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**REPORT 3**

*1215/52/IM*

## **DRAFT LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

To obtain approval of the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan and to release it for consultation using the special consultative procedure.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to the statement of proposal for the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan (attached as Appendix 1), and the summary of the information contained in the statement of proposal (attached as Appendix 2).*
3. *Note that the special consultative procedure to adopt the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan will run concurrently with the special consultative procedure on the 2005/06 Draft Annual Plan.*
4. *Recommend that Council:*
  - (a) *approve the statement of proposal for the draft Liquid Waste Management Plan (Appendix 1)*
  - (b) *initiate a special consultative procedure to be combined with the consultation on the 2005/06 draft Annual Plan.*
5. *Agree that officers will report back to the Strategy and Policy Committee and Council on the results of the consultative process in June 2005.*

### **3. Background**

A waste management plan is required by all local authorities under the Local Government Act 2002 by 30 June 2005. This Council's plan will have two parts: solid waste (completed August 2003) and liquid waste.

The New Zealand Waste Strategy 2002 identifies sewage/wastewater management as an important issue but does not specifically deal with stormwater. The Strategy sets a vision to work towards zero waste and includes targets for local authorities to work

towards achieving this, such as the requirement to ensure that holders of new trade waste permits have a waste management and minimisation programme in place.

Council will also have a number of challenges in the near future as new legislative requirements come into place, as community's expectations change and as asset management practices improve.

In April 2004 the City Infrastructure Committee received a scoping report which outlined a range of issues relating to the management of liquid waste. The Committee agreed to the objectives of the liquid waste plan, interim principles and considered a range of issues that have been used to form the basis for the draft plan, as discussed below.

## **4. Discussion**

### **4.1 Draft Liquid Waste Management Plan**

The draft liquid waste management plan, which covers sewage and stormwater, is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

#### **Objectives**

The Local Government Act defines a waste management plan as something which has been developed after consideration of the following – in order of priority: reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal of waste. The liquid waste plan acknowledges this priority, but its objective takes a broader view and seeks to *manage liquid waste in an environmentally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable manner* over the long term.

#### **Sewage**

Sewage produced in Wellington city is treated at the Moa Point, Western and the Porirua Treatment Plants and occasionally properties rely on individual septic tanks. The liquid waste plan's main objectives and actions relating to sewage are:

- sewage treatment – to ensure treatment meets requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 actions include investigating ways to reduce inflow/infiltration rates
- trade waste – to decrease the quantity and its pollutant load, producers with high volume, fast flow or complex discharges will be required to have waste minimisation plans in place by the end of 2005 and consideration will be given to implementing a polluter pays system
- biosolids – to ensure a sustainable and long term beneficial reuse method is adopted, the existing process will be reviewed to consider whether it meets Council's requirements and whether other options are preferred.

#### **Stormwater**

Stormwater issues relate to either quantity (an excess of which causes flooding) or quality (pollution from sources such as sewage, heavy metals, hydrocarbons and sediment from erosion and development). Relevant liquid waste plan objectives and actions include:

- flooding – to manage the effects, Council will continue its flood protection programme but also consider ways to limit the use of hard surfaces
- sewage overflows – to preserve amenity and ensure public health, Council will evaluate options and costs to reduce the environmental effects of overflows
- run off from roads – to manage the polluted run off so that water quality standards are not breached, firstly monitor the effects and research being undertaken and then investigate ways to reduce the effects, if appropriate
- sediment – to decrease the volume of sediment entering the city waterways by working with Greater Wellington Regional Council and ensuring this Council's regulatory methods can adequately address the adverse impacts of development.

#### **4.2 Funding of new projects**

Many of the proposed strategic actions in the Plan will be funded from existing asset stewardship budgets. Other projects will require funding to be proposed with the preparation of business cases in conjunction with future Council Annual Plan processes.

#### **4.3 Consultation**

The Local Government Act requires that consultation for a waste plan uses the special consultative procedure. As part of that process a statement of proposal must be provided (in this case, the draft liquid waste management plan). A summary of the proposal must also be provided and this is attached in Appendix 2.

It is proposed that consultation to adopt the liquid waste plan be undertaken concurrently with the 2005/06 Draft Annual Plan. The Statement of Proposal will also be placed on Council's website and in all libraries and copies of the summary will be sent to the Ministry for the Environment, Wellington Regional Environmental Agency and relevant local environmental and community groups.

Any oral submissions will be heard by this Committee. The draft plan, revised to take into account submissions (if appropriate) will be brought back to this Committee and Council in June 2005 for final consideration.

#### **4.4 Water conservation**

In the scoping report agreed to by the City Infrastructure Committee in 2004, it was identified that there was some potential for sewage and stormwater reuse, but that ultimately water availability and cost would be the driver for further work in this area.

Although important, water conservation has not been considered as part of the liquid waste plan because they are separate issues. While any reuse of stormwater, such as for gardening purposes, could save on the amount of potable (drinking) water used, it has no effect on the quantity of sewage produced and a very small effect on the quantity of stormwater.

It is more appropriate for water conservation to be considered as a distinct issue. The Greater Wellington Regional Council is proposing to develop a Wellington Water Management Plan to consider water demand issues and water conservation will be integral to this. If agreed to by the GWRC Utilities Committee on 10 February, the Plan will be prepared in conjunction with regional local authorities, with a draft completed by mid/late 2005.

## **5. Conclusion**

A draft liquid waste management plan has been provided for the Committee's consideration. It sets out a series of objectives and actions for the next five to ten years relating to the long term management of sewage and stormwater.

The report seeks approval to proceed with consultation to be carried out concurrently with the 2005/06 draft Annual Plan.

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## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Fit with Strategic Objectives/Strategic Outcomes**

Wellington City Council already has a commitment to waste reduction and sustainability as set out in *Strategic Direction 2001*.

Outcome:

#### **6.3 Reducing Waste**

Reducing quantities of waste entering the waste stream where an increasing volume is reused, recycled or recovered.

#### **6.4 Sustainable Disposal**

All waste is disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner ensuring the protection of people and ecosystems

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

N/A.

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

Liquid waste is an area of high interest, in particular in relation to receiving waters, wastewater treatment options and bio solids.

### **4) Decision-Making**

This is not a significant decision.

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

Consultation will follow the special consultative procedure in conjunction with the draft Annual Plan (see section 4.3 of this report).

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

Mana whenua have been provided with a draft of the report. Further consultation will be carried out as part of the special consultative procedure.

### **6) Legal Implications**

None.

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

The Liquid Waste Management Plan will be new policy. It will take into account existing policies including the Solid Waste Management Plan, Asset Management Plans, Sewage Pollution Elimination Project.