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## ORDINARY MEETING

OF

## WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

**Time:** 9:30am  
**Date:** Monday, 7 September 2020  
**Venue:** Ngake (16.09)  
Level 16, Tahiwi  
113 The Terrace  
Wellington

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### MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Sandy Ryan	Masterton District Council
Councillor Jill Greathead	Carterton District Council
Councillor Pam Colenso	South Wairarapa District Council
Councillor Jackie Elliot	Kāpiti Coast District Council
Councillor Steve Taylor	Upper Hutt City Council
Councillor Simon Edwards	Hutt City Council
Councillor David Lee	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Geoff Hayward	Porirua City Council
Councillor Laurie Foon	Wellington City Council



#### Have your say!

You can make a short presentation to the Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this either by phoning 04-803-8334, emailing [public.participation@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:public.participation@wcc.govt.nz) or writing to Democracy Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, giving your name, phone number, and the issue you would like to talk about.

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## **AREA OF FOCUS**

Under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 territorial authorities were required to develop a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) by 2012.

In 2011, eight Councils in the greater Wellington region adopted the first regional WMMP. The Councils agreed that a Joint Committee should be established to oversee the implementation of the WMMP.

**Quorum:** Five members

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## **1. Meeting Conduct**

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### **1.1 Karakia**

The Chairperson will open the meeting with a karakia.

<b>Whakataka te hau ki te uru,</b>	Cease oh winds of the west
<b>Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.</b>	and of the south
<b>Kia mākinakina ki uta,</b>	Let the bracing breezes flow,
<b>Kia mātaratara ki tai.</b>	over the land and the sea.
<b>E hī ake ana te atākura.</b>	Let the red-tipped dawn come
<b>He tio, he huka, he hauhū.</b>	with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost,
<b>Tihei Mauri Ora!</b>	a promise of a glorious day

At the appropriate time, the following karakia will be read to close the meeting.

<b>Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui</b>	Draw on, draw on
<b>Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana,</b>	Draw on the supreme sacredness
<b>te wairua</b>	To clear, to free the heart, the body
<b>I te ara takatū</b>	and the spirit of mankind
<b>Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga</b>	Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace)
<b>Kia wātea, kia wātea</b>	Let this all be done in unity
<b>Āe rā, kua wātea!</b>	

### **1.2 Apologies**

The Chairperson invites notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

### **1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

### **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2020 will be put to the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee for confirmation.

### **1.5 Items not on the Agenda**

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows.

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***Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee.***

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting:

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee.

***Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee.***

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting that the item will be discussed, but no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee for further discussion.

## **1.6 Public Participation**

A maximum of 60 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council or committee that is open to the public. Under Standing Order 51.1 a written, oral or electronic application to address the meeting setting forth the subject, is required to be lodged with the Chief Executive at least one clear day prior to the meeting concerned, and subsequently approved by the Chairperson.

Requests for public participation can be sent by email to [public.participation@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:public.participation@wcc.govt.nz), by post to Democracy Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, or by phone at 04 803 8334, giving the requester's name, phone number and the issue to be raised.

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## **2. General Business**

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### **KĀPITI WASTE MINIMISATION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WASTE REDUCTION TARGETS**

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#### **Purpose**

1. This report asks the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee to receive a paper tabled on behalf of the Kāpiti Waste Minimisation Taskforce (Observations by David Ledson) on 9 December 2019.

#### **Summary**

2. During the 9 December 2019 Joint Committee meeting, Joint Committee member Cr. Jackie Elliot asked a paper to be tabled for consideration with the title 'Observations written by David Ledson, independent chairperson of the Kāpiti Waste Minimisation Taskforce (WMTF) (May-November 2019).
3. The paper was not discussed during the December meeting and it was not included or discussed during the 8 June 2020 Committee meeting.
4. The paper is now on the agenda for discussion.

#### **Recommendation/s**

That the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee:

1. Receive the information provided in the report about the paper "Observations written by David Ledson, independent chairperson of the Kāpiti Waste Minimisation Taskforce
2. Agree to take this paper for advice and further consideration.

#### **Background**

5. In March 2019 a Mayoral Waste Minimisation Taskforce was established in Kāpiti. The WMTF was made up of a small number of community representatives including iwi members and Councillors.
6. The purpose of the WMTF was to *'review the actions listed in the Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and report back to Council on how these actions may be implemented to achieve the most cost-effective reduction in the volume of waste materials in the District'*.
7. The WMTF reported back to the Kāpiti Coast District Council with their final findings and recommendations in December 2019, which completed the task set for the WMTF.

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8. During the review work carried out by the WMTF between May and November 2019, the chairperson of the WMTF captured his observations around waste minimisation targets set in the WMMP 2017 in the paper mentioned in paragraph 2 of this report.

## Discussion

9. In the 'Observations' paper the chair discusses the waste reduction targets that have been set in the WMMP 2017. The chair notes that there is a lack of process in the WMMP 2017 on how progress towards targets will be measured.
10. The chair makes two recommendations to the Joint Committee with regard to the waste minimisation targets set by the Regional WMMP 2017. He recommends that:
  - The Regional and District WMMPs and supporting processes be reviewed to determine whether improvements are required to ensure the 2026 targets will be achieved; or if not, why that may be the case
  - The measurement of targets, and identification of any changes to current courses of actions/strategies be a central element in the assessment work for the next WMMP.
11. With regard to tracking progress against targets it's important to note that the lack of accessible waste data impacts on the ability to do so. Lack of waste data is a national as well as a regional issue in New Zealand.
12. The Councils in the Wellington Region are working collaboratively to advance the establishment of regional waste operator licensing, primarily for the purposes of securing relevant and regional-level waste data. Consultation on the proposed Bylaw that introduces licensing is underway.
13. The implementation of a licensing system is closely connected to action R.D.1 of the Regional Action Plan; Implementing the National Waste Data Framework. It is the intention to use the National Data Framework when developing the licensing system.
14. Being able to obtain improved and consistent data through licensing will enable the Councils to more fully understand our waste issues, to make more informed decisions relating to waste, and provide an effective mechanism for monitoring the progress on the WMMP.

## Options

15. For now it is recommended that the Committee receives the information as advice and agrees to further consider the recommendations.
16. This takes into account the current regional work programme that is underway with regard to the proposed Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw, of which the consultation and then implementation will take up considerable (if not all) available time of officers and the Regional Waste Planner in the 24 to 36 months after the new Bylaws will come into force (estimated to be between November 2020 and February 2021).
17. Implementation of the proposed Bylaw means




- the development and implementation of a regional licensing system alongside implementation of the national data framework as part of this system
- meaningful engagement with the waste sector to further inform the scope waste operator licensing.
- the development of Construction & Demolition waste management plan templates and guidance for stakeholders
- the development of Event Waste Management Plan templates and guidance
- considering options and capability with regard to enforcement of the new Bylaw provisions.

