

Marlborough District Council

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

2021-2027

28 February 2020

For more information please contact:

Jane Murray

NMDHB Public Health Service

Email: jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz

Phone: (03) 543 7805

Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Marlborough District Council (MDC)'s request for feedback for the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021-2027.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

General Comments

4. NMH would like to commend the MDC on the extent of its public consultation on the proposed plan. This process gives members of the community many opportunities to be involved in the development of the plan which may result in a plan that is reflective of communities' aspirations in terms of waste minimisation and management.
5. MDC will be aware of the Ministry for the Environment's consultation to reduce waste through landfill levies. The proposed landfill levies are set to increase from \$10 to \$50-60 per tonne by 2023, and the purpose of the increase is to develop large-scale resource recovery infrastructure that will reduce waste. NMH agrees in principle to the landfill levies being increased but notes that there are very few waste disposal options for people. Therefore NMH advocates that levies are not raised high before there is effective waste minimisation infrastructure in place for all regions.
6. In regards to Marlborough, NMH supports MDC's ongoing commitment to waste reduction. NMH would like to see the following waste reduction measures introduced and/or continued in the region:
7. *Food waste collection:* Marlborough does not currently have a system to dispose of food waste. The 2015 Waste Management Plan sought to reduce the amount of food waste being sent to landfill by 20% by 2017. NMH recommends that consideration is given to adopting a food waste collection service that diverts food from landfill and therefore reduces greenhouse gases. Many households may not be able to compost foodwaste or use worm farms on their own section therefore a

food waste collection service provides people with an easy option to dispose food waste.

8. *Reinstatement of the recycling facility at Renwick*: The recycling facility collected 255 tonnes of recycling in 2019. Now that the recycling facility has been removed, it has become more difficult for local residents to dispose of their recyclable materials¹. Whilst residents are able to use the Resource Recovery Centre in Blenheim, it is unlikely that the 255 tonnes of recyclable materials that were collected will now be diverted to Blenheim, instead a larger proportion could be diverted to landfill instead. This does not align with the goals of the New Zealand Waste Strategy to reduce the harmful effects of waste and improve the efficiency of resource use.² NMH recommends that the recycling facility is reinstated and alternative solutions to the problem of illegal general rubbish dumping is sought.
9. *Introduction of wheelie bins*: In 2019, single use plastic shopping bags were banned in New Zealand in order to reduce the amount of plastic in the environment. Whilst Council rubbish bags were not included in the ban, consideration could be given to phasing out the bags and replacing them with wheelie bins. This has been the approach of many Councils throughout NZ. NMH notes that that 38.7% of respondents of MDC's 2017 waste survey stated that they wanted wheelie bins³. In light of the plastic shopping bag ban, NMH recommends that consideration is given to introducing a wheelie bin service. This would demonstrate the MDC is committed to leading by example by reducing plastic waste.
10. *Household Battery Recycling*⁴: NMH commends MDC's introduction of a drop-off service for household batteries. NMH sees that this is a positive initiative. NMH recommends that this service is continued.
11. *Amnesty tipping / Second Hand Sunday*: NMH supports MDC's introduction of biannual free tipping to give communities the chance to dispose of bulky household items in order to reduce the amount of illegal dumping in the region⁵.

¹ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/118283894/illegal-dumping-forces-council-to-remove-renwick-recycling-service>

² <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/waste-strategy-and-legislation/new-zealand-waste-strategy>

³ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/114575573/plastic-bag-use-such-a-rubbish-idea-says-resident-new-to-renwick>

⁴ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/113826065/project-puts-the-acid-on-household-battery-recycling-in-marlborough>

⁵ <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/112634026/twice-a-year-free-tipping-considered-to-stop-illegal-dumping-in-marlborough>

In addition, NMH supports the continuation of *Second Hand Sunday* events to give people the opportunity to recycle and reuse other people's unwanted items.

Conclusion

12. NMH thanks the Marlborough District Council for the opportunity to feedback on the Draft Marlborough Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021-2027.

Yours sincerely



Peter Bramley
Chief Executive
peter.bramley@nmhs.govt.nz