

By email

25 March 2026

Email to: submissions@poriruacity.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Spicer Landfill Future Options

1. Hutt City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Spicer Landfill Future Options Consultation Document (Consultation Document).
2. HCC's role in waste management and resource recovery includes ownership of Silverstream Landfill (Silverstream), operation of a kerbside waste, recycling and green waste collection service, and investigating, trialling, and implementing a range of initiatives to increase resource recovery.
3. Councils across Wellington Region, including Porirua City Council (PCC) and HCC work together to implement the 2023–2029 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) that recognises the need to reduce the amount of waste generated and sent to landfill in the region, and accordingly sets joint targets agreed by all partner councils. This work is crucial to increase the prevention and diversion of waste to use the remaining airspace of the region's landfills carefully for our communities. HCC urges PCC to consider the various commitments made under the WMMP as they evaluate future options for Spicer Landfill, including to reduce emissions from the transport of waste and the amount of organic material disposed to landfill.

Background

4. There are three Class 1 landfills (Silverstream, Southern and Spicer) in the Wellington Region that accept municipal solid waste. Any changes to the operating model or capacity of one of these landfills can inevitably impact the flow of waste to, and resulting capacity of, nearby landfills.
5. Silverstream Landfill is in Lower Hutt and caters to the disposal needs of communities and businesses from Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt and other

neighbouring cities and districts like Porirua, as well as waste transported from further afield that may require special waste handling at this facility.

6. Silverstream already receives approximately 135,000 tonnes of waste per year. Once Spicer Landfill (Spicer) closes in 2030, an estimated 40,000 tonnes of additional waste per year may be disposed at Silverstream. Assuming business as usual and no additional diversion, then this would have a measurably negative impact on the remaining lifespan of Silverstream – potentially reducing Silverstream’s remaining life by up to 7 years.

Support for Options A, B and C, but with a step change in diversion opportunities

7. HCC supports Options A, B and C in the Consultation Document due to the opportunities that these options present for continuing (and ideally increased) sorting and diversion of materials onsite in Porirua prior to the transport of residual waste to landfills, which may include Silverstream. This includes domestic drop offs and resource recovery as well as potential for future processing of divertible material from commercial loads and clean fill.
8. Of these three options, HCC supports Options B and C to a greater extent as these would enable greater diversion opportunities.
9. But when considering Options A to C, HCC encourages PCC to think far beyond the establishment of a simple “transfer station”.
10. For Option A, Hutt City’s experience demonstrates that active engagement at its Zero Waste Hub has significantly lifted resource recovery. Hence, the focus, if Option A is chosen, should be on the establishment of a state-of-the-art resource recovery hub, with co-located transfer station, as opposed to a transfer station with recycling drop offs. The focus should also be on actively working with hub users to divert, rather than simply relying on users to determine themselves what can be recovered. HCC would be pleased to share its experience with its discount voucher scheme to encourage improved resource recovery.
11. Aside from standard recyclable materials, PCC may also wish to consider locating significant resource recovery opportunities after the weighbridge (as is the case at Silverstream), as this avoids users simply bypassing any “free” diversion opportunities when they are simply not aware of what can

be recycled or recovered. The use of a discount voucher then appropriately incentivises users to divert, whereas a voucher cannot be implemented at a “free” drop off.

12. Further to this, for Option B, there is a need to think beyond the transfer of waste, but to also enable and maximise sorting of waste and then to direct the resulting waste and material streams to either resource recovery or disposal. This is crucial to offset the impact of closing the Spicer site and reduce pressure on the region’s waste infrastructure. This could occur either at the Spicer site through relevant processing infrastructure, or in conjunction with private operators, such as the new Construction & Demolition processing facility operated by WasteCo. Enhanced resource recovery could reduce the amount of residual waste requiring disposal and hence reduce pressure on remaining landfills such as Silverstream.
13. With regards to Option C, HCC notes that it does not operate a cleanfill of its own, but certainly prefers any initiative which deals with cleanfill materials close to source (noting WMMP goals to reduce emissions from the transport of waste). The Class 1 Silverstream Landfill is certainly not an appropriate destination for cleanfill waste. HCC supports PCC providing a local solution if it able to do so.
14. Option D is unpalatable to HCC as it may result in the redirection of additional materials including tyres, hazardous and green waste and even bulk recycling to Silverstream Landfill, which would be an inappropriate outcome for those materials.