## **Next Actions**

18. In June the Committee prioritised the development and implementation of the new regionally consistent Bylaw as the Regional action with the highest priority. This action has been underway since 2018 and it's proposed that the next steps are to continue with this process as set out above under 17 and continue regional collaboration to advance the other regional actions of the WMMP.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1. Observations written by David Ledson, independent chairperson of the Kāpiti Waste Minimisation Taskforce [↓](#) 

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Author	Nienke Itjeshorst, Sustainability and Resilience Manager
Authoriser	Emily Taylor-Hall, Manager, Waste Operations Mike Mendonca, Acting Chief Infrastructure Officer

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Engagement and Consultation

No consultation has taken place as this report tables an advisory paper.

### Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no considerations.

### Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

### Policy and legislative implications

This report discusses a short advisory paper that considers the content of the existing regional waste strategy, the Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017 (WMMP).

### Risks / legal

There are no legal risks.

### Climate Change impact and considerations

The WMMP sets out actions and policies including a target to reduce waste to landfills by 2026. Reducing waste to landfill will contribute to overall emissions reduction.

### Communications Plan

No communications plan is needed.

### Health and Safety Impact considered

There are no Health and Safety impacts.

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## **Attachment 1**

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Observations written by David Ledson, independent chairperson of the Kāpiti Coast District Council Mayoral Waste Minimisation Forum (May–November 2019).

### **Background**

1. The Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan(2017-2023)(RWMMP23) has a relatively well known primary target, which is *'by 2026 to reduce the total quantity of waste sent to Class 1 landfills from 600kg/person/year to 400kg/person'*.
2. Perhaps less well known is that there are a number of 'secondary and tertiary' targets; also set down for achievement by 2026, which are intended to support achieving the primary target, and they are:
  - a. A decrease in kerbside household waste to landfill from approximately 200 kilograms per person per annum to 143 kilograms per person per annum by 2026. Progress towards this target will be delivered by achieving the following:
    - Recycling an extra 13.5 kilograms per person per annum of household waste by 2026
    - Diversion of 34.5 kilograms per person of food waste from landfill per annum by 2026
    - A reduction of household waste generated of 9 kilograms per person per annum
  - b. A decrease in the total quantity of general waste (excluding kerbside and biosolids) from approximately 335 kilograms per person to 250 kilograms per person per annum by 2026.
  - c. A reduction in the quantity of sewage sludge (biosolids) sent to landfill from approximately 64 kilograms per person per annum to 4 kilograms per person per annum by 2026.
3. These targets are incorporated into the District WMMP's for 2017-23; including the Kapiti plan(KWMMP).

### **Discussion**

4. If an organisation is to set a target and to be serious about pursuing the achievement of it, then it is vital that intermediate targets and the timelines for assessing whether these have been achieved are set, that an individual(or specific position) is made accountable for achieving the targets, that a process is in place to measure progress to the target, that the relevant decision-makers monitor progress at regular intervals

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and take steps to change approaches(including adjusting targets and allocating more resources) to ensure the organisation is set up for success.

5. Many of these factors do not appear to be incorporated into either the RWMMP23 or the KWMMP; it is not clear whether, for example:
  - a. intermediate targets have been established so that progress towards to 2026 targets can be measured at relevant intervals; or
  - b. if they have been set, the process and/or accountability for taking the measure and taking action locally and regionally to share information so that coordinated local and regional actions in response to the measurements can be taken.

### **Recommendations**

6. It is recommended that:
  - a. Regional and District WMMPs and supporting processes be reviewed to determine whether improvements are required to ensure the 2026 targets will be achieved; or if not, why that may be the case.
  - b. The measurement of targets, and identification of any changes to current courses of actions/strategies be a central element of the regional waste assessment work for the next WMMP.

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## **WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 3 YEAR IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE 2017-2020**

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### **Purpose**

1. This report provides the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee with an update on progress made on the Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023 at the end of year 3, along with some areas of future focus and action for discussion and approval.

### **Recommendation/s**

That the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note the progress made against the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023 regional and local action plans in relation to the 3-year implementation plans.
3. Agree to the broad focus of the next phase of implementation over the next 12-24 months for incorporation into a new 3-year implementation plan
4. Share the progress and broad focus of the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023 with each respective territorial authority in the Wellington region in the coming months.

### **Background**

2. The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act) outlines councils responsibilities in relation to waste management and minimisation. Section 42 of the Act requires territorial authorities to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within its district
3. For the purposes of Section 42, territorial authorities must adopt a waste management and minimisation plan that includes objectives and policies, and methods for achieving effective and efficient waste management and minimisation, how implementation will be funded, and if a territorial authority wishes to make any grants or advances of money, the framework for doing so.
4. Two or more territorial authorities may jointly prepare and adopt a waste management and minimisation plan of which the Wellington region elected to do, and was adopted by all eight councils in the Wellington region in July 2017.
5. The plan promotes effective and efficient forms of waste management and minimisation across the region, and establishes a related set of waste reduction targets. The primary regional waste reduction target seeks to reduce the amount of waste being sent to Class 1 landfills by a third by 2026. There are also secondary and tertiary targets focusing on recycling, food waste diversion and biosolid reduction.

# WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

6. At the September 2017 Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee meeting, a starting point for implementation was provided to the Committee, and at their December 2017 meeting, the Committee requested that officers report back with a preliminary implementation plan for the next 3 years for the WMMP, with the intention to review the plans in order to make recommendations back to territorial authorities
7. On 9 April 2018, the Committee met with WMMP officers to workshop the preliminary 3-year implementation plans submitted by each Council. These were later presented and approved at the 23 April 2018 Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee meeting.
8. The end of the 2019/20 financial year signalled the midpoint of the WMMP and the end of the 3-year implementation plan. This report and its attachment provides an update on the progress made against the 3-year implementation plan, along with an outline of the focus for the year ahead for the Committee to consider.

## Discussion

9. The 3-year implementation plan identifies the focus of the region and each individual territorial authority of the WMMP. An update on this implementation plan is included as Attachment 1.
10. The update is designed to highlight the achievements across the region against the regional action plan that support or contribute to the primary, secondary and tertiary targets of reducing total quantity of waste to landfill, and increasing recycling of material and diversion of organic waste.
11. There is some commentary around the range of government changes and announcements that have been made during this time, and what this might mean for Wellington as a region, and for individual councils.
12. This is followed by updates on each regional action and some indicative data around waste and recycling tonnage in relation to our primary and secondary targets, along with the Wellington region waste sector emissions profile recently released by AECOM on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council.
13. The regional update is followed by an overview of what each council has been undertaking in regard to regulation, data, engagement, collections, infrastructure and leadership and management covered in the 3-year implementation plan.

