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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING**  
**Joint Waste Management & Minimisation Plan**

Held on

**9.30 am, Tuesday, 9 October 2018**

at

**Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

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**Present:** Cr C M Maling (Chair), Crs Bryant, D McNamara, D J Ogilvie and D M Wensley (Tasman District Council)

Crs I Barker, W Dahlberg, M Lawrey, P Matheson and S Walker (Nelson City Council)

**In Attendance:** Asset Engineer – Waste Management and Minimisation (D Stephenson), Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council

Senior Asset Engineer – Solid Waste (J Thiart), Consultant (Jacqui Irwin) and Environmental Programmes Adviser (K Lee), Nelson City Council

**Part Attendance:** Engineering Services Manager (R Kirby), Tasman District Council

**1 OPENING, WELCOME**

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**There were no apologies.**

**3 REPORTS**

**3.1 Proposed Nelson Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan - Summary of submissions**

Tasman District Council Asset Engineer – Waste Management and Minimisation, David Stephenson spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

He noted an email received from Ngati Kuia which had been included in today's agenda as an

additional submission.

**Moved Cr Bryant/Cr Barker**

**SH18-10-1**

**That the Submissions Hearing receives the Proposed Nelson Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan - Summary of submissions.**

**CARRIED**

#### **4 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS**

**Mr Bryant Quarterman** spoke in support of his submission and noted his concern for environmental issues. Mr Quarterman spoke about the amount of rubbish being dumped in parks, creeks, rivers and on our foreshore. He questioned the current system of managing waste which he believes is breaking down. He suggested that we should be encouraging people to put rubbish where it belongs and that the Joint Waste Plan should reflect that.

He urged the Panel to ensure that everyone has easy access to dispose of their waste, including the provision of more rubbish bins. He also suggested that seasonal influences should be taken into account, eg over summer periods when we have more visitors to our area who need more rubbish bins. He also urged the councils to clear out rubbish bins more regularly.

Mr Quarterman spoke about ways to bring young people on board to ensure they disposed of their rubbish correctly. He suggested positive messages on rubbish bins and to do spot checks and counts of bins to check there are enough.

In response to a question about the increasing costs of disposing of waste, Mr Quarterman suggested that it is better that people put their household rubbish in public rubbish bins rather than it being dumped.

In response to a question, Mr Quarterman agreed that the producers of rubbish should pay more in fees to dispose of their waste.

**Dr Joanna Santa Barbara** spoke on behalf of two organisations, “Our Climate Declaration” and “Zero Carbon Top of the South”.

She congratulated the councils on the draft Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan which she said is very well conceived and carefully worded and includes excellent principles such as waste avoidance, circular economy and product stewardship.

Dr Santa Barbara also congratulated both councils on their waste minimisation activities to date including the recycling programme and the green waste options.

Dr Santa Barbara urged the councils to work on changing people’s behaviour around waste and suggested that people don’t conscientiously think about what they dispose of. She suggested that “good stories” would help to change behaviour and proposed that the title of the joint waste plan should be “Zero Waste to Landfill”. This would help to connect us to other cities that are making significant changes on how they manage their waste.

She also suggested that the plan needs to include more emphasis on waste and its connection to climate change. She spoke about the potential of waste minimisation to cut greenhouse gas emissions, eg with food waste.

Dr Santa Barbara suggested that both councils could have a regular column in their public newsletters focusing on zero waste and providing advice to residents and ratepayers on better

ways to manage their rubbish and recycling materials. This could be done in conjunction with local media, eg weekly columns on waste management.

Dr Santa Barbara asked what the councils were doing to minimise waste in their own offices and service centres. She also referred to product stewardship, bottle deposit schemes, more drinking fountains in the streets and the issues with leakage of refrigerant gases. Dr Santa Barbara suggested that the councils should look at the option of setting up a local government waste management group which could lobby central government.

**Mrs Karen Driver** congratulated both councils for working together on this important regional issue which has to have a regional solution.

Mrs Driver said that generally the plan is good but suggested that it needs to be more specific, show more leadership and that the community needs to be able to track progress on the plan.

She asked about the key product stewardship programmes and the LGNZ waste manifesto (including container deposits) that the council's support and suggested the councils should tell their ratepayers about them.

Mrs Driver suggested that the plan needs clear and measurable targets which work well together if our residents and ratepayers can see where we are going and how we are doing. She urged the councils to leverage additional funding from central government for local initiatives such as the community compost scheme.

She advised the Panel that the councils also need to focus on how they can help businesses to manage their waste and recycling.

In response to a comment about the “zero waste” goal included in a previous plan, Mrs Driver agreed that zero waste is a scary target. She commented that people can't afford to keep using stuff and then chucking it into a hole in the ground. She suggested that people need to take responsibility for their waste and that container deposits would help.

