



Open Briefing: Wellington Regional Waste and Management Plan (WMMP) 14 June 2023 – 5.50pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, (via audio-visual link) Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan (via audio-visual link), Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, K Yung (Petone Community Board) and B Spedding (Eastbourne Community Board) (via audio-visual link)

Staff: A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; G Roberts, Manager Waste Minimisation, A Saker, Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation; D Cornille, Graduate Advisor Waste Minimisation and J Randall, Democracy Advisor.

Apologies

Mayor Barry, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Barratt, Cr Edwards, Cr Dyer, Cr Tupou, M Henderson (Petone Community Board) and T Harker (Wainuiomata Community Board).

Presenter

A Saker, Senior Advisor Waste Minimisation.

Introduction and key objectives of the briefing

The purpose of the briefing was to outline the vision, process and targets for waste management and minimisation in Lower Hutt and the region.

Presentation by the Senior Advisor, Waste Minimisation

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – Essentially the WMMP is how we go from here... a landfill full of waste.

Slide 3 – To there... a circular economy.

Slide 4 – The circular economy: an ideal future where waste and pollution are designed out of the economy.

Slide 5 – Waste management and minimisation plans: The direction Council is setting for waste management and minimisation.

Slide 6 – Waste management and minimisation plans continued: The strategy and the action plans.

Slide 7 – The process so far: The project has been running since late 2022. There have been stakeholder workshops with targets developed and local action plans (LAPs) drafted.

Slide 8 – NZ Waste Strategy: The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires councils to adopt a waste minimisation plan. The plan must have regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

Slide 10 – Waste Strategy targets: Council is required to embrace the Ministry for the Environment waste strategy targets. These are achievable but will require serious investment over the next few years.

Slide 11 – Draft vision: The vision is a nod to a circular economy, where resources remain in the economy and retain their highest value.

Slide 12 – Draft objectives: These objectives aim to reduce waste and recover resources.

Slide 13 – Stakeholder engagement: Community leaders in waste minimisation, industry representatives and wider Council staff were invited to workshops.

Slide 14 – Stakeholder engagement continued: Details of workshop participation.

Slide 15 – What is working well: A number of common themes emerged from the workshops. Some initiatives have begun. Industry is seeing a change in the public perception of waste. Council staff understand the need to work towards a circular economy.

Slide 16 – Roadblocks and barriers: Some roadblocks identified are a lack of funding, the need for coordination between councils – at a regional level and within councils – and incorrect pricing mechanisms.

Slide 17 – High priority LAPs: There are around 20 LAPs. Officers are focusing on only the five highest priority LAPs.

Slide 18 – Mana Whenua engagement: Engagement with Mana Whenua is ongoing. This is a way for iwi partners to help shape the process.

Slide 19 – Consultation approach: The Wellington Region WMMP Joint Committee will decide the consultation approach, but each council will consult separately within their area of authority. The Wellington Region WMMP Joint Committee will make final decisions on the WMMP.

Questions and discussion points

- Officers are asked to continue discussions with other councils in the region to ensure Hutt City Council's plans are aligned with those of other councils.
- Council is monitoring litter in the sea at Petone and Pencarrow. Officers are investigating technology to prevent litter and pollutants entering the stormwater network. They want to ensure there is capacity in the WMMP to undertake this work.

- Council now has a kerbside collection scheme that is in line with the New Zealand Waste Strategy expectations. As a result, there are unlikely to be significant operational shifts required by Council.
- The Ministry for the Environment operates a behaviour change unit. Public education about the circular economy is expected to form part of its work as it prepares the public for the changes to its waste strategy.
- Cr Mitchell represents Council on the Wellington Region WMMP Joint Committee. He asked for members' ideas and views in preparation for an upcoming workshop on WMMP objectives.

Next steps

Councils have received the draft WMMP. Officers will work with Council's consultant BECA to get the WMMP ready for consultation. They will then work with the Wellington Region WMMP Joint Committee to begin the consultation process.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Electronic Presentation: Wellington Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022-2029.

The briefing closed at 6.10 pm