## Next Actions


14. The final section of the update provides an overview of the types of regional actions that will be the focus for officers in the coming months that this report is asking the Committee to approve for further development and reporting back, and include:
  - Implementation of the regionally-consistent Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020
  - Resumption of the waste data framework in line with the new Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020
  - Relaunch of the sortwaste.nz regional platform, and ongoing promotion of the regional event guidelines
  - Submissions and feedback on government proposals

- Next 3-year implementation plan using the recently prioritised regional actions as the basis
- Review of the WMMP that incorporates the waste assessment requirement

## **Conclusion**

15. There has been some progress made against the regional and local actions in the WMMP. This has been complemented by a number of changes announced by the government in recent months.
16. The adoption of a regionally-consistent Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 will mark an important milestone for the region, delivering on a number of regulatory outcomes sought through both the regional and local action plans.
17. We are now at the end of the first 3-year implementation, and halfway through the life of the WMMP, a good point to reflect on what has been achieved, but also as a region to review, reset and agree the focus for the final 3 years of the WMMP to ensure its ongoing success.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1. Attachment 1 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan  
2017-2023 3-year implementation update [↓](#) 

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Author	Stephanie Watkins, Principal Advisor WMMP
Authoriser	Emily Taylor-Hall, Manager, Waste Operations Mike Mendonca, Acting Chief Infrastructure Officer

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Engagement and Consultation

Not applicable.

### Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Not applicable.

### Financial implications

There are no financial implications related to this report.

### Policy and legislative implications

There are no policy or legislative implications related to this report.

### Risks / legal

There are no risk or legal considerations related to this report.

### Climate Change impact and considerations

The WMMP has regional primary, secondary and tertiary targets to reduce the total quantity of waste to landfill, and increase recycling of material and diversion of organic waste that contributes to overall emissions reduction.

### Communications Plan

Not required.

### Health and Safety Impact considered

There are no health and safety impacts in relation to this report.

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# Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

2017-2023



## UPDATE ON THE 3-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2017-2020

*Waste Free, Together – For people, environment, and economy*

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## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### R.R.1 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION BYLAW

Over the last three years the eight councils have collaborated on the development of a regionally consistent Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw).

The proposed changes would require waste minimisation plans from developers and event managers, ensure there is adequate waste and recycling storage facilities for multi-unit dwellings, limit unaddressed advertising mail, and allow for the establishment of region-wide waste operator licensing in order to secure the provision of data in a regionally consistent format.

All councils have finalised their Bylaw for consultation with the community between August and November 2020. This is an important milestone for the region and will enable a number of other regional actions to progress.

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## R.E.1. REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, officers across the region developed a regionally consistent set of event guidelines, 'Reducing waste at your event' and 'Event packaging guidelines'.

The guides help event organisers understand and apply best practice waste minimisation at their events, and provides information about compostable and recyclable packaging options.

Workshops were held on the guidelines for event organisers when they were released, with a refresher planned for later this year.

## R.LM.3-4 COLLABORATE & LOBBY

Single-use plastic bags were banned in New Zealand from 1 July 2019. Kāpiti Coast District Council, Masterton District Council and Wellington City Council made submissions in support of the ban, and a submission was made on behalf of all councils from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) also in support of the ban.

The ban has resulted in the removal of 1.1 billion bags out of the system in one year. The government is working to further reduce plastic waste and phase out hard-to-recycle plastics. Consultation on these further changes recently opened, closing 4 November 2020.

## R.C.1. OPTIMISING COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Since the adoption of the WMMP, a number of councils have reviewed their recycling and rubbish services and systems to identify opportunities for optimisation.

*Hutt City Council* completed a strategic waste review of their systems looking at kerbside rubbish, recycling and green waste collection, hazardous waste, layout and signage at Silverstream Landfill, and the establishment of a free to use resource recovery facility.

The proposed changes to kerbside collection could see the service managed by the Council under one contract. Once Hutt City Council make a decision in mid-September 2020, the agreed new services will be in place by 1 July 2021.

*Wellington City Council* are set to trial a food waste kerbside collection service in Miramar later this year. The trial will include scheduled audits to understand composition to inform next steps.

*Upper Hutt City Council* upgraded their Park Street community recycling centre following the success of their trial of the public service. As part of the LTP review the Council will be looking at some options including the reintroduction of a permanent kerbside recycling service.

*Porirua City Council* reviewed their recycling collection service, and as a result introduced wheelie bins – one for glass and another for mixed recycling.

*Masterton District Council* introduced a new alternate weekly recycling kerbside collection in September 2019 and upgraded the transfer station recycling systems as part of this.

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## **R.D.1 IMPLEMENT WASTE DATA FRAMEWORK**

Having a regionally consistent approach to waste data and collection is critical to understanding what we are throwing away.

Since the adoption of the WMMP, a regional waste data report with separate local action plans was prepared by Eunomia in 2018.

One of the actions was to implement licensing for private operators. This is part of a suite of changes proposed through the Bylaw currently out for consultation.

## **R.E.1 REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

Sortwaste.nz was launched as part of Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt's changes to plastic recycling in 2019.

Now a regional initiative, the platform provides information on how people can minimise waste at their homes and work places.

The initiative was recognised nationally and presented at the annual WasteMINZ conference in September 2019.

## **R.1-8 PRIORITISING REGIONAL ACTIONS**

In June 2020 the WMMP Joint Committee were asked to prioritise the Regional Actions in the WMMP, to be undertaken in the new triennium, and were done so in the following order:

1. Develop and implement a regional bylaw, or a suite of regionally consistent bylaws
2. Implement Waste Data Framework
3. Collaborate and lobby
4. Regional Engagement
5. Optimise collection systems
6. Resource recovery network
7. Beneficial use of biosolids
8. Shared governance and service delivery
9. Resourcing for regional actions

## **R.IN.1 RESOURCE RECOVERY NETWORK**

A 'Regional C&D waste issues and options paper' was prepared by Tonkin & Taylor in October 2018 and presented to the WMMP Joint Committee, going on to individual councils for their information.

The report recommended regulatory intervention (such as bylaw provisions which has since been done), updating council procurement policy, and investing in dry waste capacity, concrete processing and making C&D waste processing area/s available.

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## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WASTE DISPOSAL LEVY

In July 2020 the government announced a range of changes to develop regulations under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to improve the effectiveness of the waste disposal levy. The changes include its application to more sites, increasing the rate of the levy over time, and requiring more detail on waste data for reporting and monitoring purposes.

The waste levy itself is set to increase annually over four years from 1 July 2021, reaching \$60 per tonne by 2024, and extended to apply to construction and demolition landfill from 2022 in a move by the government to further incentivise waste diversion. This announcement precedes a review of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 that is likely to see changes to the proportion of the waste disposal levy paid to territorial authorities as the levy progressively increases.

Once the waste disposal levy changes begin to take effect in 2021 the government has signaled that they will require some data backdated. It is expected that there will be a requirement in time for councils to provide geographic and activity source data, but unclear at this stage on how closed landfills and farm dumps will be treated as part of this.

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## WASTE & RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

To complement the proposed waste disposal levy changes, the government confirmed it will invest \$124 million to improve waste and recycling infrastructure.

This is to include plastic recycling and reprocessing plants, weighbridges for improved waste data collection and improved material and community resource recovery plants and will result in optimised systems, job creation and incomes for New Zealanders.

## NZ WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW

Following the announcement on the proposed changes to the waste disposal levy the government indicated the review of the NZ Waste Strategy would begin in 2021.