Mrs Driver suggested that the councils should lead by example and that all Council-owned facilities should target zero waste. She also believes that the majority of waste is generated by businesses, not households.

In response to a comment, Mrs Driver confirmed that it would not be possible for the councils to do everything but that product stewardship is an important part of the whole waste minimisation issue.

**Mr Ben Bushell**, Community Compost also congratulated the councils on the draft waste management and minimisation plan. However, he noted that it was difficult to find any accountability or targets with the plan.

Mr Bushell spoke about the community compost initiative and noted that 400kg of household and domestic waste is processed each week. Mr Bushell noted that he receives between 5-12 enquiries every day about the service and the website traffic has increased exponentially with enquiries from all over the world. He spoke about the scheme's social focus and the reliance on volunteers to run it. The scheme has recently developed a new site in Brightwater.

However, due to a shortage of staff and financial resources some people who want to use the scheme have had to be turned down.

Mr Bushell asked that the councils include more positive comments about composting in the joint waste management and minimisation plan. He also suggested that while it is all very well to provide subsidies for compost bins, many people don't know how to use them properly. He suggested that new subdivision developments should include composting facilities.

Mr Bushell advised the panel that the end market for their compost can be targeted at a wide range of uses, including specific needs, eg, remediation.

He stressed that he wants the scheme to remain community based but if the council's cannot help he will need to consider others options.

**Carlo Wiegand, Waste No More** spoke about the waste no more scheme which focuses on diverting waste from public events. He noted that the scheme is about educating people on how they can divert waste from landfill. The group relies on Community Compost for food waste composting and recommend that the council's support Community Compost.

Mr Wiegan suggested that any public events should be required to have "waste diversion" as a requirement of their hire agreement for events. He noted that waste education in the community is important. Mr Wiegan told the panel that his group is looking at introducing a mobile wash station for public events and he is looking to support from the councils for this initiative.

**Ms Kura Stafford** spoke on behalf of **Ngati Tama** and acknowledged the extensive amount of work both councils are doing in the area of waste management and minimisation.

She noted that Ngati Tama appreciate the council's engagement with iwi and acknowledged David Stephenson for his help. She noted that the plan has generated an interest within the iwi to look at their own waste management.

Ms Stafford advised the panel that Ngati Tama are advocating for iwi representation on the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit and suggested that representatives of the three waka could be used as the basis for that representation.

Ms Stafford suggested that the plan requires some wordsmithing around the section on kaitiakitanga and guardianship which would give effect to treaty outcomes.

Ms Stafford noted that iwi are particularly concerned about ongoing monitoring of landfills especially closed sites and possible contamination of surface and ground waters. She also suggested that the plan should include some form of measuring the exporting and importing of waste.

Ms Stafford acknowledged the other submitters to the plan and noted that the opportunity to participate had triggered a new interest in waste management and minimisation within Ngati Tama.

In response to a question about the monitoring of the former Mapua chemical site, Ms Stafford said that iwi are concerned about the potential for further leaching or contamination from this site and they would like to be advised of what ongoing monitoring is being done.

**Mr Derek Shaw** spoke on behalf of the Nelson Environment Centre's submission. He suggested that while some improvements and progress were evident in the plan, there is potential to do a lot more in our community. He noted that the Nelson Environment Centre supports a vision of zero waste and they are working with others in the community to realise that vision.

Mr Shaw suggested that the councils establish a community forum similar to the Biodiversity Forum, facilitated by the councils.

Mr Shaw proposed that the councils could improve the vision and goals of the plan and that they should be leading by example. He suggested that the councils consider a waste minimisation innovation fund to assist with waste education in the community. He also offered the option of the councils applying to the Provincial Growth Fund for funding to help initiatives such as the Community Compost scheme.

In response to a question, Mr Shaw confirmed that the Nelson Environment Centre had worked on waste education with schools in the past with funding from both councils and this was something they could pick up again.

In response to a question about measuring waste management activities, Mr Shaw said any targets should recognise that waste to landfill is the last resort.

In response to a question on targets, Mr Shaw said that any objectives need a timetable for progress and monitoring for achievement. He said that there are a lot of ideas in the community and that a forum would be a good way to capture these at little cost.

**Mr Klaas van Maanen** congratulated both councils on their excellent waste management and minimisation plan. He noted his keen interest in waste management and had been researching what other countries are doing with their waste. Mr van Maanen advised the panel that he has an aim to set up a plasma gasification plant that will reduce waste to landfill. The plan will produce non-toxic material that can be used in roading and other applications.

The noted that the plan could generate its own electricity and that the process does not produce any nasty by-products.

The meeting concluded at 11.27 am

Date Confirmed:

Chair: