

## **PROPOSED WASTE LEVY**

Rotorua District Council is in opposition to the introduction of a waste levy in the format proposed.

As a Council that has resisted the temptation to privatise services inclusive of waste collection and disposal, we now find ourselves potentially being penalised for doing so. As a landfill owner, under this proposal we would be collecting a levy, transferring those funds to a central “Board” and then having to apply to get funds back. Currently this Council can and does use landfill fees to fund waste minimisation activities directly. This proposal will mean, apart from loss of funds to central administration costs, there will be additional costs for this Council in preparing applications etc and there will be no certainty of outcome. The only certainty will be that we receive less funds back than we collect.

Rotorua District Council certainly supports waste minimisation activities and has in place various programmes e.g. recycling, green waste recovery, concrete recovery, cleaner production and other reduction programmes. We are actively working towards the targets of the NZ Waste Strategy, and have achieved Milestone 1 as part of the Communities for Climate Protection Programme.

To have a proposal like this will simply mean that we become a source of funding for those TLA’s who, for whatever reason, now utilise private facilities for the disposal of waste and have no means of funding waste minimisation activities, apart from general rates or targeted rates where they provide collection services. We see this as being grossly unfair to those Councils who have had the foresight to keep control of their waste stream and as such are able to offer far greater efficiency with funding. Our landfill is now becoming an asset as we are now extracting methane gas to generate our own power supply.

We see the solution in being a producer levy at point of sale.

I look forward to your support to oppose the introduction of a waste levy.

Kevin Winters  
Mayor