

# Waste Minimisation in New Zealand

## Local Government and Landfill Operator Session



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**Environment**  
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# Purpose of session

- Outline issues
- TAs and MfE working together
- Provide feedback and make contact



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# Relationships

- Minister in the Waste Minimisation Bill = Minister for the Environment
- Ministry responsible for Act, policy advice regulations, guidance
- Act imposes obligations on Councils
- Requires more interaction between MfE and local government in waste issues



# Part 4 – Territorial Authorities

Transfers the waste management duties and powers of TAs from the LGA 1974

- Role of territorial authorities – promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation in its district
- Waste Management and Minimisations Plans
- Ministerial directions
- Collection and disposal of waste
- Bylaws – additional to LGA, scope set by definition



# Waste management and minimisation plans- overview

- Council plans – for planning local activity
- Ensure collection, transport and disposal of waste does not cause a nuisance
- Consider the waste hierarchy, regard to the NZWS 2002 and local waste assessment
- Consult under LGA 2002 - Links with LTCCP process



# Waste management and minimisation plans- process



# Waste management and minimisation plans - timing

- Plans adopted under LGA are “rolled over” into new framework – all councils have a plan
- Plans – must be reviewed by July 2012, then at 6 yearly intervals
- Ministry to provide guidance June 2009
- Bylaw reviews
  - By July 2012 for those under Part 31 of LGA 74
  - Every 10 years under new Act



# Waste management and minimisation plans - contents

- Objectives and policies for efficient and effective waste management & minimisation
- Methods – collection, recovery, treatment and disposal
- Current and future needs, facilities, activities
- Implementation, funding, grants



# Waste management and minimisation plans – what to consider

- Waste hierarchy – reduction...disposal
- Waste activities not cause nuisance
- NZ Waste Strategy 2009
- Waste Assessment
- Need for special consultation process on proposed plan and assessment



# Waste assessment

- Description of waste management and minimisation services, future demand
- Options to meet demand
- TAs intended role, meeting demand
- How proposals will protect public health and provide effective and efficient WMM



# Waste assessment - information

- Best endeavors for full assessment
- Take account of significance of info
- Costs of info, resources of council
- How info availability affects assessment
- Consult Medical Officer of Health



## What MfE do

- Guidance on plans
- Revise NZWS
- National waste tonnage data
- National waste composition
- National waste policy, implement

## What TAs do

- Revise plans
- Consider NZWS
- Local waste data, SWAP surveys
- Waste assessment, options, objectives, policies, methods



# Guidance for TA waste management and minimisation plans

- Put together by a reference group
- Draft circulated
- Aim to complete material in May – will be web-based



# Use of TLA share of levy money

- 50% of the \$10/tonne – distributed on a population basis
- Received quarterly from December 2009
- Use of money on waste minimisation under waste minimisations and
- Able to withhold money if not used for waste minimisation



# Part 4: Monitoring waste in New Zealand



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# Monitoring waste

- NZ Waste Strategy revised targets Waste Act, monitoring, require better info on waste
- Need to improve and standardise waste data collection in NZ (OECD, NZWS review)
- Information currently based on voluntary surveys, infrequent
- Need to bridge gap between total tonnage information (available from levy returns and detailed (expensive) SWAP analysis)



# Composition trial

- Trial February to May on collection of compositional info on waste at 14 landfills, categories suggested at workshops in October 2008
- Trial results will inform development of possible regulations
- Seeking feedback (through trial and submissions) from landfill operators on feasibility and costs



# Trial categories

- Cover
- Kerbside collection
- Transfer station
- Special
- Construction and demolition
- Landscape waste
- Residential



# Questions for submissions on Part 4

- Should waste facility operators be required to supply data on composition of waste?
- Are the waste classifications the right ones?
- What are the practical implications of gathering this compositional data? Additional costs ? Are the costs reasonable?
- Better options for obtaining this data?



# Part 5: Improving the operation of the levy – cover material



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# Waste disposal levy

- Levy of \$10/tonne on all waste disposed of at municipal landfills from 1 July
- How should material that is required as cover for environmental management be treated under the levy?



# What is cover and how much is needed?

- What is cover material? What is suitable and not suitable for cover?
- Should cover only be uncontaminated inert materials – rock, soil, clay etc?
- What about slightly contaminated soil, shredded tyres or greenwaste, crushed glass?
- Need cover for landfill safety, environmental management - How much cover is needed?



# How should cover be treated?

- Only some landfills need to import cover material – on-site cover not levied
- Is the levy just part of the operating costs?
- If levy not charged on cover, scope for levy-avoidance – could claim large amounts or unsuitable materials used for cover?
- How would we ensure compliance?



# Considering

- Ensuring cover material used for environmental management purposes not subject to the levy- for up to 10% of the weight of material deposited in the landfill
- Are there any other options for avoiding the potential perverse effects of applying the levy to cover?



# Questions for submissions on Part 5

- Should material used for environmental management be subject to the waste levy? If not, why not?
- If not:
  - what should be the maximum percentage of cover material? e.g. 10%
  - what are the benefits of not applying the levy to cover material?
  - would this impose any additional operational costs?



# How to give us your feedback

- Online form available on the Ministry's website at: [www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/consultation.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/consultation.html)
- Printed submission form in Appendix A of the discussion document. Ministry's postal details on page 1
- Email your submission to: [waste@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:waste@mfe.govt.nz)
- Closing date for submissions is **15 May 2009**



# Information on the levy regulations



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# Implementing the waste levy

- Regulations will be in place by the end of May
- Working with the levy system designers and landfill operators to ensure the regulations are workable
- Guidance will be provided when the regulations are finalised.



# Details of the levy

- Rate \$10 charged on “net tonnage” (waste materials entering the landfill minus material leaving the landfill – but only if it arrived post 1 July 2009)
- Information to be provided monthly in month following the “waste month”, and the levy paid the next month
- For “waste month” of July, information due 20 August and levy due 20 September



# Providing information

- One stop website for entering tonnage and composition information, requests for extension of time, waivers, correction of return, levy amount owing
- Info must be kept for 7 years for audit
- Provision for very small (<1,000 tonne/yr) landfills to provide annual assessment (but still pay monthly)



# Measuring waste

- Landfills receiving lots of light vehicles - queuing problems if weigh every vehicle in and out
- Allowance made for landfills to use approved survey method for average weight of waste for light vehicles
- Formula to calculate weight from volume if no weighbridge



# What the levy collector will do?

- Verify waste information and send an invoice at end of month
- Send an estimate and demand if no levy tonnage return supplied
- Process applications for extension of time to pay, credit landfill operator's account if waiver approved by MfE

