

# Memorandum

15 January 2020

**To:** Political Working Group  
Environment and Climate Change Committee

**Cc:** All Waitematā Local Board members  
Parul Sood, General Manager Waste Solutions  
Barry Potter, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services

**Subject:** Waitematā Local Board feedback on Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy

**From:** Waitematā Local Board

## Purpose

1. To provide Waitematā Local Board's feedback to the government's 'Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation'

## Context/Background

2. The Ministry for the Environment is consulting on proposed changes to the landfill levy and waste data collection methodologies.
3. The waste levy, applied under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, is intended to raise revenue for waste minimisation and diversion opportunities while increasing the cost of waste disposal to recognise the costs of disposal on the environment, society and economy.
4. The consultation document proposes progressively increasing the landfill levy to higher rates, expanding the levy to apply to more types of landfills and making improvements to waste data collections.
5. Local boards can provide formal feedback on the draft submission. To be considered by the political working group before the submission is finalised this formal feedback needs to be received by Wednesday 22 January 2020 before the final submission is submitted by 3 February 2020.

## Summary

The Waitematā Local Board:

- supports the Auckland Council's draft submission to the government's 'Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation'.
- supports progressively increasing the landfill levy to \$140 per tonne
- supports utilising the landfill levy to educate the community on waste minimisation and a proportion of the levy to be used to support low income households
- recommend utilising the landfill levy towards programmes that activate a circular waste economy
- supports improvements to waste data collection and reporting

## Waitematā Local Board feedback

6. In May 2018, the Waitematā Local Board provided feedback on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 (Resolution number WTM/2018/42). There are three points within that feedback that apply to the consultation on the landfill levy:
  - confirm its commitment to the vision of Zero Waste Auckland by 2040, taking care of people and the environment, and turning waste into resources.
  - supports advocating to central government to increase the waste levy to \$140 per tonne.
  - utilising the waste minimisation levy (and potential increase in funding if the waste levy increases) for an increased emphasis on waste education focussing on waste minimisation.
7. The Waitematā Local Board Agreement 2019/2020 also confirms the board's position to advocate for an increase in the landfill levy to \$140 per tonne.
8. The Waitematā Local Board strongly supports Council's feedback point to increase the landfill levy to a higher amount than the ministry's proposed amount (\$10 per tonne to \$50 per tonne). However, the board specifies that the landfill levy should be steadily and progressively increased to \$140 per tonne in line with the 2017 Eunomia report concludes that this amount would provide greater benefits.
9. The Waitematā Local Board recommend utilising the landfill levy towards an increased provision of waste education that focuses on waste minimisation, as previously stated in their feedback on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 (Resolution number WTM/2018/42). Programmes should focus on minimising business as well as household waste and encourage compostable or repurposed items as the cheapest and easiest choice of purchase.
10. The Waitematā Local Board also recommend utilising the landfill levy towards programmes that activate a circular waste economy, so that it is convenient and cheaper to repurpose and recycle than to send waste to landfill.
11. The Waitematā Local Board recognises that the potential landfill levy increase may cause financial hardship in low income households, hence the board recommend that a proportion of the levy funds raised are targeted to supporting low income households.
12. The Waitematā Local Board supports improvements to waste data collection and reporting, and that this data should include creative and effective measures utilized by community groups, NGOs and Councils to minimise and reuse waste and these measures publicised nationwide.