

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor & Councillors  
**FROM:** P Thomson  
**REFERENCE:** R377-1  
**DATE:** 16 February 2005  
**SUBJECT:** Recycling

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## PURPOSE

This report reviews the timing to introduce kerbside recycling collection services to the rest of the Council's official refuse collection routes.

## BACKGROUND TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS CONTRACT 613

With the beginning of our new contract 613 for Solid Waste Management Operations in November 2004 with Streetsmart Ltd, a new way of treating the district's waste was introduced. The contract was written so that more emphasis is placed on Tasman District's Zero Waste Strategy and its Waste Management Plan in the operation of the district's waste services.

The four transfer stations at Richmond, Mariri, Takaka and Collingwood are now called Resource Recovery Centres and operations are planned to emphasise increased recovery of materials that arrive at each site.

Increased access to recycling facilities has been introduced via Recycling Stations at Takaka, Motueka and Mapua. The existing Wakefield Station has been upgraded. The recycling stations were intended to give recycling access to the wider area where kerbside recycling was not yet available.

It is proposed that kerbside recycling will extend to all areas currently on the refuse collection route in July 2005. At this point it is planned that the recycling stations be moved to smaller townships in the district which do not receive the kerbside refuse or kerbside recycling service. Careful thought will need to be given to the location and re-siting of the recycling stations.

The existing kerbside recycling collection in Richmond, Hope, Waimea and Brightwater was also upgraded with over 6000 households receiving 55 litre recycling bins.

The full range of recycling drop-off facilities is also available at the four Resource Recovery Centres (Collingwood, Takaka, Mariri and Richmond).

A smaller "TDC Reduce Rubbish" bag was introduced to encourage waste minimisation.

## **RESPONSE TO CHANGES**

There has been an overwhelming response to the increased and upgraded recycling facilities. The recycling stations are receiving high usage, far in excess of expectations when planning the service.

It is obvious that Tasman District residents are keen to recycle. So keen, it has caused operational difficulties with more frequent unloading of the Motueka and Mapua recycling stations in particular.

Many residents have complained that they did not get a weekly kerbside recycling collection service and 55 litre recycling bin at the time the new smaller TDC refuse bag was introduced.

## **RECYCLING STATIONS AND KERBSIDE RECYCLING**

TDC Engineering staff have looked at an alternative unloading method with the contractor Streetsmart, which involves removal of full recycling containers from Mapua, Motueka, and Wakefield and replacement with a fresh container each time the container needs emptying. This has meant a faster turnaround is possible and less time is spent by the contractor in the car parks of those sites, and a much tidier method of emptying the containers. However, the frequency and method of container clearance has increased the cost of the service.

The increased cost of servicing the recycling stations is outlined in the table below.

Due to unloading difficulties with the Mapua station, the station has had to be removed until a new suitable location is found. TDC has received a petition from Tahī Street residents opposing the re-siting of the container onto Tahī Street. At this time no other suitable locations have been found in Mapua for the Recycling Station. Staff are continuing to work with the Mapua Ruby Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association to identify a suitable temporary site for the recycling station.

TDC Engineering staff have investigated the additional cost of introducing kerbside recycling early into the remaining areas of Tasman District who are on the refuse route currently (and who are not on the kerbside recycling route currently). These costs can also be seen below. When kerbside recycling is introduced the high use and cost of the recycling depots can be reduced. Depots at Motueka and Mapua (if operating) will be withdrawn.

If kerbside recycling was introduced in July 2005 as planned in the LTCCP, the cost would be paid for by the introduction of the targeted kerbside recycling rate, which is currently \$40.00 per property, so the introduction of the service would be cost neutral.

<b>Recycling stations operating costs</b>		<b>Existing Contract Cost</b>	<b>Extra Costs</b>	
Recycling stations	Clearances per week	Cleanup and emptying of containers	Extra cost of transport per clearance	Extra Cost per month
Wakefield	2	\$100.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 1,680.00
Motueka	7	\$100.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 7,140.00
Takaka	2	\$100.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 2,480.00
Mapua	4	\$100.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 3,360.00
		<b>Total Existing contract cost</b>	<b>Total Extra</b>	<b>Cost per month</b>
		<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,660.00</b>	Including Mapua
			<b>or</b>	
			<b>\$ 11,300.00</b>	Excluding Mapua

<b>Kerbside recycling service introduction costs</b>				
Kerbside recycling service goes to all on refuse route	Price per bin	Number of households in Area B	Cost of bins	<b>Contract Cost per month for Area B</b>
		(at time of contract signing)	(This would be paid anyway in July 2005)	(for remaining area of Tasman District on refuse route that don't currently have Kerbside Recycling)
Recycling bins	\$9.00	5234	\$ 47,106.00	<b>\$ 15,080.96</b>

From this table it can be seen that there is little difference in the monthly cost between continuing to service the recycling stations and the introduction of kerbside recycling stations (\$14,660 and \$15,080.96) respectively.

The community has a strong preference to have a kerbside recycling weekly collection service. To extend this service to another 5,234 ratepayers is possible within a two month timeframe. The main lead time is the ordering and delivery of the 55 litre bins. The introduction of this service can therefore be advanced by about 2-3 months from July/August 2005 to end of April or early May.

The Council will need to go through the Draft Annual Plan consultative process to establish a rating area for this extended service from 1 July 2005.

**Please note:** The introduction of kerbside recycling for the balance of the district will include a one off capital cost of \$47,106 for the purchase of the recycling bins. This cost would have been incurred anyway in July 2005 if kerbside recycling proceeded as planned in the LTCCP.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council approve the introduction of kerbside recycling bins and weekly recycling collection service to all properties on its official refuse collection routes in the current financial year at the earliest available opportunity.**

**Peter Thomson  
Engineering Manager**