Preliminary scoping and planning have commenced and will be presented at the 2020 WasteMINZ conference later this year. It has been signaled that food waste will be central to this review.

## PRIORITY PRODUCTS & PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

At the end of July 2020, the government announced six products to be declared priority products to be regulated through product stewardship schemes.

Plastic packaging, tyres, electrical and electronic products, agrichemicals and their containers, refrigerants and farm plastics will now be part of the mandatory schemes.

This will ensure everyone involved in their design, production, sale and use contributes to diverting the materials in them from landfill at the end of their useful life.

The Ministry for the Environment will be working with manufacturers and retailers in the coming months to co-design the scheme.

## EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

In June 2020 a provisional emissions budget for 2021-25 period was revealed that will better incentivise emissions reductions.

A cap on total emissions is set to be introduced along with rules for the auctioning of emission units.

An increase in carbon prices will increase the costs associated with methane emissions at the three landfills in our region.

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## REGIONAL ACTIONS

The following pages provide an overview of progress against the regional actions outlined in the WMMP along with some high-level data on tonnage and emissions.

The regional actions are designed to contribute to the primary, secondary and tertiary targets that focus on reduction of total quantity of waste, and more recycling and diversion of organic waste.

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## REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

The following table provides a summary of each action, what it aims to do, and the progress that has been made against each action over the last three years since the WMMP was adopted in 2017.

Action	What it will do	Progress at midpoint
R.R.1 Develop and implement a regional bylaw (Priority 1)	This will help councils set standards and gather data so they can plan and manage waste better	<b>Progressing:</b> councils in the region have worked collaboratively to develop and finalise a regionally-consistent solid waste bylaw template for public consultation in 2020. The template was approved in December 2019 by the WMMP Joint Committee. All councils are consulting between August-November 2020
R.D.1 Implement Waste Data Framework (Priority 2)	Consistent, high-quality data will help us track our progress	<b>On hold:</b> Eunomia were contracted in 2018 to complete a report on Waste Data – local action plans for each TA were completed and provided as part of this. This project has not progressed further and is effectively on hold with the focus being on regulatory intervention through the proposed Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw changes first. Enforcing region-wide operator licensing as part of the Bylaw would enable this piece of work to resume
R.E.1 Regional engagement (Priority 4)	More consistent regional communications and education around waste services and waste minimisation will help households and communities to be inspired and supported so they can play their part	<b>Progressing:</b> in addition to the annual waste management and minimisation education available like Love Food Hate Waste, Plastic Free July, Pare Kore, and Waste Free Parenting, a regional initiative Sortwaste.nz is now a regional zero waste information platform to the community. The platform is under review to ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance
R.C.1 Optimise collection systems (Priority 5)	We will work to improve collections so that they maximise diversion and are cost effective to communities	<b>Some progress:</b> Each individual council has either undertaken, is undertaking or is looking at options to improve collections
R.IN.1 Resource recovery network (Priority 6)	This will make sure we have the facilities to divert more material like construction and demolition waste, food and/or biosolids, and other organic waste	<b>Not progressed:</b> not progressed at a regional level at this stage. However early discussions are underway at regional officer level on scoping a high-level options report that could build on the 2018 Tonkin + Taylor issues and options report on C&D waste. Some individual councils are looking at feasibility at a smaller local scale
R.IN.2 Beneficial use of biosolids (Priority 7)	This is a large waste stream that, if diverted, will make a big contribution to our regional targets	<b>Not progressed:</b> Wellington Water is investigating options to manage biosolids at Moa Point only. This is not a regional solution however and is not the focus for the next 12-24 months
R.LM.1 Shared governance and service delivery (Priority 8)	There is potential to join together to deliver higher levels of service more efficiently	<b>Not progressed</b>
R.LM.2 Resourcing for regional actions (Priority 9)	This will make sure we have the means to deliver on what we set out in the plan	<b>Some progress:</b> a new regional advisor is on board to further drive implementation of the current plan, review, investigate and leverage future funding mechanisms, and develop a project plan and approach for delivering the waste assessment and the next review of the WMMP

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# WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2020

## WMMP 3-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

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Action	What it will do	Progress at midpoint
R.LM.3-4 Collaborate & lobby (Priority 3)	We can work with other local government organisations, NGOs and other key stakeholders on undertaking research, lobbying and actions on various waste management issues.	<b>Progressing:</b> this is an ongoing action with various discrete projects being undertaken across the region to understand waste management issues for businesses, community groups and residents. Advice has been given to elected members on positions with respect to LGNZ remits on priority products and submissions to the proposed waste levy, the changes to the Import and Export legislation in response to changes to the Basel convention have also been made. The changes to the waste levy signal an opportunity to further the actions outlined in the WMMP and will be a focus over the next 6 months

## OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL WASTE TONNAGE

The following graph provides an indicative view of the total tonnage of waste to landfill over the last five years across the Wellington region. This excludes tonnage from Class 2, 3 and 4 landfills that only accept construction and demolition waste, cleanfills and other controlled fills in the region.

This data shows that the total tonnage of rubbish per person in the 2019/20 year was 623 kilograms (559kg in 2015/16, 606 kg in 2016/17, 633kg in 2017/18, 643kg in 2018/19). The primary target for the WMMP is 'a reduction in the total quantity of waste sent to Class 1 landfills from 600 kilograms per person per annum to 400 kilograms by 2026'. This indicates that we are not on track to achieving this 2026 target.

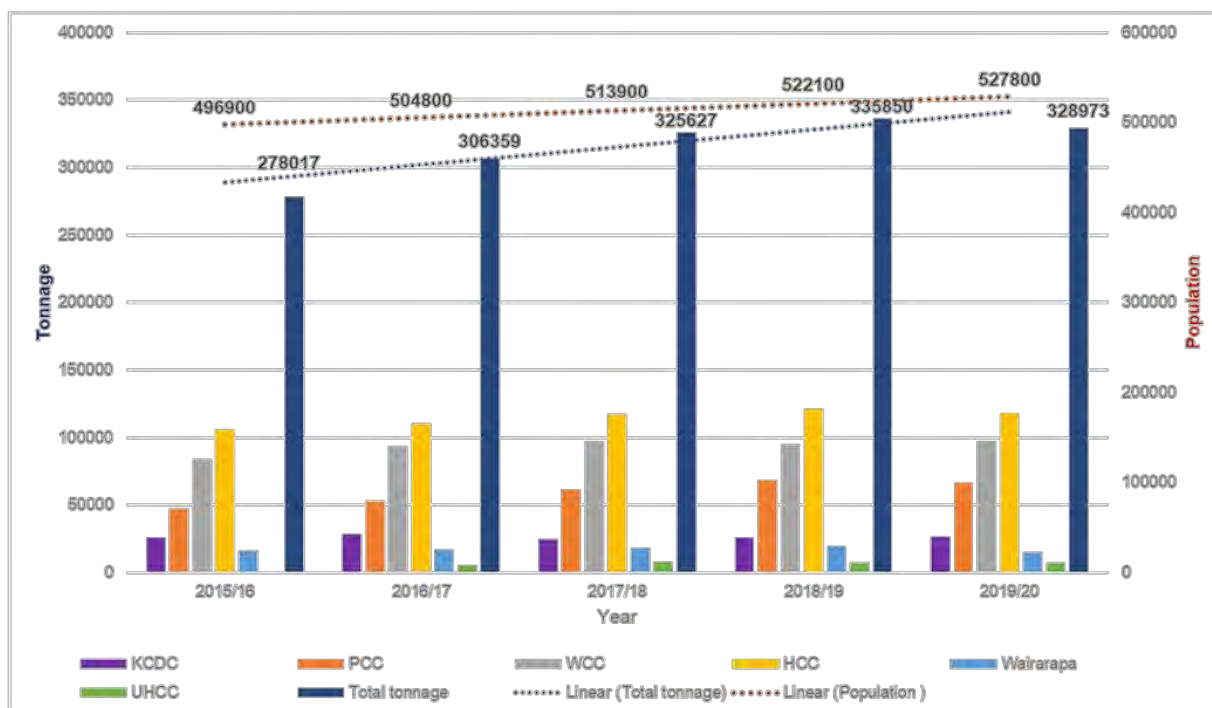


Figure 1: Wellington region total rubbish tonnage 2015/16 to 2019/20 (note UHCC 2015/16 data is unavailable)

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## OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL RECYCLING TONNAGE

The following graph provides an indicative view of the total tonnage of material recycled over the last five years across the Wellington region (kerbside collection of recyclable materials only, excludes other recycling such as metal recovery and green waste).

The decrease in overall tonnage particularly in 2019/20 is attributed to a number of factors such as the bottoming out of the overseas export market and subsequent changes to types of plastics accepted for recycling. COVID-19 is likely to also have impacted the total tonnage with recycling not being collected and being encouraged to be landfilled over the eight-week lockdown period.

This data shows the total tonnage of recycling per person in the 2019/20 year was 59 kilograms (61kg in 2015/16, 65 kg in 2016/17, 66kg in 2017/18, 65kg in 2018/19). The secondary target relating to recycling in the WMMP is 'recycling an extra 13.5 kilograms per person per annum of household waste by 2026'. This indicates that we are not on track to achieving this 2026 target.

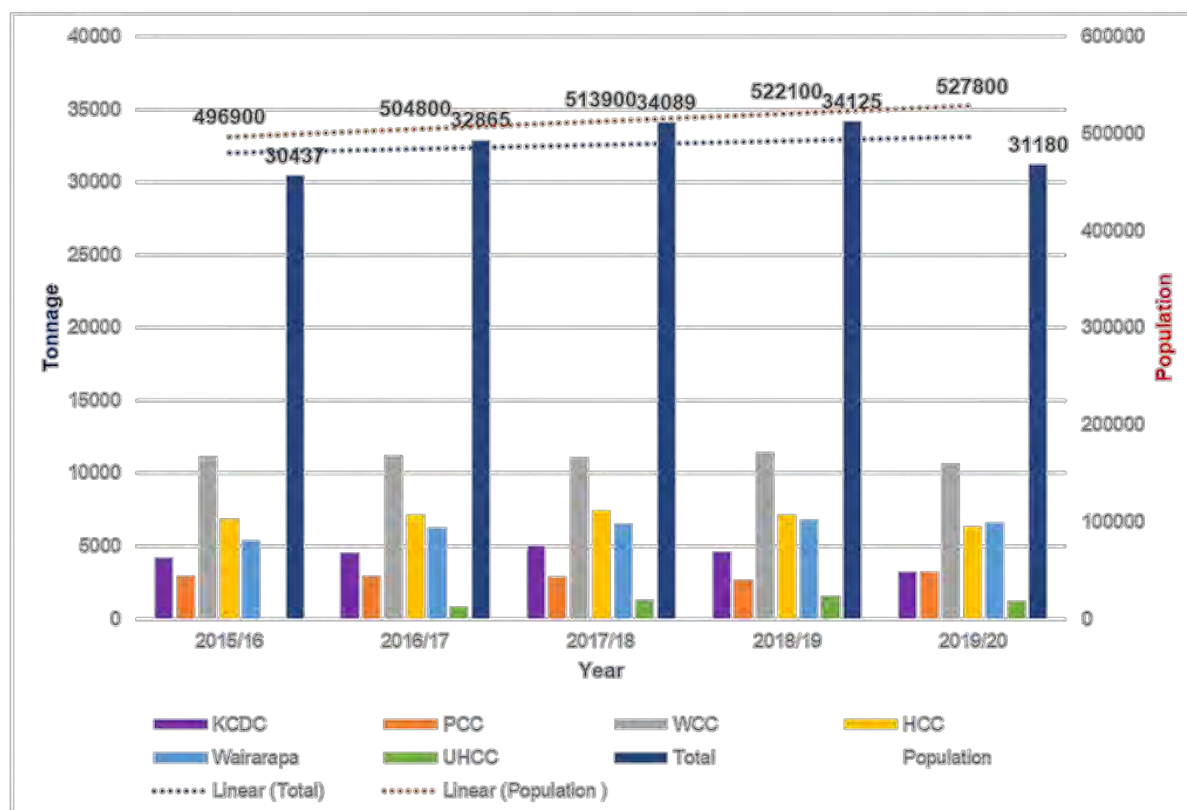


Figure 2: Wellington region total recycling tonnage 2015/16 to 2019/20 (note UHCC 2015/16 data is unavailable)

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## GROSS REGIONAL WASTE SECTOR EMISSIONS

A Wellington Region Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory profile was commissioned by all councils in the Wellington region in 2019. Waste represented 4.9% of the gross emissions in the region that included both open and closed landfills, and wastewater.

Solid waste emissions include emissions from both open landfills and closed landfills that are still emitting GHGs. Both open and closed landfills emit landfill (methane) gas from the breakdown of organic materials disposed of in the landfill. Open landfills contributed 99,617 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) (2%) and closed landfills 80,982 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (2%) to gross emissions respectively.

Wastewater produced 26,249 tCO<sub>2</sub>e making up 13% of total waste emissions. Wastewater is a smaller emitter due to advances in the treatment. Solid waste generates methane gas over many years as organic material enters landfill. This is where landfill gas capture is important.

