

Matamata-Piako District Council Waste Assessment

Prepared May 2026



Report For

Matamata-Piako District Council

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Executive Summary

This Waste Assessment has been prepared by Eunomia Research & Consulting on behalf of Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA). It provides the evidence base required to review and update the Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), which must be received by Council by February 2027.

The document is broken down into sections:

1. Introduction – the purpose and scope of the WA and the practical, legislative and strategic context
2. A description and assessment of waste infrastructure available to the district
3. A description and assessment of the waste services in the district, both council and non-council
4. Presentation and analysis of available waste data
5. Performance measurement and benchmarking
6. A review of the current Council WMMP as required by the WMA
7. A forecast of future demand and identification/analysis of gaps and key issues
8. Proposals to meet the gaps and address key issues
9. Statement of Councils' intended role
10. Appendices including the statement from the Medical Officer of Health

Context – Legislative and Strategic

The assessment was prepared within a national legislative and policy environment. Key legislative and strategic plans include:

- Public health protection
- The waste hierarchy
- Emissions Reduction Plan and emissions trading scheme
- Waste Minimisation Act (2008);
- The waste disposal levy and information reporting requirements
- Other relevant central government initiatives such as a possible container return scheme, kerbside standardisation requirements, priority products, and product bans;
- The Resource Management Act review
- International commitments.

The local and regional planning context is summarised in section 2.1, including TA plans, strategies, and regulation along with long term plans; and relevant regional plan provisions. Current services and regional/local characteristics are also described.

Waste Infrastructure and Services

Transfer Stations

MPDC operates three Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) at Matamata, Morrinsville, and Waihou, *operated by Kaimai Valley Services, the works division of Matamata-Piako District Council*. Collectively they processed approximately 4,079 tonnes of material per annum.

A comprehensive 2025 infrastructure review found all three sites to be between 25 and 30 years old, and currently not fit for future purpose. Key deficiencies include:

- Insufficient covered areas for sorting and storing recovered materials.
- Inadequate separation of waste streams, limiting resource recovery capability.
- No dedicated facilities for reuse, repair, farm plastics, or e-waste.

Maintenance costs will continue to rise simply to sustain current service levels, and the risk of unplanned closures or safety incidents is growing. Investment in upgraded, purpose-built resource recovery facilities is recommended.

Kerbside Collection Services

In September 2023, MPDC transitioned from a user-pays bag-based rubbish system to a comprehensive rates-funded kerbside service. The current service includes:

- Fortnightly rubbish collection in 120-litre wheelie bins (rates-funded).
- Weekly food scraps collection in 23-litre bins (rates-funded).
- Fortnightly glass collection in crates (rates-funded).
- Fortnightly mixed recycling in 240-litre wheelie bins (rates-funded).

The transition to bins and the introduction of food scraps collections are positive steps that have begun to divert organic waste from landfill. Council ceased commercial collections in September 2023, reducing visibility of commercial waste flows.

Waste Quantities and Composition

Waste to Landfill

Based on population-adjusted 2020 data, MPDC generates an estimated 13,856 tonnes per annum of waste to Class 1 landfill (approximately 350 kg per capita). This compares favourably with the national average of 706 kg per capita and with comparable districts. The largest contributors to landfill waste are:

- Organics: 36.1% (5,002 tonnes per annum) — the single largest fraction.
- Timber: 15.9% (2,203 tonnes per annum).
- Plastics: 9.8% (1,358 tonnes per annum).

Diversion Potential

Analysis of the overall waste stream indicates that more than half (53.1%) of all waste sent to Class 1 landfill could potentially be diverted through existing or feasible recycling and composting systems, equivalent to approximately 7,341 tonnes per annum. Organic materials represent the greatest opportunity:

- Food waste: 16.7% of total (2,313 tonnes per annum).
- Compostable greenwaste: 14.2% (1,956 tonnes per annum).
- Recyclable and recoverable materials: 18.8% (2,596 tonnes per annum).

Kerbside Waste Audit (November 2025)

A SWAP audit of Council's 120-litre kerbside rubbish bins in November 2025 found an average bin weight of 8.23 kg. Organic material dominated at 46.6% (3.84 kg per bin), followed by sanitary paper (12.5%) and plastics (12.3%). Key findings:

- 49.1% of kerbside rubbish bin contents could have been diverted — 39.8% through food or garden waste composting and 9.3% through recycling.
- Food waste alone accounted for 31.7% of bin contents, indicating significant ongoing diversion opportunity despite the introduction of the weekly food scraps service.
- Compared with the 2020 SWAP, the proportion of divertable material has decreased from 59.7% to 49.1%, suggesting some improvement following the introduction of new services.
- Food waste weight per bin decreased from 2.90 kg (2020) to 2.61 kg (2025), reflecting a positive behavioural shift driven by the new food scraps collection.

Kerbside Recycling

Mixed recycling bins showed 77.8% of material meeting MfE and Council guidelines, with a contamination rate of 22.2%. Contamination varied across the district, ranging from 17% in Matamata to 26% in Te Aroha. Total kerbside recycling reached 40 kg per capita per annum in 2024/25, up from 33 kg in 2023/24, though this remains below the performance of comparable councils.

Diverted Materials

Total diverted material increased from 3,246 tonnes in 2023/24 to 3,663 tonnes in 2024/25 — a 12.9% increase. Growth was driven primarily by kerbside collections, which rose by 24.5%, including strong gains in commingled recycling (+236 tonnes) and food scraps (+127 tonnes). RTS diversion remained broadly stable.

Review of the 2021 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

The 2021 WMMP was built around a vision of 'para kore' (zero waste) by 2038 and a circular economy approach, supported by two goals, three targets and 22 actions across five action areas.

Progress has been substantial. Of the 22 actions:

- Five were completed (including the transition to new kerbside services, a service review for rural and commercial properties, and an update of the solid waste bylaw).

- Nine were completed but are ongoing by nature (including engagement with mana whenua, community education, and advocacy to central government).
- Four are on track (including infrastructure planning and RTS upgrades).
- Two were not progressed: litter and illegal dumping enforcement (responsibility sits outside the waste team) and provisions for multi-unit developments (uncommon in the district).

The 2021 WMMP is broadly aligned with the current Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy, though the zero waste and circular economy language reflects the previous Strategy.

