

REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Engineering Services Committee
FROM: Peter Thomson, Engineering Manager
DATE: 25 January 2007
SUBJECT: TDC-NCC SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES

1. PURPOSE

This report recommends the appointment of two committee members to participate on a combined Tasman District Council-Nelson City Council Working Party to look at the possibility of a single regional landfill operation as was suggested at the joint meeting of the two Councils on 7 September 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

As noted above, the topic for a review of the landfill operation was first raised at a joint meeting of Councils last year. It was also addressed informally when the two Councils met in December 2006.

At present significant landfills are operated by the two Councils at York Valley by NCC and at Eves Valley by TDC. NCC have identified that with the proposed start of a new operations contract for York Valley in September 2007 that now would be a good time to consider possible rationalisation of landfill operations between the two Councils.

Potential benefits of a single landfill operation may include:

- a) Reduced overall operating costs;
- b) Consistent pricing across the region; and
- c) Budget certainty into the future.

Committee members will be aware that at present if there is a difference in landfill charges a significant quantity of waste can be diverted to the landfill with the lower fees. This can result in expected tonnages and income varying by significant percentages compared to budget expectations. This causes significant difficulties in budgets and both Councils have experienced this situation in recent years. A single operation could potentially overcome and resolve this issue.

3. COMMENT

It has been suggested by the joint meeting of the Councils that a small technical working group be set up to investigate the possibility of a single landfill operation and to consider an appropriate management structure for the two Councils solid waste disposal operations.

I have been advised by Fraser Galloway, NCC Divisional Manager that two Nelson City Councillors will be appointed to the working party and therefore would suggest that TDC also appoint two committee members to join this working party and report back in due course to the Engineering Services Committee with any findings or conclusions.

Staff from Tasman District and Nelson City Councils are currently preparing background information to identify the feasibility of a single regional landfill operation.

In general, the information relates to:

- The capacity of the existing landfill operations and associated lifetime of each under a regional operation,
- The duration of existing resource consents and the likely process required for renewal of these at either site,
- Current resource consent conditions and the potential to increase tonnages to each site under these conditions,
- Site operations and capital work costs for increased activity at either site,
- Capital and aftercare costs for the closure or mothballing of either site, and
- Distribution of operational costs and site income.

This information will be available to the Technical Working Party to assist in the preparation of a joint council report.

4. RECOMMENDATION

THAT Councillors Norriss and Bryant be appointed to represent TDC on a joint TDC-NCC Technical Working Party to consider the possibility of a single combined solid waste landfill operation in the Nelson-Tasman region, and to report back to the Engineering Services Committee on its findings.

Peter Thomson
Engineering Manager