All waste sector data for this report was provided at a District-wide level and then totaled to provide the region total. Emissions from landfill created in the region but sent to other landfills such as Bonny Glen and Levin have been included, along with emissions from waste sent to the closed Northern and Wainuiomata landfills. (Hume, 18-May-2020)

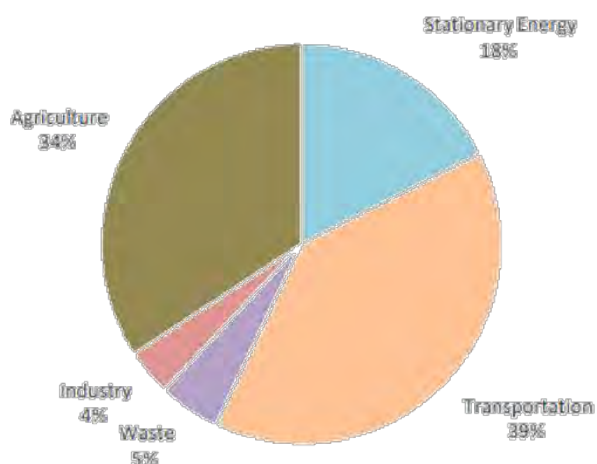


Figure 3: Wellington region sources of GHG emissions

Sector	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	% Gross	% Sector
<b>Waste</b>			
Solid Waste Disposal	180,600	4.3%	87.3%
Wastewater	26,249	0.6%	12.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,848</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 4: Wellington region summary of total waste sector emissions

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## LOCAL ACTIONS

The following pages provide an update on each council's individual action plans taken from the 3-yearly implementation plan approved by the WMMP Joint Committee in April 2018.

The local actions are designed to contribute to the regional actions, and the primary, secondary and tertiary targets that focus on reduction of total quantity of waste, and more recycling and diversion of organic waste.

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## HUTT CITY COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) has been drafted and is now out for consultation with the community and stakeholders. This Bylaw will address in part the other actions under regulation of managing littering and illegal dumping and requiring waste minimisation plans as part of Council building projects.

**D: Data** This is on hold with no further work completed outside of the 2018 Eunomia report and associated actions, and the proposed Bylaw licensing changes. Some work has been undertaken to improve data availability for Silverstream landfill.

**E: Engagement** There are a number of both local and regional initiatives that Hutt City Council either deliver, support or contribute to. For example, 'World of Waste' tours are run for schools, taking students to rubbish and recycling facilities across the region.

Hutt City Council have assisted with driving the establishment of the sortwaste.nz regional platform that received national recognition at last year's WasteMINZ conference in Hamilton.

**C: Collection** A larger strategic review has been undertaken at Hutt City Council looking at the whole system including kerbside collection and the transfer station at Silverstream Landfill, hazardous waste drop-off and customer access and signage. The Council will deliberate on the kerbside changes on 15 September and the new system or systems will be implemented by 1 July 2021.

**IN: Infrastructure** A lot of the infrastructure actions are being addressed through the strategic review, but other projects are underway such as investigations into the installation of a flare at the Landfill, and some work to address the methane emission potential at closed landfills.

**LM: Leadership and management** Collaborated with the other councils in the region to deliver to regional event guides, provides free waste audits to businesses in the city and has updated their Procurement Policy to reflect how broader sustainability outcomes can be delivered. Council maintain its contract with Earthlink to manage a drop-off point for reusable items at Silverstream Landfill.

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## KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

		
<b>R.1: SOLID WASTE BYLAW 2020</b>	<b>E.4: SUPPORTING ZERO WASTE EVENTS</b>	<b>E.5: HOME COMPOSTING SOLUTION</b>
Out for consultation, closing 8 September followed by hearings and deliberations between October and November 2020.	The Council in the last year ran three Zero Waste events including Waitangi Day, Movies in the Park and Takutai Kāpiti.	Work is underway on a district-wide home composting project, supporting the community to establish composting systems at home.

**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) has been drafted and is now out for consultation with the community and stakeholders. The district's licenses are reviewed annually and any changes to the Bylaw will be taken into account when it is reviewed again in 2021.

**D: Data** This is on hold with no further work completed outside of the 2018 Eunomia report and associated actions, and the proposed Bylaw licensing changes. Awaiting regional and national guidance around the implementation of the National Waste Data Framework. In the meantime, the District's next Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) is scheduled for 2022.

**E: Engagement** Continue to work with schools and businesses on Zero Waste education initiatives. The Contestable Waste Grant Fund has supported one-off events and local marae to set up on-site recycling and composting.

Part of the plastic recycling change-over was run as an educational campaign around plastic numbers. Infographics, videos and other resources were produced. There are plans to follow on from this with a targeted recycling contamination education campaign.

**C: Collection** No significant review or changes to kerbside services completed to date but are looking into minor adjustments including the introduction of bin clips in 2021.

**IN: Infrastructure** No significant change in Kāpiti other than the ongoing capping of the closed Otaihangā landfill. Infrastructure changes will be considered as part of a strategic work programme in the next 3 years.

**LM: Leadership and management** Almost \$70,000 was granted to businesses and community groups through the Contestable Waste Grant Fund in 2019/20. Work is underway to introduce worm farms and optimised recycling systems to all council facilities.

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## PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

		
<b>R.1: SOLID WASTE BYLAW 2020</b>	<b>E.4: SUBSIDISED RECYCLING FOR SCHOOLS</b>	<b>C.1: RECYCLING CONTAMINATION ACTION</b>
Out for consultation, closing on 4 September followed by hearings and deliberations between October and November 2020.	The Council introduced a subsidised kerbside recycling service for schools and preschools across the city.	A contamination action plan is underway to include videos, workshops, letters and banners in public places.

**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) has been drafted and is now out for consultation with the community and stakeholders.

**D: Data** This is on hold with no further work completed outside of the 2018 Eunomia report and associated actions, and the proposed Bylaw licensing changes. A comprehensive community waste audit was complete in February 2020 to help inform the review of the Long-term Plan and associated activity management plan.

**E: Engagement** Continue to support Zero Waste education in the community. The Council run a successful Compost Classroom programme with 27/37 schools and one preschool in the city.

**C: Collection** Changes to the recycling kerbside collection were implemented in 2018 where crates were replaced with wheelie bins – one for glass and the other for all other material. The new wheelie bins include bin clips.

The changes resulted in a significant increase in satisfaction from residents in the 2018/19 resident satisfaction survey but has seen an increase in contamination in some parts of the city. No review of kerbside rubbish collection completed to date.

**IN: Infrastructure** Some changes to bulk recycling have been made. An organic waste collection trial is under consideration. No other progress has been made towards infrastructure actions at this stage.

**LM: Leadership and management** Waste audits have been completed across five council facilities in recent months with recommendations actioned to help divert organic waste and recycling going to the landfill. Prices at Spicer Landfill were increased from 1 October 2019.

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## UPPER HUTT COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



### R.1: SOLID WASTE BYLAW 2020

Out for consultation, closing on 27 September followed by hearings and deliberations between October and November 2020.



### IN.2: COMMUNITY RECYCLING FACILITY

Following the successful trial of a community recycling facility at Park Street, the facility has been upgraded. It is now open six days a week to the public.



### D.2: BUSINESS GREEN TEAM

A regular breakfast is facilitated by the Council for local businesses to meet to discuss waste initiatives, conduct audits and share learnings.

**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) has been drafted and is now out for consultation with the community and stakeholders.

**D: Data** This is on hold with no further work completed outside of the 2018 Eunomia report and associated actions, and the proposed Bylaw licensing changes.

**E: Engagement** There are a number of both local and regional initiatives that Upper Hutt City Council either deliver, support or contribute to. The Council trialed a revised Zero Waste programme in some Upper Hutt schools over three terms at three schools that will likely become permanently available.

