

Waiheke Local Board Feedback on the draft Waste Minimisation Plan

Summary

The Waiheke Local Board supports the general direction of the draft Waste Minimisation Plan. The HGI Section was developed in conjunction with community stakeholders which the board supplemented with an addition around initiatives on clean fill, managed fill and construction waste. In particular the board supports:

- The goal of Zero Waste by 2040
- A higher waste levy – the current levy of \$10 per tonne is too low. A higher levy would act as a financial disincentive to sending waste to landfill. This is particularly relevant to Waiheke given that there are currently limited disincentives to removal of solid waste off-island.
- Greater central and local government incentives supporting product stewardship – there need to be much tighter controls on the overuse and lack of return-to-producer incentives for product and packaging (in particular large appliance cartons) and refund schemes for bottles and other high value product containers.
- The plan's Option 2 focus on the three priority commercial waste streams: demolition and construction waste, organic waste and plastic waste. Waiheke is looking at options for construction waste which contributes significantly to the waste-stream transported off-island, particularly in relation to alternate uses. It also appreciates the need to deal effectively with food waste as Waiheke needs a service to remove commercial food waste and process it sustainably. There is a new service proposed to commence with main retail area and vineyards including wedding venues, which plans to grow to other areas as it develops. The Board is concerned that the urban area of Waiheke has been excluded from the food waste collection scheme to be established in other Auckland urban areas. It is noted that any scheme devoted to composting of organic waste should not act as a disincentive to home composting.
- The need for a national policy on plastic bags and in particular ensuring that supermarkets and retailers use compostable bags, using the example set out the Waiheke Countdown supermarket.
- The need for the island to have a comprehensive community recycling centre and supports this being developed along with the first tranche rather than waiting until 2024.