

TAO Forum

Date: 12 June 2018

Time: 11am -12.30pm

Location: teleconference

Present: Alec McNeil (Marlborough District Council); Charlotte Catmur (Hamilton City Council); David Stephenson (Tasman District Council); Donna Peterson (Invercargill City Council); Emma Richardson (Wellington Region); Natasha Hickmott (Palmerston North City Council); Roderick Boys (Wellington City Council); Ross Trotter (Christchurch City Council); Sophie Mander (Queenstown Lakes District Council);

Facilitator: Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ)

Apologies: Parul Sood (Auckland Council);

No.	Agenda item	Action point	Person responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Welcome Introduction Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brent Aitken and Craig Goodwin stepped down from the TAO Forum steering committee.The committee welcomes Charlotte Catmur (Hamilton City Council); David Stephenson (Tasman District Council); Emma Richardson (Wellington Region); Ross Trotter (Christchurch City Council); onto the committee.Parul Sood has volunteered to continue as chair.			

	Updating the Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new strategic plan for 2018 and 2020 was developed. Three new areas of focus were identified: • Progressing the adoption of the Local Government Waste Manifesto by central government • Increasing standardisation and consistency regionally and nationally • New Zealand’s short and long-term response to changes in the international commodity markets 			
4	Creating a workplan 2018 -2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workplan for 2018 – 2020 was discussed. • What is happening to the recyclables which used to go to China which are now going to other Asian countries. How do we know whether they are actually being recycled responsibly? Have people asked their contractors this? • Palmerston North sells their own recyclables. Often, they are sold to a third party. The third party can’t always tell us where it goes. Mixed plastic, which is causing the most problems for councils at the moment, goes to a third-party who acts as a purchaser and on-seller. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we need to document where the weaknesses are in terms of what we know? And undertake a gap analysis? • Steering Committee members agreed to contact their recyclers and find out where their products are going to overseas and how or where they are being processed over there. • The State of Victoria in Australia captures this information. This presentation at the Coffs Harbour Waste Conference shows how the data collected can assist them to plan their response to the current recycling crisis. <p>https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairaueprod/production-impactenviro-public/7d2c8045d31d4c8d959176e2ee07b734</p>			
5	LGNZ Waste Remit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remits have now been finalised. All solid waste officers have been sent a PowerPoint and memo explaining the Waste Manifesto remit. Officers are encouraged to meet with or brief their Mayors, so they can understand the remit. • A letter will be sent from Mayor Justin Lester to all mayors calling for their support. When this goes out Jenny will email solid waste officers with a copy and let them know. 			
6	Productivity Commission Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TAO Forum made a submission to the Productivity Commission's report on transitioning to a low carbon economy. The report supported extending the waste levy and gathering improved waste data. The Commission also advocated for a differential levy rate for organic v non-organic material. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TA Forum submission support the call to extend the waste levy and agreed that there should be a differential ley rate but advocated a rate for inert v active material rather than organic and inorganic. This ensures that materials which cause environmental harm e.g. hazardous waste also pay a higher levy not just materials that generate methane. 			
7	Container Deposit Schemes - update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we need to engage with coalition partners? E.g. Labour and New Zealand First? The New Zealand Product Stewardship Council have been doing quite a lot of work with New Zealand First around tyres and container deposits. One of the key myths we need to tackle is the difference between recovered glass and recycled glass. Rates for recovered glass are 70%, however recycling rates are only 50%. In the South Island it is too expensive for most councils to ship to the OI plant in Auckland, so glass collected at kerbside is going to cleanfill or being used on roading. These are linear rather than circular solutions. We also need to do some research to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the different types of schemes. NSW is a very good example of how scheme design impacts on success. They have chosen to only use reverse vending machines which has significantly limited the number of containers which can be processed. 			
	Compostable packaging and infrastructure to process it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The announcement by the Warehouse to move to single use compostable bags caused some controversy in the media. A number of international companies have also announced that 			

		<p>by 2025 all their packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of working groups are underway to look at how and if compostable packaging can be accepted as an input to composting facilities. • Work also needs to happen on what kind of infrastructure is required to ensure that this material can actually be collected and delivered to facilities. Currently overseas, only facilities that make dirty compost (which is only suitable for landfill cover or land remediation) process compostable packaging successfully. In most facilities it is screened out as a contaminant and landfilled or processed as waste to energy. This is due in part to the speed of the composting process being unable to break down the compostable material in the required timeframe or due to contamination by plastic packaging. • Christchurch City Council collects 50,000 tonnes of organics annually food and greenwaste. We don't allow any bags and packaging and don't pick up any bins with visible signs of plastic. We also allow people to recycle their plastic bags in their kerbside recycling bin. Despite these 60 tonnes of plastic bags end up in the organic bins contaminating the collection. We met with the Sustainability Manager of the Warehouse to express our concerns. • Do we need a factsheet that describes the different types of materials what systems they work in and where they are used? • Many councils are looking at investigating food waste collections as an action in their WMMP's. 			
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	Member query	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should large building developments pay a development contribution towards new waste infrastructure? This query has come from Waikato District Council who is seeing a huge amount of housing in Pokeno. <p><i>“Traditionally as much as I understand and looking at the attachment, this would not have been considered under the LGA 2002, the definitions are very limiting – see definition for community infrastructure and network infrastructure. I am not an expert interpreting the LGA2002 - I would have thought that with huge residential developments, comes the need for more than water infrastructure, green areas and community halls. Isn’t it time to include waste infrastructure, to plan for local development people needs?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasman looked at this and decided it would be very expensive to implement for little gain. They decided to use a targeted rate instead. • Southland District Council now need two collection trucks on a two hour round trip to service Te Anau so they are experiencing similar issues. • Central Otago also considered this and decided for the return it wasn’t worth it. • Auckland Council agrees that waste shouldn’t only be viewed as service provision as there are infrastructure needs for waste as well • Are there any plans to amend the LG Act? Is there a wider review planned? If so this could be incorporated at that point 			
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8	Possible Conference Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recyclables – how to cope with the current challenge in the short medium long-term • Where does the risk sit / where should the risk sit with councils or recyclers – negotiating contracts? • Would the Ministry for the Environment be willing to talk about their work plan for waste or will that be public knowledge by then? • Litter – who and how to prosecute successfully 			
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