Upper Hutt were a driving force behind the establishment of the sortwaste.nz regional platform that received national recognition at last year's WasteMINZ conference in Hamilton.

**C: Collection** No waste assessments completed in recent years. The Council supports the 3R car set recycling project.

**IN: Infrastructure** The community recycling facility is now permanently established at Park Street servicing the community. Future options around recycling and rubbish collection in Upper Hutt are being actively considered as part of the review of the Long-term Plan to be consulted on with the community later in 2020 to establish their changing service needs.

**LM: Leadership and management** The Council continue to provide an annual hazardous waste collection service. A 'green business and retail team' was established in 2019 who meet regularly to share ideas, with guest speakers, audits and tours done as part of this. A green team has also been established within the organisation to champion sustainability. Assists in coordinating and running the quarterly Wellington region Waste Forum.

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## WAIRARAPA JOINT ACTION PLAN



### R.1: SOLID WASTE BYLAW 2020

Public consultation is planned to open in October, followed by hearings and deliberations between November and December 2020.



### C.1: NEW RECYCLING COLLECTION

A new weekly alternate recycling kerbside collection service was introduced in 2019. A handbook and bin clip were provided as part of these changes.



### C.2: PERMANENT RURAL RECYCLING

Following a trial, permanent recycling containers were stationed in holiday areas that are emptied twice a week all year round.

**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) is being drafted for consultation with the community and stakeholders in October. A region-wide District Plan review is underway that will incorporate stricter planning rules around recycling.

**D: Data** This is on hold with no further work completed outside of the 2018 Eunomia report and associated actions, and the proposed Bylaw licensing changes. Understanding rural landfills and options for materials recovery is to be a focus in the coming year.

**E: Engagement** Continue to support Zero Waste education in the community.

**C: Collection** New fortnightly recycling service introduced in September 2019 following consultation. This has been well received with satisfaction of the service significantly increasing as a result. Clear signage was erected when the recycling containers were introduced at holiday areas. Installed a new optical sorter to optimise sorting of recyclables.

**IN: Infrastructure** Investigation is ongoing on options around regional resource recovery with a provision made for the project in the current Long-term Plan.

**LM: Leadership and management** A part-time Zero Waste educator was recently appointed. Collaborated with the other councils in the region to deliver to regional event guides.

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## WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



**R: Regulation** The Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 (the Bylaw) has been drafted and is now out for consultation with the community and stakeholders. This Bylaw will address in part the other actions under regulation of waste management facilities in multi-unit dwellings.

Wellington Water is leading an investigation into a drying and dewatering plant however it remains in the very early feasibility stage.

**D: Data** Some changes were recently made to the weighbridge to better record activity source and the Council are up to date with their SWAP surveys with the most recent one completed in 2018.

**E: Engagement** Support for and delivery of behaviour change programmes and campaigns including Love Food Hate Waste and Plastic Free July and a schools education programme and recycling grant.

There is an ongoing focus on event waste through provisions of infrastructure to facilitate diversion from landfill, and the development of the regional event waste minimisation guidelines that encourage best practice.

**C: Collection** "Para Kai", a 12-month organics diversion trial exploring diversion via both kerbside collection and in situ options such as home composting and bokashi, is due to commence in Miramar in October 2020.

In the process of undertaking a review of the CBD recycling collection systems to optimise and improve diversion with a particular focus on separation of glass for recycling in New Zealand. Funding for a full review of recycling and rubbish in the CBD has been secured through the waste levy for 2020/21.

**IN: Infrastructure** Findings for options for biosolid treatment will be reported back to the Council towards the end of this year. Ongoing improvements to gas collection infrastructure have been made in an effort to maximise capture. Considering a review of current arrangement with the gas capture and generation service provider.

Work to review and gather information around high priority closed landfills continues in an attempt to improve our environmental and safety standards.

**LM: Leadership and management** Operates two waste minimisation seed funds for small and large projects. Made submissions on the product stewardship and waste levy changes. Run a 'cover your load' campaign for free disposal of hazardous wastes. Wellington has representation on WasteMINZ TAO Forum Steering Committee.

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## FOCUS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

### R.R.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION BYLAW

A regional engagement strategy for the implementation of the changes to the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2020 will be formed with the support of officers and presented to the WMMP Joint Committee in December 2020.

The approach will be targeted to stakeholders directly affected, outlining timeframes and expectations. Workshops will be held and supporting material such as waste minimisation plan templates will be provided as part of this.

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### **R.LM.3-4 COLLABORATE & LOBBY**

We will continue to lobby for product stewardship for possible priority products and other changes that will assist with reaching targets set out in the WMMP.

We intend to provide feedback in support of the two proposals currently out for consultation around plastic design, use and disposal. There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback on changes to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the NZ Waste Strategy in 2021.

### **LONG-TERM PLANNING**

Councils are part-way through reviewing their long-term plans and with this comes an opportunity to further incorporate WMMP actions into programmes and capture the impacts of the waste levy changes.

### **R.E.1 REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

After the success of the initial launch of sortwaste.nz, the platform is under review to ensure the long-term effectiveness and reach of the website as a trusted regional resource promoting local successes and advice on better managing waste.

The platform will continue to be used to promote residents, businesses and councils' successes in the waste sector – and the Wellington region's overall mission of reducing waste, demonstrating how each and every individual can contribute to the WMMP vision.

Work will continue in 2020/21 to promote the regional event guidelines by facilitating workshops across the region, and developing links with event organisers, encouraging them to utilise the guides to ensure best practice for event waste management.

### **R.D.1 IMPLEMENT WASTE DATA FRAMEWORK**

Work will resume on the waste data framework in the coming months. This will be important to ensuring we are prepared for the changes to waste reporting coming from the government as indicated.

The focus will be on establishing a regional waste database so information can start being captured and documented in a consistent format, and in one place. The aim is to have this completed in parallel to the engagement of the Bylaw changes and implemented at the same time. This way councils and stakeholders know what to expect.

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### NEXT 3-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

We have reached the midpoint of the current WMMP, and the end of the first 3-year implementation plan.

A report will be prepared that will outline what the next three years of the WMMP will look like, expected to come to the WMMP Joint Committee to consider in December 2020 building on the recently prioritised regional actions.

### WMMP REVIEW

A project plan for the waste assessment and next review of the WMMP will be developed over the coming months.

A draft project plan will be workshopped with officers, the WMMP Joint Committee and key stakeholders before being presented for approval by the WMMP Joint Committee at their June 2021 meeting.

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## **WELLINGTON REGION'S RUBBISH AND RECYCLING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 ALERT LEVELS**

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### **Purpose**

1. This report provides the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee an overview of the Wellington region's response to the changing COVID-19 Alert Levels in regard to rubbish and recycling collection and disposal, and the learnings and recommendations identified as part of this.

### **Recommendation/s**

That the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note the Wellington region's response to the changing COVID-19 Alert Levels in regard to rubbish and recycling collection and disposal.
3. Note the collective learnings and insights that regional officers will consider should the Wellington region revert to higher Alert Levels.

