

# Thanks for your feedback

Hauraki District Council received nearly 200 submissions on our draft *No Time to Waste Tiakina a Papa! Mimiti te Para!* document. Thank you for taking the time to give your thoughts either as part of our survey, through our pop up sessions, or just by dropping us a line.

Over the past few months we have been preparing *No Time to Waste Tiakina a Papa! Mimiti te Para!* This is our plan to reduce waste to landfill, and minimise the harmful effects of waste in our district. Its official name is a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP). We read and listened to your feedback in December 2021, and we've finalised our plan, now available at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/refuse/waste-management>.

We can now put the good work and the good ideas into action. To keep you in the loop please find below is a summary of the feedback we received, what we decided, and why.

## Kerbside collection options

When options were presented to the community in October last year, we originally presented Option 3 as our preferred option, however after careful consideration and feedback from the community, we chose to progress with Option 2 (pictured below) for kerbside collection from September 2023. Out of a total 251 responses on the kerbside collection topic, nearly half of responses were in support of Option 2. The benefits of Option 2 were highlighted in the feedback, and we agreed that on balance it is the best option for our District going forward. Before this change comes into action in September 2023, we will ensure that clear information and guidance is provided to residents to help you manage the change in kerbside collection.

### Options we presented

**Option 1: Status quo (current system)**



**Option 2: Enhanced status quo**



**Option 3: Our original proposed option**



**Option 4: Government standard**



## What does option 2 really mean?



The chosen option means there will be no change to the current mixed recycling bin (yellow lid wheelie bin) or the smaller glass crate. 78% of respondents preferred fortnightly recycling collection, with 20% preferring weekly collection, and we consider that fortnightly collection is appropriate. We'll be increasing our messaging around contamination of these bins, and will follow a three strike rule for contamination. This means offenders will get two warnings with education before we suspend the recycling service for a period of time (to be determined based on the situation).

FOOD WASTE

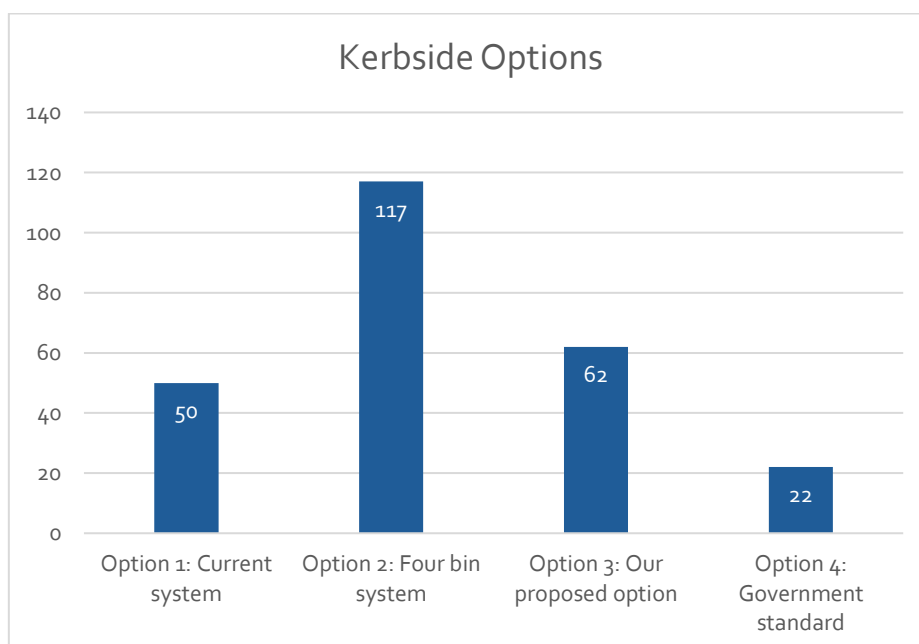


We've chosen to introduce weekly food waste collection at the kerbside from September 2023. Originally, we had proposed an 'opt in/opt out' basis for this. A number of submitters noted that some homes would have a compost or worm bins already so wouldn't need the food waste collection. However when considering feedback, we concluded that this may not encourage people to reduce their food waste going to landfill. We therefore chose to provide a food waste bin to all properties receiving kerbside collection, and residents can choose whether they use it or not. We will also continue to encourage composting and worm farming at home, and the reduction of food waste. During the next 18 months, we will be investigating the establishment of a local organic waste facility in the District for the processing of the food waste we'll collect.



