

SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A WASTE LEVY IN NEW ZEALAND – 12 MAY 2006

New Plymouth District Council does not support the implementation of a nation wide waste levy as outlined in the draft proposal for a New Zealand waste levy.

It is our opinion that a levy on the basis of that proposed is a superfluous requirement to the council's current needs. To impose an additional levy onto the existing landfill disposal fees would not only add another level of administration, but would also have implications on the district's financial structure.

NPDC has had the foresight to retain control of its waste stream. This has been achieved by contracting kerbside refuse collection and retaining ownership of a class 'A' landfill. We consider our landfill to be an asset and feel that we should not be penalised just because we have invested several million of dollars into protecting our environment.

The significant number of LTCCP submissions received this year on refuse collection and disposal methodology indicates very clearly that the council's existing service is supported by the majority of New Plymouth residents. Our waste management plan outlines education for businesses and the urban sector as being an important function, and this year will see the implementation of a free recycling service for all schools in the district.

Given the proposed projected fees for the levy, we believe that the overall effect of such a levy would be to substantially increase costs for our community, a burden they can do without. The proposed levy would also mean that New Plymouth District Council would, in effect, be subsidising other councils that have not managed to adequately address their waste management issues.

As a viable alternative to the proposed levy, our council supports product stewardship where a producer levy is applied at the point of manufacture, or the point of sale, or both, to assist with the funding of waste disposal activities.

For the above reasons, we should like the opportunity to speak against the proposed levy, if time is given for consultation with affected parties.

Mike Baker
SENIOR ENGINEERING OFFICER SOLID WASTES