Future Demand and Gap Analysis

Key factors shaping future demand include:

- **Population growth:** MPDC has adopted a high-growth projection, with population expected to increase from 39,574 in 2025 to 55,912 by 2073 (41.3% growth). This will drive increased household waste volumes and construction and demolition (C&D) activity.
- **Economic growth:** GDP growth of 1.1% in 2025 and the dominant role of agriculture and manufacturing will drive higher waste volumes and demand for specialised waste services.
- **Changing consumption patterns:** growth in online retail, e-waste, single-use packaging, textiles, and electric vehicle batteries is reshaping the waste stream in ways that require new collection and processing infrastructure.
- **Rising disposal costs:** increasing landfill levies and ETS costs are making diversion more economically attractive, while the impending closure of Tirohia landfill will fundamentally alter the district's disposal landscape.

The following significant gaps have been identified:

Waste Infrastructure

The three RTS sites are aging, not fit for purpose, and inadequately equipped to support enhanced resource recovery. The impending closure of Tirohia landfill the district's primary disposal outlet creates an urgent need for a long-term RTS and disposal network strategy. Potential alternatives such as Hampton Downs Landfill have not yet been confirmed for the district.

Organic Waste

Organics represent the largest divertable fraction in both the overall and kerbside waste streams. Despite the introduction of food scraps collections, significant quantities of food and garden waste continue to go to landfill. A comprehensive understanding of available organic waste volumes and appropriate processing pathways is needed.

Construction and Demolition Waste

While Site Waste Management and Minimisation Plans are required under the solid waste bylaw, enforcement and data collection have been inconsistent. With the district's growth trajectory, C&D waste is an expanding and currently poorly understood stream.

Data Monitoring

Data gaps are significant across multiple waste streams, including private kerbside collections, commercial and industrial waste, farm and rural waste, and waste flows to Class 2–5 fills. Better data is essential for evidence-based planning and performance monitoring.

Emerging Waste Streams

Several waste streams require greater attention:

- E-waste and batteries: growing in volume and hazard; current collection infrastructure is limited.
- Textiles: an expanding landfill stream with limited recovery pathways.
- Farm and rural waste: estimated to account for up to 12% of waste nationally, largely managed on-farm through burning and burying.
- Reuse: no provision for community reuse or resource recovery centres currently exists in the district.
- Medical waste: increasing in-home care is generating medical waste volumes that are not consistently managed through appropriate channels.

Statement of Options

This section sets out the range of options available to the councils to address the key issues that have been identified in this Waste Assessment. Options presented in this section would need to be fully researched and the cost implications understood, before being implemented through the WMMP action plan and respective LTP/Annual Plan. Addressing these issues will ensure that the council is meeting their statutory obligations, and improving waste management and minimisation in the district.

The proposals are set out in detail in sections 8.0 through 9.0. The options identified and the Councils' possible role in meeting forecast demand comprise a range of proposals. The specific actions and timeframes for delivery will be identified through the WMMP (either an amendment of the existing WMMP, or a new WMMP as is recommended).

It is expected that the implementation of the preferred options from these proposals will meet forecast demand as well as support Councils' goals and objectives for waste management and minimisation.

This report also includes a statement as to the extent to which the proposals will (i) ensure that public health is adequately protected, and (ii) promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

It is considered that the proposals would adequately protect public health. This is supported by the statement received from the Medical Officer of Health following review of the draft WA.

The Waste Assessment has investigated current and future quantities of waste and diverted material, and outlines Councils' potential roles in meeting the forecast demand for services. It is considered that the process of forecasting has been robust, and that Councils' intended role in meeting these demands is appropriate in the context of the overall statutory planning framework for Councils. Therefore, it is considered that the proposals would promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
1.0 Introduction.....	15
1.1 Purpose of this Waste Assessment	16
1.2 Scope	16
1.2.1 General	16
1.2.2 Period of Waste Assessment	17
1.2.3 Consideration of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Wastes.....	17
1.2.4 Public Health Issues.....	17
1.3 Legislative Context	19
1.3.1 Local Government Act (2002)	19
1.3.2 Waste Minimisation Act (2008)	19
1.3.3 Climate Change Response Act (2002)	26
1.3.1 Resource Management Act Reform	28
1.4 National Government Strategic Context.....	29
1.4.1 Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy.....	29
1.4.2 Container Return Scheme	31
1.5 Other Strategic Context.....	32
1.5.1 International Commitments	32
1.5.2 Local Government Waste Policy Manifesto 2026 (WasteMINZ TAO Forum)	33
1.5.3 Waste to Energy	33
2.0 The District	36
2.1 Local and Regional Planning Context	36
2.1.1 Solid Waste Bylaw	36
2.1.2 Long Term Plan	36
2.1.3 Solid Waste Asset Management Plan (SWAMP)	37
2.1.4 The Waikato Region	37
2.2 Waikato and Bay of Plenty - Cross Regional Waste Strategy	38

2.3 Physical Characteristics	38
2.3.1 Overview	38
2.3.2 Climate	39
2.3.3 Demographics	40
2.4 Economy	42
3.0 Waste Infrastructure	43
3.1 Summary of Waste Management in Matamata-Piako	43
3.2 Disposal Facilities	43
3.2.1 Class 1 Disposal Facilities	45
3.2.2 Class 2-4 fills, Cleanfills, and Industrial Monofills	45
3.2.3 Transfer Stations, Resource Recovery Centres, and Recycling Drop-off Points.....	46
3.2.4 Closed Landfills.....	49
3.3 Hazardous Waste Facilities and Services.....	49
3.4 Recycling and Reprocessing Facilities.....	50
3.5 Assessment of Waste Infrastructure	51
4.0 Waste Services.....	53
4.1 Council Provided Waste Services.....	53
4.1.1 Other Council Services	54
4.1.2 Hazardous Waste	54
4.2 Assessment of Council-provided Solid Waste Collection Services.....	54
4.3 Private Waste Collection Services	55
4.3.1 Assessment of Private Services	56
5.0 Situation Review	57
5.1 Waste Quantities	57
5.1.1 Waste to Class 1 Landfill	57
5.1.2 Waste to Class 2-5 Fills	57
5.2 Waste to Class 1 Landfill	58
5.2.1 Composition	58
5.2.2 Diversion Potential	60

