

Urgent Decision Memo

22 January 2020

To: Manoj Ragupathy, Relationship Manager Papakura & Manurewa Local Board
cc: Papakura Local Board Chair and Members
From: Lee Manaia – Local Board Advisor

Subject: **Urgent decision - Papakura Local Board feedback on the Auckland Council's input into the government's 'Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation'**

Purpose

To provide Papakura Local Board's feedback on the Auckland Council's input into the government's '*Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation*'

Reason for the urgency:

- Staff require local board feedback on the Auckland Council's input into the government's '*Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation*' by 5pm Wednesday 22 January 2020 in order to be included in the Auckland Council submission.
- The submission period closes on 3 February 2020.
- The next Papakura Local Board business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 February 2020 therefore an urgent decision is required to meet the submission period deadlines.

Decision sought from the chair and deputy chair (or any person acting in these roles)

That the Papakura Local Board:

- a) **endorse the Papakura Local Board feedback on the Auckland Council's input into the government's '*Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation*':**

Background

1. The Ministry for the Environment is consulting on proposed changes to the waste levy and waste data collection methodologies.
2. The Ministry for the Environment is required to review the effectiveness of the waste levy at least every three years to ensure it is delivering on the purpose of enabling and incentivising waste diversion and minimisation.
3. The consultation documentation is seeking feedback on:
 - progressively increasing the current waste levy
 - expanding the application of the waste levy to more landfill categories
 - improvements to data collection methodologies.
4. The current waste levy is a charge applied to waste at point of disposal to municipal landfill. A waste levy at a high enough rate can create a financial incentive to make resource

recovery preferable to sending materials to landfill. This will also encourage those producing considerable amounts of waste to investigate diversion pathways for their materials.

5. In addition to creating a price signal for waste producers to increase diversion, a key function of the waste levy is to create a funding pool that can be used to fund initiatives and infrastructure that will enable increased resource recovery and waste minimisation.
6. The waste levy was initially set at \$10 per tonne at the time of the legislation's implementation in 2008, with the intention that this would regularly be reviewed and progressively increased to an amount which would encourage more waste diversion. In the 11 years since implementation, the levy has not changed once.
7. The current levy is significantly lower than in comparable jurisdictions (for example, in many Australian states). A 2017 report by Eunomia¹ predicts that the best waste minimisation outcomes would be achieved with a landfill levy of \$140 per tonne, considerably higher than the current levy rate.
8. Auckland Council staff have developed a draft submission informed by our position in the Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. The draft submission includes the following points:
 - Support the expansion of the levy to apply to additional landfill classifications
 - Support for significant progressive increases to current levy rates, consistently applied across all landfill classifications
 - Support improvements to waste data collection and reporting.
9. Development of the submission has been guided by a political working group comprised of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, Cr Walker, a member of the Independent Māori Statutory Board and two local board chairs.
10. The submission is due on 3 February 2020, which means there is limited time available for local boards to provide feedback before it is approved by the delegated elected members.
11. Local boards can provide formal feedback on the draft submission through an urgent decision-making process by 5pm on Wednesday 22 January 2020.
12. Any local board submissions received after this date but before Friday 31 January at 5 pm will be appended to the regional submission. However, they will not be considered by the political working group.

Authorisation of the urgent decision-making process



**Signed by Manoj Ragupathy
Relationship Manager Papakura & Manurewa Ward**

Date: 21 January 2020



Brent Catchpole
Chairperson, Papakura Local Board

Date: 21 January 2020



Jan Robinson
Deputy Chairperson, Papakura Local Board

Date: 21 January 2020