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**NEW ITEM**  
(1215/11/IM)

## **WASTE ADVISORY BOARD - NOMINATION**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To recommend a nominee for the Waste Advisory Board as provided for by the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (the Act) provides for the establishment of a Waste Advisory Board. The Board provides advice to the Minister for the Environment on waste minimisation issues such as regulations relating to priority products and a waste disposal levy, and accreditation of product stewardship schemes. There are currently three vacancies on the Board (out of eight positions). It is recommended that the Council nominate a Councillor to fill one of the vacancies on the Board.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to recommend a Councillor to the Minister for the Environment as a nomination for the Waste Advisory Board.*

### **4. Background**

#### **4.1 The Waste Minimisation Act 2008**

The Act was passed in September 2008 and its main purpose is to:

- encourage a reduction in the amount of waste generated and disposed of in New Zealand
- lessen the environmental harm of waste
- provide environmental, social and economic benefits for New Zealand.

The key components of the Act include:

- **a waste levy:** a levy on all waste disposed in landfills to generate funding to help local government, communities and businesses reduce waste
- **product stewardship:** a legislative process to help and, when necessary require, producers, brand owners, importers, retailers, consumers and other parties to take responsibility for the environmental effects of their products through product stewardship schemes
- **reporting requirements:** regulations that make it mandatory for certain groups (for example, landfill operators) to report on waste collected or deposited to improve information on waste minimisation
- **roles of local authorities:** clarifying the roles and responsibilities of territorial authorities with respect to waste minimisation
- **the Waste Advisory Board:** the establishment of a Board to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment.

#### ***4.2 The Waste Advisory Board***

The role of the Waste Advisory Board is to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on issues that arise under the Act. The Board's functions include advising on issues such as:

- products to be declared a "priority product" under the Act (for which an accredited product stewardship scheme will be required)
- regulations in relation to products, materials and waste
- criteria for approving funding of a project from waste disposal levy funds
- reviewing the effectiveness of the waste disposal levy
- regulations in relation to the imposition or rate of the waste disposal levy
- regulations in relation to records, information, and reports.

The term of the appointment for board members is three years, or any shorter term stated in the notice of the appointment. Board members are entitled to fees as set by the Minister and reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses. Nominations for the Waste Advisory Board close at 5pm on 4 January 2010.

## **5. Discussion**

### ***5.1 Nomination***

It is recommended that the Council nominate a Councillor for the Waste Advisory Board. The nomination would enable the Council to influence the

implementation of the Act and provide the Council with a leadership opportunity to provide practical advice on both national and local issues.

### ***5.2 Strategic Fit and Relevant Council Policy***

The Council has committed to reducing Wellington's environmental impact by improving the efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources and minimising waste through various services and initiatives including:

- kerbside recycling
- composting of green-waste and commercial kitchen waste
- landfill management
- domestic rubbish collection
- support and promotion of waste minimisation initiatives.

## **6. Conclusion**

The Waste Advisory Board provides independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on issues that arise under the Act. The Board is accepting nominations to fill three vacancies. This paper recommends that the Council recommend a nominee for the Waste Advisory Board for consideration by the Minister for the Environment.

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## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This project supports the Outcome:*

*More sustainable: The city will reduce its impact on the environment through more efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources and by minimising waste.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*There are no funding implications as a result of this decision.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*There are no Treaty considerations*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*Not required as Council is not making a decision or commencing an initiative that relates to Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Consultation with our Mana Whenua partners has not been undertaken in the preparation of this report.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*There are no legal implications from this report..*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy such as our Waste Management Plan (2009/19).*