5.3 Kerbside Collected Waste	62
5.3.1 Composition of the Full Kerbside Stream	62
5.3.2 Diversion Potential of Matamata-Piako Kerbside Waste.....	64
5.3.3 Comparative Diversion Potential of Kerbside Refuse 2020 and 2025	65
5.4 Composition of Kerbside Mixed Recycling	67
5.5 Diverted Materials.....	69
5.6 Current Performance Measurement	70
5.6.1 Per Capita Waste to Class 1 Landfills.....	70
5.6.2 Per Capita Domestic Kerbside Refuse to Class 1 Landfills.....	71
5.6.1 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling.....	73
6.0 Review of the 2021 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	75
6.1 Key Issues.....	75
6.2 Vision	76
6.3 Goals.....	76
6.4 Targets.....	77
6.5 Action Areas	79
6.6 Actions	81
6.7 Commentary	94
7.0 Future Demand and Gap Analysis.....	97
7.1 Future Demand	97
7.1.1 Population.....	97
7.1.2 Economic Activity.....	97
7.1.3 Changes in Lifestyle and Consumption	98
7.1.4 Changes in Waste Management Approaches.....	99
7.1.5 Summary of Demand Factors.....	99
7.2 Future Demand – Gap Analysis	100
7.2.1 Waste Infrastructure	100
7.2.2 Organic Waste	100
7.2.3 Leadership and Collaboration	101

7.2.4 Construction Waste	101
7.2.5 Data Monitoring	101
7.2.6 Waste Streams.....	102
8.0 Statement of Options	105
8.1 Options Categorised by Work Area	105
9.0 Statement of Council's Intended Role	121
9.1 Statutory Obligations and Powers	121
9.2 Overall Strategic Direction and Role	122
A.0.0 Appendix.....	123
A.1.0 Medical Officer of Health Statement	124
A.2.0 Classifications of Disposal to Land	127
A.3.0 National Legislative and Policy Context.....	135
A.4.0 Waste Facilities.....	146
A.5.0 Full List of 2021 WMMP Actions.....	149

List of Tables and Figures

Figure 1-1: Revised Waste Hierarchy	31
Figure 2-1 Map of the District.....	39
Figure 3-1 Key Waste Flows in Matamata-Piako	43
Figure 3-2 RTS Site Locations	46
Figure 5-1 Composition of Overall Waste to Class 1 Landfill – Projected 2025	59
Figure 5-2 Primary composition of Council 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins - November 2025	64
Table 1-1 Schemes for Priority Products	21
Table 1-2: Levy Rates by Disposal Facility Type and Year.....	23
Table 1-3 Indicated Split of Central Government Levy Spend	23
Table 1-4 Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy Outcomes and Actions	30
Table 1-5 International Commitments.....	32
Table 2-1 Population Projections to 2073.....	40
Table 2-2 Household Projections 2025-2073	41
Table 2-3 Key Demographic Statistics 2023	41
Table 3-1 Transfer Stations in Matamata-Piako	47
Table 3-2 Level of Service per RTS per Annum.....	48
Table 3-3 RTS Levels of Service per Annum %	48
Table 3-4 – Recycling, Reprocessing and Organics Facilities	50
Table 4-1 Previous Council Provided Waste Services (until September 2023)	53
Table 4-2 Current Council Provided Waste Services (from September 2023)	53
Table 4-3 Non-Council Waste Collection Services.....	55
Table 5-1 Annual Tonnage of Waste to Tirohia landfill from Matamata-Piako RTS.....	57
Table 5-2 Composition of Overall Waste to Class 1 Landfill – Projected 2025.....	59
Table 5-3 Diversion Potential of Matamata-Piako Waste Stream – Projected 2025.....	61
Table 5-4 Primary Composition of Council 120-litre Rubbish Wheelie Bins - November 2025.....	63
Table 5-5 Diversion Potential of Council 120-Litre Rubbish Wheelie Bins - November 2025.....	65

Table 5-6 Comparative Diversion Potential of Kerbside Refuse 2020 and 2025.....	66
Table 5-7 Composition of Kerbside Mixed Recycling	68
Table 5-8 Comparison of Urban Centres' Recycling Contamination.....	69
Table 5-9 Tonnes of Diverted Materials Through Council Streams.....	69
Table 5-10 Per Capita Kg Disposal to Class 1 Landfill – Comparison with Other Areas	70
Table 5-11 Per Capita Disposal of Kerbside Refuse – Comparison with Other Areas.....	72
Table 5-12 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling	73
Table 5-13 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling – Kg/Capita/Annum	74
Table 6-1 Goals.....	76
Table 6-2 Progress on Targets	78
Table 6-3 Action Areas	79
Table 6-4 Progress on Actions.....	81
Table 6-5 Commentary	94
Table 7-1 Population Projections to 2073.....	97
Table 8-1 Regulation	106
Table 8-2 Measuring and Monitoring	109
Table 8-3 Education and Engagement.....	110
Table 8-4 Waste Services.....	113
Table 8-5 Waste Infrastructure	115
Table 8-6 - Leadership	118
Table 9-1: Levy Rates by Disposal Facility Type and Year.....	137
Table 9-2 Class 2-5 fills in the Waikato Region	146
Table 9-3 Actions as Per 2021 WMMP.....	149

Glossary of Terms

Class 1-5 facilities	Classification system for facilities where disposal to land takes place. The classification system is provided in Appendix A.2.0 for reference.
Cleanfill	A cleanfill facility (properly referred to as a Class 5 fill) is any disposal facility that accepts only cleanfill material. This is defined as material that, when buried, will have no adverse effect on people or the environment.
C&D waste	Construction and demolition waste. Waste generated from the construction or demolition of a building including the preparation and/or clearance of the property or site. This excludes materials such as clay, soil, and rock when those materials are associated with infrastructure such as road construction and maintenance, but it includes building-related infrastructure.
Diverted material	Anything that is no longer required for its original purpose but for commercial or other waste minimisation activities would be disposed of or discarded.
Domestic waste	Waste from domestic activity in households.
EERST	Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust
ETS	Emissions Trading Scheme
ICI	Industrial, commercial, institutional
Landfill	A type of disposal facility as defined in S.7 of the Act, excluding incineration. Includes, by definition in the Act, only those facilities that accept 'household waste'. Also referred to as a Class 1 landfill.