We chose to use a wheelie bin for landfill, collected fortnightly. This will reduce the need to create plastic bags, which can be ripped open by animals, and add unnecessary plastic to landfill. Collecting food waste separately should reduce odours from the landfill bin. It will be at least double the size of a yellow bag. We heard in the feedback that one of the good things about the current rubbish bags is that you pay for what you throw. Our survey of residents in August 2021 also indicated 88% support for 'pay as you throw' rubbish. To enable this, we'll use a tag system which hold the bins closed, and the bin will only be collected if a prepaid tag is secured on the bin. This means households with more waste will pay more, and households with less waste can save money by putting their bin out less regularly. For those not receiving the kerbside collection service, landfill rubbish can still be disposed of at our refuse transfer stations for the applicable fee. We encourage bach or holiday home users to dispose of rubbish at the transfer stations on departure, or to take rubbish with them.

The following chart provides a count of which option respondents preferred.



## Other topics we received feedback on

### Funding and rates

When we developed our long term plan in 2021, we set targeted rates for rubbish (landfill) collection and kerbside recycling based on a uniform charge per household, for properties in our collection areas. Targeted rates are used where the services provided are specific to a particular area within our District and it's not considered fair to charge all ratepayers. These rates pay for the kerbside recycling activity, and the administration of the rubbish collection. Currently, the yellow bag cost goes towards the disposal of the rubbish at landfill.

The costs of option 2 will become clearer after we have secured a contract for the service. Tendering for this contract is occurring in early 2022. Landfill costs are increasing, which is a symptom of increasing costs in general nation-wide, as well as Government imposed costs for Emissions Trading Scheme and waste levies to reduce waste to landfill. We understand this makes things harder on our ratepayers financially, however we are not in a position to absorb these costs. We support the government's direction to reduce waste to landfill, and move to a circular economy where in the future landfills will not exist. The government has acknowledged that we are in the unfortunate position where our environment has been degraded for too long, and we are now in 'catch up mode' – the government's proposed Waste Strategy reflects this. We continually seek to find more efficient ways of providing services, and review how we prioritise our services. One of the best ways that we can soften the increased costs to ratepayers is to promote diversion from landfill – we also consider this the right thing to do for our environment.

### Education

We heard in your feedback that you want more education and clear messaging to the public about waste reduction. We agree that more education is needed, we'll be reviewing our existing education programmes and our strategy for communicating to residents. We will work to incorporate local Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) into our plans for public education. The feedback we received on educating our residents was useful to frame the topics to cover in our communications. This includes things like:

- Encouraging residents to use our waste diversion services, and to reduce waste to landfill.
- Drawing attention to the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre and the services it provides.
- Educating business in the district to consider the products they use, and how we can help them reduce waste.
- Developing things like stickers on bins and magnets which show what can be recycled in the District.
- Increasing our waste education programmes and initiatives.
- Promoting waste minimisation for organisers of local events.

### Waste targets

With the inclusion of a food waste collection, which makes up 41% of the contents of kerbside bags currently, we expect landfill to reduce quite a bit. As a result of feedback, we ramped up our targets to reflect our commitment to reducing waste in our District. We set a target of a total reduction to landfill of 41% by 2027/28, and we're aiming for a total 90% reduction in organic waste to landfill by 2029. The full targets are included in our document.

### Bylaw review

In the coming few months we'll be reviewing our Solid Waste Bylaw, which contains rules around our kerbside collections and transfer stations. We will be reviewing the effectiveness of the current bylaw in supporting waste diversion and protecting the environment from harm, and we will implement changes that align with WMMP direction and actions to ensure consistency with national guidelines and legislation. The bylaw, and any changes are likely to be open for public consultation in May/June 2022. [Sign up for our e-newsletter](#) to ensure you stay in the loop with our future consultations.

## Advocacy

We received feedback that we need to work with businesses to reduce their waste, and lobby to stop plastic being brought into Aotearoa New Zealand. We agree that to make a difference to waste minimisation in the district, increased education to both businesses and ratepayers/residents is required, as outlined above under 'Education'.