### **Background**

2. The first case of COVID-19 in New Zealand was reported on 28 February 2020 that marked the beginning of the country's own response to the global pandemic.
3. A four level alert system was announced by the government on 21 March to control the spread. On the same day the Alert Level was set to 2, and then two days later was raised to Alert Level 3, moving to Alert Level 4 at midnight on 25 March.
4. During the move up alert levels, different restrictions were put in place limiting the amount of movement and activity across the country, and Alert Level 4 saw a nationwide lockdown where everyone was required to stay at home in their bubbles other than those working in essential services.
5. All council public-facing facilities closed on or prior to the Alert Level 4 announcement but councils continued to support their communities, and some essential services continued.
6. The response to changes to rubbish and recycling services differed across the country. This report discusses the responses across the Wellington region and the collective learnings and insights formed.

### **Discussion**

1. There are three landfills in the Wellington region – Spicer, Southern and Silverstream landfills. Wairarapa rubbish is disposed of at Bonny Glen, Silverstream and Spicer and Kāpiti District's rubbish is disposed of at Spicer and Levin.

# WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

Absolutely Positively  
**Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

2. All recycling in the region excluding the Wairarapa goes to OJI in Seaview where it is sorted. Wairarapa have their own sorting facilities at which point they transport the sorted recycling to various reprocessing plants directly.
3. Kerbside rubbish collection continued as normal during all alert levels. All landfills in the region closed to the public at Alert Level 4, but as they are deemed an essential service, they remained open to essential service account holders.
4. OJI made the decision for health and safety reasons to close its recycling facility when Alert Level 3 came into place on 23 March and remained closed until 14 May when Alert level 2 came into effect. Wairarapa recycling collection was put on hold for a fortnight at Alert Level 4, and then resumed.
5. Each council in the region responded slightly differently to the above decisions, and a summary of each councils' approach is outlined below.

## Hutt City Council

6. The Silverstream Landfill was closed to the public until Alert Level 2 with only essential service account holders able to access the landfill. Special waste could be disposed of in order to address potential health and safety concerns, requiring a pre-application online. Kerbside waste was collected as normal, including bag and private collection.
7. For recycling, the decision was made to continue collecting glass in recycling crates only, asking residents to dispose of the rest of their recycling with their general waste. The service resumed on 14 May following the reopening of OJI at Alert Level 2, however some unstaffed recycling stations reopened later (and two have not reopened at all).

## Kāpiti Coast District Council

8. General waste was collected as normal by private kerbside collection contractors. Transfer stations were closed to the public during Alert Level 4, open to essential service account holders only. During Alert Level 3 transfer stations reopened to the public with all required contact tracing, contactless payment and social distancing rules in place.
9. Recycling drop-offs remained closed until OJI reopened at Alert Level 2 on 14 May. Residents were asked to stockpile recycling or put it in with their general waste. Rural residents were asked to stockpile both their waste and recycling out of the rain and sheltered from vermin until transfer stations would reopen.

## Porirua City Council

10. The Spicer Landfill was closed to the public until Alert Level 3 with only essential account holders able to access the landfill at the original Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 4. Making the decision to reopen at Alert Level 3 with all required contact tracing, contactless payment and social distancing rules in place required traffic control and additional resource. Kerbside waste was collected as normal including bag and private collection.
11. Recycling collection continued but all of the recycling was landfilled that came with some additional cost. This decision was made because the recycling service is paid for through a targeted rate and the Council felt it unfair otherwise.



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Upper Hutt City Council

12. Kerbside waste was collected as normal including bag and private collection.
13. Park Street community recycling station was closed, reopening on 4 June a couple of weeks after OJI reopened. Two private kerbside recycling contractors operate in the city – one continued to collect recycling but landfilled it, and the other did not collect the recycling, asking customers to put their recycling in with their general waste.

Wairarapa

14. Kerbside waste was collected as normal including bag and private collection. The transfer station was closed to the public until Alert Level 2 with only essential service account holders able to access it at Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 4.
15. Rural residents were unable to dispose of their waste during Alert Level 4, but a skip bin was provided at the transfer station when the country moved back to Alert Level 3 for Council bag drop-off only.
16. Recycling collection was put on hold for a fortnight at the beginning of Alert Level 4 while health and safety procedures were finalised before resuming. There were some additional handling costs associated with the processing of glass.

Wellington City Council

17. The Southern Landfill was closed to the public until Alert Level 2. All account holders were able to access the landfill at Alert Level 3 and only essential service account holders at Alert level 4. Kerbside waste was collected as normal including bag and private collection.
18. All recycling was ceased for Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 4 and residents were asked either to stockpile their recycling or put it in with their general waste. The service resumed on 14 May following the reopening of OJI at Alert Level 2.

## **Collective Learnings and Insights**

19. Officers will continue to keep in regular contact with other council counterparts to understand and advise what is happening across the region and country. Wellington City were part of the National Waste Industry Group who met twice a week to discuss ongoing developments that was helpful in understanding the wider picture.
20. There is an opportunity to have a more coordinated regional response regarding the closure and reopening of landfills to the public in the future as this occurred at different times across the region, putting pressure on other councils to reopen, and on resources for those who opened first.
21. It may be useful in the event that something like this happens again to have regionally applicable Essential Service letters ready to distribute to contractors working across multiple jurisdictions.
22. There was some dissatisfaction across the community about how councils responded particularly to recycling changes. This wasn't helped by inconsistent messaging from the government and the views in parts of the community that councils landfill all recycling outside of lockdown anyway.

# WELLINGTON REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

Absolutely Positively  
**Wellington City Council**  
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23. The closure of OJI highlighted the vulnerability of the region's recycling system – with the facility closing down so too did collection and drop-off centres, as well as quantities of material that can be recycled being landfilled instead. If the lockdown had lasted longer, all councils would have had to landfill the stockpiled recycling.
24. There is now a better communication approach and strategy for each council and a good understanding of the response required at a regional level, which has already been put into practice in the current context of a reemergence of COVID-19 in New Zealand.

## Conclusion

25. COVID-19 and the subsequent nationwide lockdown was unprecedented. It required a swift response from individual councils on behalf of their communities.
26. These responses differed across the region that did create some uncertainty for residents. The Wellington region has learned from this experience and are prepared and ready to respond with a more collective and coordinated approach with these learnings should the need arise

## Attachments

Nil

Author	Stephanie Watkins, Principal Advisor WMMP
Authoriser	Emily Taylor-Hall, Manager, Waste Operations Mike Mendonca, Acting Chief Infrastructure Officer

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Engagement and Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Financial implications**

There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

### **Policy and legislative implications**

There are no policy and legislative implications in relation to this report.

### **Risks / legal**

There are no legal and risk considerations identified in relation to this report.

### **Climate Change impact and considerations**

The Wellington region's response to rubbish and recycling through the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown has meant that there was more recycled materials being landfilled. This has associated environmental impacts.

### **Communications Plan**

Not required.

### **Health and Safety Impact considered**

There are no health and safety impacts in relation to this report.