

Waiheke Local Board formal feedback on a more effective landfill levy

The Waiheke Local Board has been asked to provide feedback on the government's proposed changes to the waste levy, which will govern how much waste operators pay to dump waste to landfill.

The Waiheke Local Board has as an objective in its 2017 Local Board Plan¹:

- *to reduce the waste stream by supporting initiatives that effectively minimise, reduce and recycle waste.*

During 2018 Auckland Council adopted the Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Islands Waste Plan 2018 (HGI Waste Plan)². This plan sits within the Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 and identifies how the Auckland-wide vision and strategy will be implemented in the specific context of the Hauraki Gulf islands. The Waiheke section contains the following goals:

- *Community engagement and behaviour change to reduce waste to landfill*
- *Reduce commercial and construction and demolition waste to landfill*

In the light of these goals, the Waiheke Local Board wishes to provide the following feedback:

1. The board supports Auckland Council's recommendation for a significant progressive increase to the current waste levy equally across all eligible classifications.
2. The levy should apply to waste disposed of at industrial monofills, non-hazardous construction, inert materials and demolition waste but not to the following classes:
 - a. **contaminated soils** as landowners often have no option but to remove contaminated soils from their sites
 - b. **cleanfills (class 5)** as planning rules often will not allow excavated material to remain onsite
 - c. **farm dumps** as farmers should be permitted to dump farm waste safely on their own property without additional levies being imposed.
3. In an effort to incentivise reuse and recycling as rapidly as possible, the board recommends progressively raising the levy to the best practice rate of \$140 per tonne over 10 years, as proposed in council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2008.
4. The establishment of a Resource Recovery Park in 2020 on Waiheke Island will give greater opportunities for the reuse and recycling of waste that would otherwise go to landfill and will support efforts reduce the volumes of waste transported off the island to landfill sites on the mainland.
5. Since an increased levy will result in a larger funding base, the board recommends that funding allocation be decentralised with allocation committees established in

1. Auckland Council. (2017). Waiheke Local Board Plan 2017

2. Auckland Council (2018). Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/environmental-plans-strategies/docs/wastemanagementplan/auckland-waste-management-minimisation-plan.pdf>

regions by public nomination. Approximately twenty per cent of the funds should be retained centrally for national initiatives. The emphasis for investment should be research, innovation and waste projects which assist with New Zealand's goal of zero waste by 2040.

1. Auckland Council. (2017). Waiheke Local Board Plan 2017
2. Auckland Council (2018). Auckland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/environmental-plans-strategies/docs/wastemanagementplan/auckland-waste-management-minimisation-plan.pdf>