

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting Date:** 27 August 2025

**Subject:** **Adoption and Hearing of Submissions to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025-2031**

**File No.:** 406230

## **1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the formal submissions from the community to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and to hear those submitters who wish to present to the elected members in person.

The consultation and engagement process with the community was undertaken by Council from 19 June to 20 July 2025, with a total of 79 formal submissions received.

Council wishes to acknowledge and thank the community for their input and support. The high level of engagement from the community and the breadth of information and feedback is evident in the accompanying appendices containing the summary of feedback, analysis of freetext answers and the table of submissions.

## **2 Background**

Council is mandated under the Local Government Act of 2002 to provide sanitation services and develop a comprehensive waste management plan. Officially known as the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), this document is required by the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008. Council adopted the previous WMMP on April 14, 2012, and it must be reviewed every six years. However, evaluations conducted in 2018, along with a Waste Assessment in 2020, indicated no significant changes in the District's waste management needs, which led to a delay in the WMMP review.

It is now essential to update the WMMP and submit it to the Ministry for the Environment to ensure compliance with legal obligations and secure ongoing funding through the waste levy. The WMMP requires a Waste Assessment to accurately evaluate the waste management needs of the District.

Following a comprehensive review and update of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan based on the recent Waste Assessment, the Council carried out consultation with the community as required under Section 44 of the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008, following the "Special Consultative Procedure" outlined in Section 83 of the Local Government Act of 2002.

The demographics of the Kawerau District and its waste management needs have remained consistent since the last Waste Assessment. Therefore, there are no significant updates to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).

The 2025 WMMP has been revised with the following inclusions:

- This version incorporates changes required by the updated waste disposal levy regulations established in 2021 and introduces improved reporting tools.
- Updates stemming from the Waste Assessment 2025 have been considered and included.
- The revised WMMP also includes new guidance from the Ministry for the Environment on Waste Management and Minimisation Planning, released in 2015.

### **3 Consultation and Engagement Process**

The consultation and engagement period was held from Thursday, 19 June 2025 to Sunday, 20 July 2025.

A consultation document “Korero Mai – Let’s Talk Waste” was delivered to every residential property at the start of the consultation period. It gave residents an understanding of the waste assessment with details of waste streams, volumes, costs and the planned improvements with glass recycling and the Transfer Station.

Information was posted regularly on the Council’s social media pages enabling an interactive question and answer basis, and the Council website contained all the background documents including the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Waste Assessment, questionnaire and consultation document.

Council held multiple drop-in sessions for the community at the District Library, Rangi Delamere Centre and the Kawerau Markets (reconvened outside the Concert Chamber due to weather).

Submissions were received from the community from the printed survey delivered to homes, and via the online survey links on the website and social media.

### **4 Legal and Policy Considerations**

Council is mandated under the Local Government Act of 2002 to provide sanitation services and develop a comprehensive waste management plan. Formally referred to as the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), this document is required by the Waste Minimisation Act of 2008.

Legislation requires the use of a special consultative procedure when developing and reviewing this policy.

The draft policy aligns with Council’s other policies and plans.

Council carried out a robust process of consultation and engagement that meets all regulatory requirements.

## **5 Risks**

No risks were identified during the review of this Policy or the tabling of submissions.

## **6 Financial Considerations**

There are currently no significant financial considerations with regard to the submissions being adopted and the Hearing taking place.

## **7 Significance and Engagement**

The draft policy adheres to the special consultative procedure outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. Consultation was carried out from Thursday, June 19, 2025, with submissions closing on Sunday, 20 July 2025. The engagement process enabled the community to actively participate in the policy-making process.

Following the adoption of submissions, any deliberations required, the revised WMMP will be submitted to Council for formal adoption.

The timeline to date is as follows:

- Initial Workshop – 4 June 2025
- Consultation – 19 June 2025 – 20 July 2025
- Hearing for Submissions – 27 August 2025
- Deliberations and the revised WMMP adoption (timeline to be confirmed)

## **8 Conclusion**

Solid waste is one of the biggest costs for Council with 16 cents in every dollar spent on collecting, processing and disposing of it. The overall cost of \$3 million will continue to increase with fuel, transport and waste levies all increasing.

The Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan outlines actions to improve the current recycling and greenwaste collections through a joint approach from the community and Council.

The key themes that emerged from the submission process include:

- Ongoing education and communication regarding recycling and waste reduction;
- Improved processes and infrastructure for kerbside collections and drop-offs to the Transfer Station;
- Partnering with businesses and supermarkets for waste reduction.

The consultation process ran in parallel with the roll-out of the changes with kerbside recycling, particularly the collection of mixed-coloured glass, and the change to free drop-off areas for sorted recycling at the Transfer Station.

Overall, there was great knowledge regarding what can be recycled kerbside, and what can be dropped to the Transfer Station.

The major issue highlighted during and since the consultation, has been regarding Council having to stop collecting paper kerbside due to the contamination occurring with the mixed glass recycling. This is still being communicated to the community as the current practice.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report “Adoption and Hearing of the Submissions to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025-2031” be received.
2. That Council hears the submitters to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025-2031.



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