

# Memo

7 January 2020

To: Cosette Saville, Principle Advisor, Infrastructure and Environment Services

cc: Sophien Brockbank, Team Leader, Strategic Planning Waste Solutions  
Victoria Villaraza, Relationship Manager, Local Board Services

From: Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

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Subject: Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – Local board inputs on Ministry for the Environment's landfill levy consultation document

## **Background:**

The Ministry of Environment is consulting on proposed changes to the waste levy and waste data collection methodologies (Ref. Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation document. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment, 2019). Elected members received a memo with details on 6 December 2019 and a copy of Auckland Council's draft submission on 20 December 2019. Local boards have an opportunity to give feedback comments if they so like.

## **Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board's feedback comments:**

1. The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board fully supports Auckland Council's draft submission and agrees that there needs to be change to the current situation of increasing amounts of waste going to landfills.
2. The intent and purpose of the proposed levy by the central government's Ministry of Environment is relevant and closely aligned to local board's outcomes and objectives. The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Plan 2017 states one of its outcomes for the local area as 'Healthy Natural Environment' with an objective to minimise waste going to landfill.
3. Central government policy and legislation is critical in achieving these results at a local level. Concrete steps by central government are warranted in progressing action to achieve the Auckland Council's target of 'zero-waste'. The landfill levy needs to be made effective as in its absence the influence of work of territorial authorities and local boards remains at margins.
4. The board strongly supports actions for an effective management of waste disposal to establish consistency in how landfills are defined, consented and managed.
5. The board supports an approach that proactively applies the levy in a consistent manner regardless of source by prioritising environmental concerns over commercial interests and conveniences. Further to take a consistent approach and have the highest proposed levy hike applied across all landfills.
6. The board has a concern on the exclusion of farm-dumps from the levy, as 20 per cent of New Zealand's waste comes from farms, yet only 7.5 per cent of that waste is disposed at municipal landfills. This implies that the rest is disposed onsite with little oversight. There is a need for appropriate changes through the Resource Management Act to give effect to compliance on farm-dumps.
7. The board strongly supports engaging communities in educational activities and raising awareness to give effect to change in behaviour. The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board looks for more opportunities to partner with central government funded programmes for implementing in the local area. Local boards are well placed through their practical knowledge of the local area, its people and their concerns to achieve results.

The board appreciates the opportunity to give feedback on this important subject.



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Chair, Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board