Request for close coordination and collaboration

15. In light of the potential impact that Spicer’s closure may have on the life of neighbouring landfills, HCC requests that PCC continues to coordinate with officers across the region to improve regional waste stream data and support strategic projects for future of waste pathways and priority materials for recovery.
16. HCC also requests that PCC enables effective infrastructure planning for Silverstream and other landfills by sharing any data (where appropriate) to estimate how much waste will require disposal elsewhere post-closure.

Where this data has not been collected, HCC encourages PCC to establish relevant information, such as the geographic source of current disposed waste, and support communication in advance (wherever possible and appropriate) when users of Spicer express an intention to dispose at Silverstream after 2030. This is to help estimate the amount of waste that may be redirected to Silverstream.

17. Whatever option is chosen, HCC would appreciate an opportunity to work closely with PCC to identify ideal pathways for various collected materials, with an aim to diverting as much as possible from Silverstream Landfill and maximising the landfill's potential to continue collecting only non-recoverable residual waste

Step change in resource recovery for other waste streams

18. PCC was previously involved in the project to develop processing infrastructure for food and green organics (FOGO), in light of the potential future implementation of a relevant residential service.
19. HCC encourages PCC to relook at this opportunity, particularly considering its previous proposal to introduce a rates-funded kerbside collection service similar to Hutt City's service. The addition of a FOGO service has the potential to reduce the amount of organic material that requires landfill disposal. Acknowledging the methane emissions produced by sending FOGO to landfill, it would be hard to justify accepting another city's food and green organic waste in future if HCC were diverting its own.

Silverstream pricing and waste acceptance

20. In New Zealand, there has long been a trend toward fewer and larger landfills. This recognises the fact that it is neither effective nor efficient for every local authority to have their own landfill, due to geological, regulatory and other factors.
21. This is also reflected at Silverstream, which receives waste not just from Lower Hutt, but from other districts within the Wellington region and further afield, particularly for special waste subject to specific regulatory requirements.

22. However, as the owner of Silverstream, HCC also has an objective that by taking waste from other areas, this does not adversely affect its own rate payers. Once Silverstream is full, it will likely not be possible to consent another municipal landfill in Lower Hutt. This would mean that any waste from Lower Hutt would have to go somewhere else, likely at additional costs (e.g. due to transport costs).
23. Importantly, by avoiding waste and improving resource recovery, the future closure date of Silverstream landfill could be extended. HCC's pricing and waste acceptance levers will be key tools for ensuring the landfill capacity is used effectively and avoid adverse consequences for ratepayers.
24. Further to the earlier points in this submission, it will be important for PCC to invest in a step change in resource recovery, and to continue collaborating on waste minimisation initiatives, to ensure it plays its part in reducing waste as much as possible.

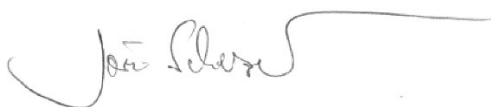
Summary of key points

25. By way of summary, Hutt City Council:
 - a. **Supports** Options C, B and A in that order of preference, but do not support Option D in which PCC plays no part in diverting waste from the region's other landfills. This reflects a preference for the options that enable increased waste minimisation and resource recovery outcomes. In particular, PCC's focus should be on establishing a state-of-the-art resource recovery hub, with co-located transfer station, as opposed to a transfer station with some recycling drop offs.
 - b. **Requests** that PCC continue to coordinate and collaborate closely across the region to improve regional waste stream data and support strategic projects for future of waste pathways and priority materials for recovery.
 - c. **Requests** that PCC share any data to estimate how much waste will require disposal elsewhere post-closure.

- d. **Notes** that any waste from Porirua that will be redirected to Silverstream landfill following the closure of Spicer landfill would reduce the remaining life of Silverstream.
- e. **Requests** that PCC prioritises and invests in opportunities to improve resource recovery across the range of waste streams, not just those that may be targeted in the context of zero waste hubs at transfer stations. This is important to offset the impact of Spicer closing in 2030.

26. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Spicer Landfill future options. Hutt City Council officers are available to meet and speak to this submission.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jörn Scherzer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jörn Scherzer

Head Of Climate, Waste and Resource Recovery
Hutt City Council