LGA	Local Government Act 2002
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Managed fill	A Class 3 disposal site requiring resource consent to accept well-defined types of non-household waste, e.g. low-level contaminated soils or industrial by-products, such as sewage by-products.
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the Ministry, MfE	Ministry for the Environment
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MRF	Materials recovery facility
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MSW	Municipal solid waste
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NZ	New Zealand
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NZWS	New Zealand waste strategy
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Putrescible, garden, and garden waste	Plant based material and other bio-degradable material that can be recovered through composting, digestion or other similar processes.
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RRP	Resource recovery park
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RTS	Refuse transfer station
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Service delivery review	As defined by s17A of the Local Government Act 2002. councils are required to review the cost-effectiveness of current arrangements for meeting the needs of communities within its district or region for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions. A review under subsection (1) must consider options for the governance, funding, and delivery of infrastructure, services, and regulatory functions.
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SWAP	Solid Waste Analysis Protocol (SWAP) is a standardised method, endorsed by the Ministry for the Environment, to understand the composition of solid waste. The aim of a SWAP is to facilitate the collection of consistent and reliable data on solid waste in New Zealand.
TA	Territorial authority (a city or district council)
Waste	Means, according to the Act: a) Anything disposed of or discarded, and b) Includes a type of waste that is defined by its composition or source (for example, organic waste, electronic waste, or construction and demolition waste); and c) To avoid doubt, include any component or element of diverted material if the component or element is disposed of or discarded
WA	Waste Assessment as defined by s51 of the Act. A Waste Assessment must be completed whenever a WMMP is reviewed
WMA	Waste Minimisation Act 2008, also referred to as 'the Act'
WMMP	A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan as defined by s43 of the Act
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant

1.0 Introduction

This Waste Assessment has been prepared for Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) by Eunomia Research & Consulting in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA). This document provides background information and data to support Council's waste management and minimisation planning process.

This document is arranged into sections to assist in constructing a picture of waste management and minimisation in the district. The sections are grouped and outlined below.

Introduction	1.0 Introduction
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The introduction covers topics that set the scene for the assessment. This includes clarifying the purpose, scope, legislative context, and key documents that have informed the assessment.

Local Context	2.0 The District
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The District section presents a brief overview of key aspects of the district's geography, economy, and demographics that influence the quantities and types of waste generated and potential opportunities. The section also presents a brief overview of regional plans and initiatives that influence the quantities and types of waste generated and potential opportunities to collaborate and manage them.

Waste Management	3.0 Waste Infrastructure 4.0 Waste Services 5.0 Situation Review 6.0 Review of the 2021 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
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These three sections examine where waste is generated, how much there is, its composition, where it goes, and how it is managed. There is also a review of the 2021 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) to assess how the council has progressed with targets and actions.

Waste Planning	7.0 Future Demand and Gap Analysis 8.0 Statement of Options 9.0 Statement of Council's Intended Role
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The Future Demand and Gap Analysis section provides an analysis of what is likely to influence demand for waste and recovery services in the district and region. It identifies key gaps in current and future service provision, and Council's ability to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

The following two sections propose actions to take forward to the upcoming WMMP (if required), develop options available to meet the forecasted future demand, and identify Council's responsibilities and statutory obligations to meet the future demand.

Supporting Information	A.0.0 Appendix
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The appendices include the consultation response from the Medical Officer of Health as well as additional detail on the national context.

1.1 Purpose of this Waste Assessment

This Waste Assessment is intended to provide an initial step towards the development of a WMMP by Council and sets out the information necessary to identify the key issues and priority actions that will be included in the draft WMMP.

Section 51 of the WMA outlines the requirements of a waste assessment, which must include the following items:

- Description of the collection, recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal services provided within the territorial authority's area
- Forecast of future demands
- Statement of options available to meet the forecast demands with an assessment of suitability of each option
- Statement of the territorial authority's intended role in meeting the forecast demands
- Statement of the territorial authority's proposals for meeting the forecast demands
- Statement about the extent to which the proposals will protect public health and promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 General

This Waste Assessment will fulfil the statutory requirements of the Act and build the foundation to enable Council to review and update (as necessary) the WMMP in an informed and effective manner. In preparing this document, reference has been made to the Ministry for the Environment's 'Waste Management and Minimisation Planning: Guidance for Territorial Authorities'.¹

A key issue for this Waste Assessment will be forming a clear picture of waste flows, waste management options, and waste reduction and diversion opportunities in the district. The Act requires that a waste assessment must contain a description of waste collection, recovery, treatment, and disposal services within its district.

This Waste Assessment will consider all waste and recycling services carried out by private waste operators as well as Council's own services. Council has reliable data on the waste flows that they control and limited data on those provided by private industry. Although data on waste quantities to individual regulated facilities is collected by MfE, this data is not available to MPDC or any other TA. Reliable, regular data on waste flows is important if Council chooses to include waste reduction targets in their WMMP and monitor progress.

¹ Ministry for the Environment. "Waste Assessments and Waste Management and Minimisation Planning: A Guide for Territorial Authorities." December 1, 2015. <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/waste-assessments-and-waste-management-and-minimisation-planning-a-guide-for-territorial-authorities/>.

1.2.2 Period of Waste Assessment

The Act requires WMMPs to be reviewed at least every six years, but it is considered prudent to take a longer-term view when producing the plan. The horizon for the WMMP is not fixed but is assumed to be centred on a 10-year timeframe, in line with council long-term plans (LTPs). For some assets and services, it is necessary to consider a longer timeframe, and this is considered within WMMPs where appropriate. Therefore, the Waste Assessment looks forward over at least the next ten years, and sometimes longer (in the case of facilities, e.g. landfill consenting).

1.2.3 Consideration of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Wastes

The guidance provided by the Ministry for the Environment on preparing Waste Management and Minimisation Plans states that Councils need to identify the WMMP scope according to the waste that will be considered within it.

The guidance further suggests that liquid or gaseous wastes that are directly managed by a TA, or are disposed of to landfill, should be seriously considered for inclusion in a WMMP. Other wastes that could potentially be within the scope of the WMMP include gas from landfills and the management of biosolids from wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) processes.

This Waste Assessment is focused on solid waste that is disposed of to land or diverted from land disposal. This includes solid waste collected and disposed of by commercial enterprises as well as waste collected by Council. However, given the current work on restructuring water services (including wastewater)², this WA and any resulting WMMPs will not include the management of solid wastes resulting from these activities.

1.2.4 Public Health Issues

Protecting public health is one of the original reasons for local authority involvement in waste management. The New Zealand Waste Strategy highlights the harm that mismanaged waste (litter, illegal dumping, fly-tipping) can cause to people and the environment, and the Waste Minimisation Act places specific requirements on TAs to provide prompt, efficient, and regular waste collection.

Protection of public health is currently addressed by legislation, most significantly the Health Act (1956), the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (1996) and the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015). Discussion of the implications of the legislation is contained in Appendix A.3.0.

