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**REPORT 4**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

## **WASTE ADVISORY BOARD - NOMINATION**

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

To recommend a nominee for the Waste Advisory Board proposed in the Waste Minimisation Bill.

### **2. Executive Summary**

The Waste Minimisation Bill, currently before Parliament, provides for the establishment of a Waste Advisory Board. The Board will provide advice to the Minister and the Ministry for the Environment on waste minimisation issues such as regulations relating to priority products and a waste disposal levy, and accreditation of product stewardship schemes. Council can recommend a nominee to membership of the Board, for consideration by the Minister for the Environment.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note that the Waste Advisory Board is to be established by the enactment of the Waste Minimisation Bill.*
- 3. Recommend to Council the nomination of a Councillor for the Waste Advisory Board, as proposed under the Waste Minimisation Bill.*

## **4. Background**

### **4.1 *The Waste Minimisation Bill***

The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill was a Private Members Bill that was submitted by Nandor Tanczos, MP of the Green Party. It had its first reading in Parliament on 14 June 2006 and was referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee. The Council approved submissions to the Bill in August 2006 and in November 2007. Councillor Celia Wade-Brown, Environment Portfolio Leader, also made an oral submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on 7 February 2008. At the time of preparing this report the Bill was at the Committee stage.

The Waste Minimisation Bill proposes provisions to enable households and businesses to decrease their waste volumes. It includes provision for a levy on industrial waste, sets targets for reducing waste in landfills and cleanfills, provides for producer responsibility programmes, and provides for public procurement programmes to spur the development of markets for products and services that result in waste reduction.

The Bill:

- proposes a levy on all waste disposed of in a landfill
- seeks to enable product stewardship schemes to reach their potential
- allows for regulations to be made on reporting on waste for territorial authorities, operators of landfills and recycling facilities
- clarifies the roles and responsibilities of territorial authorities with regard to waste minimisation
- proposes to establish the Waste Advisory Board to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on waste minimisation issues<sup>1</sup>.

### **4.2 *The Waste Advisory Board***

The Waste Advisory Board will be appointed after the enactment of the Waste Minimisation Bill to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on issues that arise under the new legislation. The Board's functions will include advising on:

- the effectiveness of the levy
- products that should be managed under product stewardship schemes
- criteria for funding of projects
- making regulations in relation to waste information.

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<sup>1</sup>SOP 210, 2 July 2008 – *Clause 97* is a validation provision. It is considered beneficial to have the Waste Advisory Board established and operating as soon as possible after the enactment of the Bill so that it can advise on implementation issues. As it may take several months to establish the Board, it is beneficial to begin the nomination provisions in the Bill now.

Nominations for the Waste Advisory Board close at 5 pm on the 7 September 2008. Application details are attached as appendix 1.

## **5. Discussion**

### ***5.1 Strategic Fit and Relevant Council Policy***

In its Environmental Strategy, the Council has committed to reducing Wellington's environmental impact by making efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources and minimising waste. The Council's commitment to minimising waste is reflected in the principles of the Solid Waste Management Plan (2003) and through various services and initiatives such as:

- kerbside recycling
- composting of green-waste and commercial kitchen waste
- waste separation
- domestic rubbish collection
- support and promotion of waste minimisation initiatives.

The nomination of a Councillor for the Waste Advisory Board would enable Council to influence the implementation of the waste minimisation legislation at a national level. It would provide Council with a leadership opportunity to provide practical advice, particularly in the areas of levies and regulation.

## **6. Conclusion**

An opportunity for Council to recommend a nominee for the Waste Advisory Board, as proposed in the Waste Minimisation Bill, has been presented for consideration.

Contact Officer: *Genevieve Drake, Policy Advisor*

**Supporting Information**

**1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This project supports Long-term outcome 7.2.B “Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system”.*

*It also supports the following Council outcome:*

*More sustainable: Wellington will reduce its environmental impact by making efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources; shifting towards renewable energy resources; conserving resources and minimising waste.*

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

*Not applicable, as there is no funding required by the report there are no LTCCP financial implications.*

**3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*No significant Treaty implications have been identified.*

**4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

**5) Consultation**

**a) General Consultation**

*Not required as Council is not making a decision or commencing an initiative that relates to Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**b) Consultation with Maori**

*Consultation with our Mana Whenua partners has not been undertaken in the preparation of this report.*

**6) Legal Implications**

*No legal advice has been received in the preparation of this report.*

**7) Consistency with existing policy**

*This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy such as the Solid Waste Management Plan (2003).*

# APPENDIX ONE

## CALL FOR WASTE ADVISORY BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Waste Minimisation Bill currently before Parliament provides for the establishment of a Waste Advisory Board.

The Minister for the Environment is seeking nominations for potential Board members.

If the Bill is enacted, the role of the Board will be to provide advice, upon request, to the Secretary for the Environment and the Minister. The Board's advice will relate to waste minimisation, and functions of the Minister and the Secretary for the Environment under the Bill.

The Board needs to have knowledge, skills and experience relating to:

- The Waste Minimisation Bill.
- Matters that are likely to come before the Board as a result of its proposed functions under the Bill, such as regulations relating to priority products and the waste disposal levy, decisions on priority products, and accreditation of product stewardship schemes.
- Community projects for waste minimisation.
- Industry (including the commercial waste industry).
- Local government.
- Tikanga Maori.

Board members should have experience in organisational governance or senior leadership, and be able to give strategic advice to the Ministry and Minister. Previous experience on a board is desirable.

It is also desirable that Board members have knowledge and experience in one or more of:

- Product stewardship.
- The New Zealand Waste Strategy.
- Product life-cycle analysis.
- Scientific or technical expertise in the environmental harm of waste from end-of-life products. Major waste streams in New Zealand.
- International best practice in waste minimisation.

Please forward nominations to the address below. In a cover letter, please outline the reasons for the nomination and a summary of any relevant knowledge, skills and experience of the nominee. Please also indicate whether the nominee has agreed to their nomination. Please attach the nominee's CV and a list of three referees, indicating whether or not referees can be contacted without further notice. All nominations will be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment for consideration.

Nominations close at 5pm, 7 September 2008.

Further information can be obtained from Jeff Seadon, Manager Waste Minimisation Policy, Ministry for the Environment on (04) 439 7630 or [jeff.seadon@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:jeff.seadon@mfe.govt.nz).

Nominations can be emailed to [jeff.seadon@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:jeff.seadon@mfe.govt.nz) or sent to: Ministry for the Environment, c/o Jeff Seadon, PO Box 10362, Wellington, New Zealand.