

Feedback from the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan – 3rd May 2018

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board received approximately 5% of the overall feedback on the draft Waste Management and Waste Minimisation Plan. Based on the submissions and feedback the key priorities were:

- Reducing environmental and marine pollution
- Reducing waste to landfill and carbon emissions, and
- delivering value for money for ratepayers and Auckland

There was strong support for expanding waste minimisation efforts to include the 80 percent of waste that comes from businesses and commercial activities. 92 per cent of the feedback from the local board area strongly agreed or agreed this should be the new focus.

90 per cent of the submitters in our local board area agreed that working with businesses to try new approaches to reduce waste was the right way to go. The local board would support Auckland Council encouraging central government to ban plastic bags in our shopping districts. We also believe there are opportunities to be more innovative with our council controlled organisations like Auckland Transport to trial new products that could be used on our roads.

Our residents are strong supporters of community recycling centres (92 per cent) and the local board fully supports these centres and was extremely pleased to see the Hibiscus Coast Community Recycling Centre re-opened with this new wider purpose and focus. We are very supportive of this type of initiative establishing in our East Coast Bays area and would also work and partner with adjacent local boards to make this reality.

Our residents support the introduction of product stewardship schemes like the container deposit scheme (88 per cent). The local board strongly encourages more recycling and ways to shift the costs of recovery from council and ratepayers to the producers and consumers. We have supported waste minimization and recycling at our local events however the costs to event providers delivering this service is excessive and we need to find better ways to make this a common and affordable feature of all events across Auckland.

We had a notably lower response from our submitters on the Tikapa-Moana Hauraki Gulf Islands Draft Waste Plan as it appears that the draft plan is not well understood. We would urge further engagement on this to ensure increased support and awareness.

Overall the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board wants the approach to waste management and waste minimization to deliver value for money for our ratepayers and residents.

When introducing any new systems or processes, such as the food waste strategy it is important not to rely on historical boundaries. We have a situation in our local board area that half (the East Coast subdivision) will have the food waste collection

applied next financial year and the Hibiscus Coast subdivision will have it rolled out at a later date. While these subdivisions are legacy council areas we work hard to remove that distinction and we encourage delivery across our whole local board area.

We would also request that the food waste collection is provided as a “choice” for residents. The option to purchase tickets or tags for those who wish to use the food waste collection service is recommended. Many of our residents’ compost, use worm farms or other systems to manage their waste accordingly. No one should be required to subsidise a system that they do not need or choose not to use.

Our local board also believes that increased education and encouragement is essential. The intentions of the draft Waste Management and Waste Minimisation Plan are laudable but we believe that Council is being over ambitious and some practical steps and realism needs to be introduced to ensure success can be achieved.