1.2.4.1 Key Waste Management Public Health Issues

Key issues that are likely to be of concern in terms of public health include the following:

- Population health profile and characteristics
- Implications of pandemic management, e.g. increases in some waste materials
- Meeting the requirements of the Health Act 1956
- Management of putrescible wastes
- Management of nappy and sanitary wastes

² [Water Services Policy and Legislation - dia.govt.nz](https://www.dia.govt.nz/water-services-policy-and-legislation/)

- Potential for dog/seagull/vermin strike
- Timely collection of material
- Locations of waste activities
- Management of spillage
- Litter and illegal dumping
- Medical waste from households and healthcare operators
- Storage of wastes
- Management of hazardous wastes (including asbestos, e-waste, etc.)
- Private on-site management of wastes (i.e. burning, burying)
- Unknown impacts of discharges to air from any future large scale mixed waste incinerator
- Closed landfill management including air and water discharges, odours and vermin
- Health and safety considerations relating to collection and handling.

1.2.4.2 Management of Public Health Issues

From a strategic perspective, the public health issues listed above are likely to apply to some extent to all of the options under consideration (Section 8.0). For example, illegal dumping tends to take place irrespective of the local waste collection and transfer station systems in place. Some systems may possibly exacerbate the problem (infrequent collection, user-charges, inconveniently located facilities etc.) but, by the same token, the issues can be reduced and managed through methods such as enforcement, education and by providing convenient facilities. Illegal dumping can also continue to be a problem even in areas where disposal is free of charge.

In most cases, public health issues can be addressed by setting appropriate performance standards for waste services. It is also important to ensure performance is monitored and reported on and that there are appropriate structures within the contracts for addressing public health issues that arise. There is now increased emphasis on workplace health and safety under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. This legislation can impact on the choice of collection methodologies and working practices and the design of waste facilities, for example.

In addition, public health impacts will be able to be managed through consideration of potential effects of planning decisions, especially for vulnerable groups; that is, potential issues will be identified prior to implementation so they can be mitigated.

1.3 Legislative Context

1.3.1 Local Government Act (2002)

The Local Government Act (LGA) defines the powers, duties, and structure of local authorities. The LGA has several waste-specific provisions which are substantiated in the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) discussed in 1.3.2. The LGA requires TAs to adopt waste management plans, provide effective and efficient waste management, and include a summary of their waste management plans/activities within their Long-Term Plans. The LGA also allows TAs to enact bylaws including for waste management, and to provide waste services through rates.

1.3.2 Waste Minimisation Act (2008)

The primary legislation relating to waste is the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA). To further its aims, the WMA requires councils to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within their district. To achieve this, all councils are required by the legislation to adopt a WMMP.

The WMA requires every TA to complete a formal review of its existing WMMP at least every six years. The review must be consistent with WMA sections 50 and 51. Section 50 of the WMA also requires all councils to prepare a waste assessment prior to reviewing its existing plan. This MPDC Waste Assessment has been prepared to fulfil that requirement. To comply with the WMA, Council will need to formally receive the Waste Assessment by February 2027 and decide whether to continue with, amend, or replace the 2021 WMMP.

This section of the report will provide an overview of some contents of the WMA, including what TAs are responsible for, priority products and bans, the waste disposal levy, and kerbside standardisation. The section will also discuss the latest amendments to the WMA.

1.3.2.1 Responsibilities of Territorial Authorities

The WMA outlines the responsibilities of TAs in relation to waste, in particular the promotion of effective and efficient waste management and minimisation. The key responsibilities of TAs include preparing and adopting Waste Assessments (WAs) and Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMPs), ensuring the delivery of waste services and infrastructure, waste levy fund management, monitoring and enforcement, reporting, and collaborating with local authorities for regional efficiencies.

1.3.2.2 Priority Products

The WMA allows for two types of product stewardship – mandated and voluntary. Both types are accredited by the Minister for the Environment (Minister). Accreditation allows the Minister to endorse and give credibility to a scheme. The scheme types are:

Voluntary product stewardship: product stewardship organisations can voluntarily choose to develop a product stewardship scheme and have it accredited by the Minister (if it meets the specific criteria).

Mandatory (Priority product stewardship): when a product has been declared a 'priority product' a product stewardship scheme must be developed, and accreditation must be obtained as soon as practicable³.

The Act allows for products to be named as a 'priority product'. Once a product has been named as such, a product stewardship approach must be taken and a scheme developed and accredited⁴. The goal of product stewardship schemes is to place the full cost of managing end-of-life products with the producers/importers, retailers, and consumers; not the general community and/or councils. The first six priority products named are:

1. Tyres
2. Electrical and electronic products (e-waste, including batteries)
3. Agrichemicals and their containers
4. Refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases
5. Farm plastics
6. Plastic packaging

MfE has taken a 'co-design' approach, which involves industry developing with central government oversight. Progress on the priority products, and parties involved, are summarised in **Error! Reference source not found.** Of these schemes, to date only the Tyrewise scheme is operational and regulated. While some schemes are operational, they are currently operating as voluntary schemes.

³ Section 10 of the WMA

⁴ The WMA does not require priority product stewardship schemes to be regulated, but it does require them to be developed and accredited according to section 10 of the WMA 2008

Table 1-1 Schemes for Priority Products

Product	Lead Agency	Status
Tyres	Auto Stewardship New Zealand, Tyrewise ⁵	Operational - regulated
E-waste specifically large batteries	Auto Stewardship New Zealand, Battery Industry Group ⁶	Design projects completed
Refrigerants (and other synthetic greenhouse gases)	The Trust for the Destruction of Synthetic Refrigerants, Cool-Safe ⁷	Operational – voluntary Regulations being developed
Farm plastics, agrichemicals and their containers	The Agrecovery Foundation ⁸	Operational – voluntary Regulations being developed
Electrical and electronic products (e-waste) excluding large batteries	TechCollect New Zealand ⁹	Design project completed
Plastic packaging	The Packaging Forum ¹⁰ and NZ Food & Grocery Council ¹¹	Design project completed

1.3.2.3 Product Bans

In June 2021, the Government announced a phased approach to banning certain single-use and hard-to-recycle plastics. This initiative aimed to address problematic plastic waste through three stages of phase-outs. The first two stages have been implemented, while the third stage has been delayed under the updated government framework.

In April 2022, the Ministry announced that regulations had been passed to enable the implementation of three tranches of bans. The first tranche of bans was for the problematic plastic items listed below, and the bans came into effect from October 2022:

- Plastic cotton buds
- Plastic drink stirrers
- Oxo- and photo-degradable plastic products
- Certain PVC food trays and containers (pre-formed and rigid)
- Polystyrene takeaway packaging

⁵ <http://www.tyrewise.co.nz/>

⁶ <http://www.big.org.nz/>

⁷ <https://coolsafe.org.nz/for-industry/refrigerant-buy-back>

⁸ <http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/>

⁹ <http://www.techcollect.nz/>

¹⁰ <http://www.packagingforum.org.nz/>

¹¹ <http://www.fgc.org.nz/>

- Expanded polystyrene food and beverage packaging.

The second tranche of bans banned the following items from July 2023:

- Plastic produce bags
- Plastic tableware
- Plastic straws
- Non-compostable plastic produce labels.

The third tranche of bans was originally planned for mid-2025 and would have included all remaining PVC and polystyrene food and drink packaging. However, Government announced in December 2024 that this deadline has been removed to allow for further analysis and planning. The Ministry is now reconsidering the next steps for these products and no new timeline has been set.

1.3.2.4 Waste Disposal Levy

Under the WMA, the Waste Disposal Levy (levy)¹² is a way to acknowledge and reduce the impacts that waste to landfill has on the environment. The levy is a fee applied to waste sent to landfill to financially disincentivise sending waste to landfill. The levy price per tonne of waste sent to landfill has progressively increased and the type of landfills that the levy applies to has been extended over time.

The income from the levy is allocated to TAs and central government in an even split. TAs must spend levy funding on activities outlined in their WMMPs. Recent amendments (discussed in Section 1.3.2.6) allow TAs and central government to spend the levy on a wider range of activities beyond waste minimisation.

1.3.2.4.1 Levy Expansion

In April 2021 the government introduced regulation to expand the scope of the levy from Class 1 landfills to also include classes 2-4¹³, and to require operators of industrial monofills and Class 5 fills to report data on the quantity of waste received. Section 3.2 defines the different types and classes of fills.

The Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act 2024¹⁴ came into force on 1 July 2024. This amendment broadens the scope of the waste disposal levy, enabling funds to be used for a wider range of environmental outcomes, including the remediation of contaminated sites and support for local authorities in managing emergency waste. It also introduces a second phase of levy rate changes to incentivise waste reduction and support better resource use.

The table below shows the timetable and rates for the new levy regime:

¹² <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/waste-disposal-levy/>

¹³ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0069/latest/whole.html>

¹⁴ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/waste-minimisation-act-waste-disposal-levy-amendment-act-2024/>

Table 1-2: Levy Rates by Disposal Facility Type and Year¹⁵

DISPOSAL FACILITY CLASS	1-Jul-21	1-Jul-22	1-Jul-23	1-Jul-24	1-Jul-25	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-27
Municipal landfill (class 1)	\$20	\$30	\$50	\$60	\$65	\$70	\$75
Construction and demolition fill (class 2)		\$20	\$20	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45
Managed fill (class 3)			\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20
Controlled fill (class 4)			\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20

As the landfill levy is expanded and raised, there will be an impact on the quantity of material going to the different destinations; however, the extent to which this occurs, and for which materials, depends on a number of other factors. The potential impacts are explored further in Appendix A.3.0.

The requirement for all fills to at least report data on the quantity of waste received provides a much greater understanding of the role that all types of facilities play in waste management. These requirements took effect from the beginning of 2023 with Class 3/4 disposal facilities, cleanfills, transfer stations, and industrial monofills the last to start reporting (from 1 January 2023). It is important to note that this information is provided directly to the Ministry and is not readily available to the public nor TAs.

In June 2024, as part of the annual budget process, the Government made changes to the Waste Minimisation Act that allows the central government portion of the landfill levy to be spent on a wider range of activities. The new activities allowed include:

- Activities that reduce environmental harm or increase environmental benefits
- Management of emergency waste and repairing/replacing waste infrastructure damaged in an emergency
- The MfE's waste and hazardous substances work programme (in the past, the waste levy has not been able to be used to fund operational costs)
- Remediation of contaminated sites including mining and industrial processes

Information provided by MfE staff suggests that the priorities for use of the waste levy will be, firstly, emergency waste management, the MfE work programme, and activities to improve and protect the environment; and then waste management and minimisation projects. From a webinar presented by MfE in 2024, it was indicated that funds may be split across four categories¹⁶ as per Table 1-3.

Table 1-3 Indicated Split of Central Government Levy Spend

Activity	Portion of Levy Assigned to Central Government
System design for priority products	2-5%

¹⁵ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/waste-disposal-levy/waste-disposal-levy-information-for-site-operators/>

¹⁶ WasteMINZ webinar on Waste Minimisation Act amendments, June 2024, presented by MfE officers.

Activity	Portion of Levy Assigned to Central Government
Innovation, community solutions, and education across the priority material streams of C&D, organics, plastics and kerbside recyclables	5-10%
Infrastructure, across all priority material streams	70-80%
Contaminated sites including vulnerable landfill remediation.	15-25%

1.3.2.4.2 Data and Monitoring

Alongside the increase and expansion of the waste levy, the Ministry has developed protocols to collect data from Class 1-5 facilities, industrial monofills, and transfer stations.¹⁷ The Ministry also has responsibilities to monitor levy compliance through audits.

Reporting for waste facilities and operators is done monthly, quarterly, or annually at the MfE Online Waste Reporting System (OWLS). The reporting includes:

- Waste materials received in gross tonnes
- Diversion by material type in tonnes
- Cover material used in tonnes
- Activity source.

Since July 2024 TAs have been required to keep records on waste data and waste levy spending. These new requirements are detailed in the Waste Minimisation (Information Requirements) Amendments Regulations 2023¹⁸. This includes the requirement for TAs to report on the following data if the service or facility is provided for under the TAs WMMP:

- Types of materials collected
- Tonnes of materials collected
- Contamination tonnages
- Facilities owned or operated by the TA.

While initial proposals from the Ministry included requirements for waste operators to be licensed by a central agency as part of the new WMA, the Ministry has since indicated that this is no longer being pursued.

¹⁷ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/online-waste-levy-system-user-guide-for-waste-disposal-facility-operators/>

¹⁸ Waste Minimisation (Information Requirements) Amendment Regulations 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2023/262/en/latest/#LMS904885>

1.3.2.5 Kerbside Standardisation

In 2019 the Ministry completed a national review of kerbside collections and made recommendations as to how to achieve consistency across the country. The report was completed in 2020,¹⁹ and the Ministry then considered implementing the three main recommendations:

1. A standard set of items accepted in kerbside recycling collections
2. Glass collected separately from other material streams
3. Weekly kerbside food scraps collection service for households.

The Ministry consulted on a detailed implementation proposal for kerbside standardisation in New Zealand as part of the 'Transforming Recycling' consultation document.²⁰

Five policy decisions were subsequently made which would have set requirements relating to household kerbside recycling collections, household food scraps collections, and performance standards.

Only one of these five policy decisions was taken through to regulation, with standardised materials in kerbside recycling set through the Gazette notice 'Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections Notice 2023'²¹. In December 2024, Government updated information on the MfE website stating that the policies relating to kerbside standardisation that have not been implemented at this stage would not be taken forward.

Under the above mentioned gazette notice, existing kerbside recycling collections are required to exclude Tetra Pak and other gable top/liquid paperboard containers, foil, aerosols, soft plastics, polystyrene, and plastic bottles and containers #3, 4, 6 and 7. Councils have the discretion whether to collect glass separately or comingled with other materials (although best practice was recognised in supporting documents as separated glass collection). Kerbside standardisation only applies to council-provided services (either in-house or via a contractor), with the hope that the private and community sector will choose to align their kerbside services with these requirements. MPDC's kerbside recycling services are aligned with the kerbside standardisation.

1.3.2.6 Amendments

In 2021 the WMA was amended by several waste disposal levy regulations,²² which set out the progressive increase and expansion of the landfill levy starting 1 July 2021. The amendment was also supplemented by regulations banning specific items, including microbeads (2017)²³, plastic shopping bags (2018)²⁴, and numerous tranches of plastic packaging during 2022 and 2023, as described in section 1.3.2.3.

In 2024, Government published the Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act.²⁵ The amendment enables central and local government to spend their allocation of the waste disposal levy on things that have environmental outcomes beyond waste minimisation directly. The broadening of the scope allows local governments to fund management of emergency waste and waste infrastructure damaged in emergencies. Central government is now able to fund planning, data, and work on international agreements for waste and hazardous management, and to remediate contaminated sites.

¹⁹ <https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Final-1.0-Standardising-Kerbside-Collections-in-Aotearoa.pdf>

²⁰ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Transforming-recycling-consultation-document.pdf>

²¹ [Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections Notice 2023 \(Notice No. 1\) - 2023-go4222- New Zealand Gazette](#)

²² <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0068/latest/LMS474556.html#LMS474591>

²³ https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2017/0291/latest/DLM7490715.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_microbeads_resel_25_a&p=1

²⁴ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0270/6.0/whole.html>

²⁵ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/waste-minimisation-act-2008/>

The amendment did not change the 50% proportion of waste levy funding that is allocated to territorial authorities.

Central government ran a public consultation from 22 April to 1 June 2025 regarding their proposals to amend the Waste Minimisation Act and Litter Act 1979 (LA) and create new waste legislation that is fit-for-purpose. The consultation detailed proposals relevant to the WMA and LA including extended producer responsibility (EPR), the allocation of the waste disposal levy to territorial authorities, roles and responsibilities, compliance, evidence, enforcement, and data. In December 2025, central government confirmed through a proactive release and on their website that it will introduce new and updated legislation for waste management in New Zealand that will replace the WMA and LA.^{26, 27} The proactive release of a Cabinet paper discussing the waste legislation amendments was published by the Minister for the Environment in December 2025. The proactive release outlines the changes, including:

- Adjusting the allocation of waste levy funds, with the intention of recognising costs that smaller councils face. This involves changing the way that the levy is allocated to councils. The current allocation calculation is solely population-based, and the new allocation will have a base rate (20% of the total portion) and a population-based allocation for the remaining portion (80%).
- Provide more flexibility for councils to spend their waste levy funds on a wider range of waste and environmental priority activities.
- Replace the existing product stewardship provisions with a new framework for EPR.
- Remove the exclusion of waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities from the waste levy and allow for varying levy rates for different forms of WtE.

Further detail on key waste-related legislation is contained in Appendix A.3.0.

1.3.3 Climate Change Response Act (2002)

The Climate Change Response Act (2002) established the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Emission Reduction Plan (ERP). These two tools are used to influence the waste sector in New Zealand.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) was established to provide impartial expert evidence to the government to support initiatives that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change mitigation and adaptation, contributing towards the goals set out in the Climate Change Response Act 2002, Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, as well as international agreements.

In 2024, the CCC recognised that while waste is a small contributor (4.5%) to the overall greenhouse gas emission profile, most of the emissions associated with waste are biogenic methane (94%) from decomposition of organic wastes in landfill.²⁸ Although waste's contribution to gross emissions are relatively small they are important as biogenic methane has a warming effect that is 28 times greater than carbon dioxide. The CCC stipulated that unless waste management practices and policy settings in New Zealand change significantly, it will make it more challenging to meet national targets.

1.3.3.1 Emissions Trading Scheme

Since 2013, Class 1 landfill owners have been required by the Climate Change (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008 to surrender emission units to cover methane emissions through the ETS. Any solid

²⁶ <https://environment.govt.nz/news/government-confirms-new-waste-and-litter-legislation/>

²⁷ Minister for the Environment (2025). Proactive-release-of-Cabinet-paper-for-waste-legislation-Amendments. Available at: [Proactive-release-of-Cabinet-paper-for-waste-legislation-amendments.pdf](#)

²⁸ Note that agriculture contributes 91% of biogenic methane

waste incineration plants without energy recovery are also required to surrender emission units to cover greenhouse gas emissions from the incineration of household wastes.

The number of emissions units that need to be surrendered is based on a calculation of how much methane is generated from a tonne of waste. As a starting point, landfills use a default emissions factor for waste (DEF). This is the methane assumed to be generated by one tonne of waste and is currently set at 0.91 tonnes of CO₂-e (carbon dioxide equivalents) per tonne of waste.

Landfill operators can reduce their liabilities under the ETS by applying for and using unique emissions factor (UEF). The UEF is a calculation of actual methane released by the specific landfill. This can be done by either capturing the methane that is generated or showing (based on the type of waste going into the landfill) that the landfill generates a different amount of methane to the default. Applications are approved through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and gazetted.

The 2024 decision to make food scraps collections voluntary rather than mandatory could impact methane emissions by maintaining higher levels of organic waste in landfills. This underscores the importance of effective methane capture and monitoring systems under the ETS framework. The ETS remains a critical mechanism for driving emissions reductions within the waste sector, particularly as councils navigate voluntary initiatives for organic waste diversion under the updated policy framework.

