

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Members, Engineering Services Committee

FROM: Engineering Services Manager, Peter Thomson

REFERENCE: W101

DATE: 12 July 2006

SUBJECT: **WASTE MINIMISATION (SOLIDS) BILL**

1 PURPOSE

This report provides a summary of the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill and suggests a way forward for Council to make submissions to Local Government New Zealand and/or Parliament's Local Government and Environment Select Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

The Green Party has put forward a Private Member's Bill covering the management of solid waste. This Private Member's Bill has been selected for consideration by Parliament as a result of being drawn from a ballot. On Wednesday 14 June 2006, the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill was introduced to Parliament. The Bill has been referred to Parliament's Local Government and Environment Select Committee and is to be reported back to the House by 13 December 2006. The Local Government and Environment Select Committee are calling for submissions on the Bill with a closing date of 4 August 2006.

This is a Private Member's Bill developed by the Green Party, although the Government considers the Bill in its current form to be excessively detailed and prescriptive, it supported its referral to the Select Committee so that wider consideration could be given to the issues.

The purpose of the Bill is broadly compatible with the New Zealand Waste Strategy. It covers a number of existing policy elements such as waste levies and product stewardship and could provide a statutory basis for these initiatives.

3 COMMENT

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has reviewed the Bill and provided a summary paper (dated 3 July 2006) and which is attached to this report. The LGNZ summary reviews each of the key areas which the Bill proposes to set in place and raises key questions for local government to consider at the end of each section. LGNZ is requesting any feedback on the Bill by Wednesday 26 July 2006 so that comments can be considered when LGNZ prepares its own submission to the Select Committee.

Key proposals in the Bill are:

- A waste minimisation authority;
- Waste control authorities;
- Bans of material to landfill;
- Landfill levy;
- Extended producer responsibility;
- Organisational-based minimisation plans;
- Public procurement policies.

Council's key policy document is its "Waste Management Plan 2003". This plan was required by the Local Government Act 2002 and becomes part of the Council's Long-Term Council Community Plan documentation. It is suggested that any consideration of the proposed Bill should be within the context of Council's key policy documents.

4 SUBMISSION PROCESS

Should Council wish to make a submission directly to the Select Committee or to make comments to LGNZ it is suggested that two or three Committee members be nominated to work with Engineering staff to compile a submission document. A full copy of the 33-page Bill can be made available to Councillors on request.

A copy of a recent letter from National MP for Nelson, Nick Smith of 3 July 2006 is attached for information. Dr Smith is requesting that Council oppose the Bill and has included a standard submission form to the Select Committee for the Council to use as it sees fit. I suggest that any Council submission should be closely referenced to Council's Waste Management Plan and the New Zealand Waste Strategy rather than using a standard format submission form of any type.

5 RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received.

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager