
- Concern that certain principles will be difficult to adhere to consistently, and that Councils could be censured for not complying in full (eg *All* economic and regulatory policies may not be consistent with or promote waste minimisation goals).

The staff group have resubmitted this report to the Subcommittee, in order to seek guidance on this issue. Staff from each Council could not amend their Council’s resolutions and were unwilling to seek feedback from individual Councils without a defined position being advised by this Committee.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the report be received.
 2. That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee confirm the Regional Waste Management Agreement as approved for circulating to all Councils for signing.
 3. That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee give guidance on whether the document remains an Agreement, or becomes Guidelines.

Chairman’s

- Recommendation:**
- That the above recommendation be adopted, with the inclusion of the following:
4. That the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee confirm that the document is an agreement to establish guiding principles.