The government has recently consulted on its draft Waste Strategy, which includes a rework of the Waste Hierarchy, to include 'Rethink/Redesign' at the very top. This is in line with feedback we received on our plan. We have included the rethink/redesign tier in our waste hierarchy, as it's the first step to becoming waste free. As part of its Waste Strategy, the government is proposing to improve legislation for product stewardship schemes. Product stewardship schemes mean responsibility and cost for a product's lifecycle and waste management stay with manufacturers, importers, retailers and users, rather than falling on communities, councils and the environment. This work is already well underway in the planning stages, and we're monitoring this. The final version of the strategy is due to be released in mid-2022, and resulting legislation change will start to be introduced into parliament later in 2022.

We'll continue to participate in regional and sub-regional sector discussions regarding facilities for recycling, as well as monitoring national changes in waste legislation and the government's Waste Strategy.

## Plastic recycling

We were asked to accept more plastics at the kerbside collection, rather than only accepting plastics 1-2 as we currently do. In June 2020 we stopped collecting plastics 3-7, as the demand at the time collapsed and China no longer accepted the quantity of material they used to. Without an overseas or local buyer it was no longer practical or cost effective to collect these plastics.

In 2021 we have made progress, and there are now markets for plastics 1, 2, 5, and soft plastics, which means they can be sold and recycled within Aotearoa New Zealand. As well as this, the materials recovery facility we use to process our recycling has some new technology which can identify plastics #5 and separate them from plastics #1 and #2. This means it's likely we will be able to start collecting #5 plastics from the kerbside with the next few months, however we are aware of the confusion this can cause, so will need clear communications around this as well as stickers provided for all bins to clarify what can now be added. As at February 2022, we continue to collect plastics #1 and #2, and there is currently a soft plastic recycling drop off point outside of Countdown in Paeroa where residents can take these materials. We are investigating additional collection points for soft plastics in Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea, and this is likely to be installed in 2022.

We had feedback saying that we should follow what other councils do in terms of what we collect. Different councils have different processing facilities and systems, therefore accept different products. Collection depends on the facilities available in close proximity to the District where items can be processed in a cost effective manner. All information on what is and what is not accepted as recycling is available on the Council's website:

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/services/refuse/recycling/>

## Inorganic collections

We have had a few requests for inorganic collections in the District. An inorganic collection would need to be fully funded by the Council, which would then affect rates. There would need to be a location for sorting materials to divert what can be diverted from landfill. It is currently not practical for this to happen, and residents are encouraged to use our refuse transfer stations to dispose of rubbish.

## Extending kerbside collections

We had a number of requests for extending our kerbside collection service to new areas, including rurally. We will review the collection areas in 2022 and look to extend our service where it has been requested. As noted above, rates are only charged to properties who receive the service, and this means these properties will be charged the targeted rate if included in the service.

## Public rubbish and recycling bins

There was general support for the trial of public recycling bins in the District. We also had some feedback that more rubbish bins are needed in the District. We are in the processing of reviewing our rubbish bins in general, and determining the best places for a trial of the public recycling bins. We'll need to monitor contamination rates and levels of uptake, to determine if the trial is successful.

## Refuse transfer stations

We heard that something is needed on the Hauraki Plains for recycling, whether it's kerbside collection extensions, or a drop off point. We understand that currently many people travel to Thames or Paeroa to recycle, or don't recycle at all. One of our actions is to investigate a recycling centre or drop off point on the Hauraki Plains in 2022/23, this includes looking further north to the Wharekawa Coast.

## Reuse centres

We found during the consultation period that there was a lot of support for the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre (HRRRC). We'd like to help draw further attention to the waste minimisation efforts carried out by the centre by including information about the work they do in our public communications in the future. In 2022/23 we will work with Hauraki Reuse and Repair Centre to expand the existing service, and investigate the scope and delivery options for additional reuse centre(s) in the district.

## Green waste

We had some feedback that green waste collection should be added to the kerbside collection. Currently, green waste from the Paeroa transfer station is mulched and disposed of at the Living Earth facility at Tirohia. We are investigating a solution for Waihi's green waste. Kerbside collection of green waste is provided by a number of private companies, and this seems to work well. We decided to investigate local organic waste processing, as noted above. This could include food waste, and green waste, if the volumes are appropriate.