The other component of the calculation of a landfill's liability under the ETS is the price of carbon. New Zealand units (NZU) are sitting between \$46 to lower than \$40²⁹ at the time of writing. The implications of the ETS and carbon prices are explored further in Appendix A.3.8.

1.3.3.2 Emission Reduction Plans

New Zealand has a long-term target of net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, and a specific target for biogenic methane of 24-47% reduction by 2050 under the Climate Change Response Act. Emissions Reduction Plans (ERP) enable these targets to be realised through set emissions budgets, actions, and pathways.

ERPs have three set time periods that identify emissions budgets, or the maximum amount of emissions that should be allowed over each time period, to reach a specified goal. Three emissions budget periods must be in place at any time, where one reflects the current period and two reflect future periods. The emissions budgets are typically five years long. The emissions budgets are recommended by the CCC and set by the government, making them legally binding. The budgets are supported by actions to ensure that they can be met. The first ERP³⁰ (ERP1) was released in May 2022, and the second ERP³¹ (ERP2) was released in December 2024 and amended in January 2026.

ERP1 identified the waste sector as a significant source of biogenic methane emissions. Key actions for the waste sector in the first ERP included reducing organic waste to landfill through household collections and education, investment in processing and recovery, limits to landfill, diversion of construction and demolition waste, better gas capture, and improved waste data (through a national licensing scheme). The actions were provided as a waste pathway, where actions had assigned timeframes alongside the target of a 20-47% reduction in biogenic methane from 2017 levels by 2050. The actions set out in ERP1 were seen as robust and ambitious in terms of recognising interventions throughout the waste hierarchy. There was an amendment in 2024 to ERP1 that disestablished 35 climate policies and actions, including several that were relevant to waste such as mandatory kerbside food scraps collections.³²

²⁹ <https://www.carbonnews.co.nz/news/fixture/nz-carbon-price>

³⁰ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Aotearoa-New-Zealands-first-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf>

³¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-second-emissions-reduction-plan/>

³² <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/NZs-first-emissions-reduction-plan-amendment-2024.pdf>

ERP2 followed ERP1 and outlined strategies for the next emissions budget period (2026–2030). ERP2 highlights continued efforts in the waste sector but acknowledges significant challenges in achieving emissions reduction targets. ERP2 largely focuses on biogenic methane and financial levers such as incentivising improved landfill gas capture, the ETS, and using levy funds for organic waste infrastructure. The priority is on downstream capture and cost savings for central government. ERP2 does not focus on upstream interventions like ERP1 (e.g. product stewardship, waste diversion) and did not adopt all CCC advice³³ (including strengthening product stewardship, declaring construction material wood a priority product). An amendment was made to ERP2 in December 2025 to not proceed with an on-farm agricultural emissions pricing system.³⁴

The CCC's July 2025 monitoring report³⁵ reported that New Zealand met interim emissions reduction targets for 2022–2025 as per ERP1, however this may be skewed by methodological improvements to New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory rather than actual emissions cuts.³⁶ These improvements meant that the emissions budget requires 7MtCO₂-e less cuts than originally intended to meet the target. The removal of the upstream waste actions and the mandatory kerbside food scraps collections mean that the plan's ambitions could not be realised. In terms of the 2026-2030 emissions budget, New Zealand appears to be narrowly on track, although waste is rated as a significant risk as landfill gas capture has plateaued and organic diversion momentum has stopped. The 2031-2035 emissions budget is currently projected to not be met due to insufficient actions within ERP2.

Environmental Law Initiative and Lawyers for Climate Action NZ presented a Court case against the Minister of Climate Change for failing to meet the requirements of the Climate Change Response Act and Paris Agreement in March 2026.³⁷ The prosecutors recognised that the amendment to remove climate actions and policies in ERP1 was removed without public consultation which is required by law. Further, they claimed that ERP2 wrongly assumed that emissions offsets (i.e. tree planting) are the same as emissions cuts. They also assert that the third budget cannot be met by actions within the plan.

1.3.1 Resource Management Act Reform

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is legislation to determine how New Zealand's environment is managed.³⁸ It has been under significant review as many reported that it was confusing, inconsistent, time-consuming, and prohibitive of building and developing.

The Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill were introduced to Parliament in December 2025. They are set to replace the RMA which will be phased out over several years. The government has signalled that the Bills will be enacted prior to the November 2026 election. They are designed to provide distinct but consistent approaches to land-use planning and environmental management. There are less plans within the Bills than in the RMA, they don't require consents for activities with low impact, and public participation is prioritised in the planning (rather than consenting) stages. This is intended to greatly reduce the number of resource consent applications, the time it takes to apply for them, and applications being contentious at later stages.

The Bills have purposes, goals, principles, and instruments (e.g. national policy directions, national standards). The Planning Bill acts as a framework for planning and regulating use, development, and enjoyment of land. It has an emphasis on housing, infrastructure, and productive activity. The Natural

³³ [faidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Advice-to-govt-docs/ERP2/final-erp2/ERP2-Final-Advice-for-web.pdf](https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/assets/Advice-to-govt-docs/ERP2/final-erp2/ERP2-Final-Advice-for-web.pdf)

³⁴ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-second-emissions-reduction-plan/>

³⁵ <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring/emissions-reduction-monitoring/erm-2024/>

³⁶ <https://environment.govt.nz/news/second-report-on-government-target-9-released/>

³⁷ <https://www.eli.org.nz/cases/erp2>

³⁸ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/resource-management-act-1991/>

Environment Bill sets limits and goals about the use, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment. It requires each region to have a natural environment plan.

There have been critiques of the Bills that were submitted to the Ministry. One submission by the Association for Resource Management Practitioners³⁹ supports the reform while citing concerns about workability and consistency, as well as weakened protections of the environment and Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

1.4 National Government Strategic Context

1.4.1 Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released the Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy in March 2025, replacing the Te Rautaki Para | New Zealand Waste Strategy.⁴⁰ The overall direction of the strategy is to minimise waste and improve waste management and no longer focuses on the waste hierarchy or the circular economy.

The Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy was developed following targeted consultation and sets out Government's priorities for minimising waste and improving waste management, along with what Government wants to achieve and how it will get there. The outcomes and corresponding actions are shown in Table 1-4.

³⁹ <https://www.rmla.org.nz/news/planning-bill-and-natural-environment-bill>

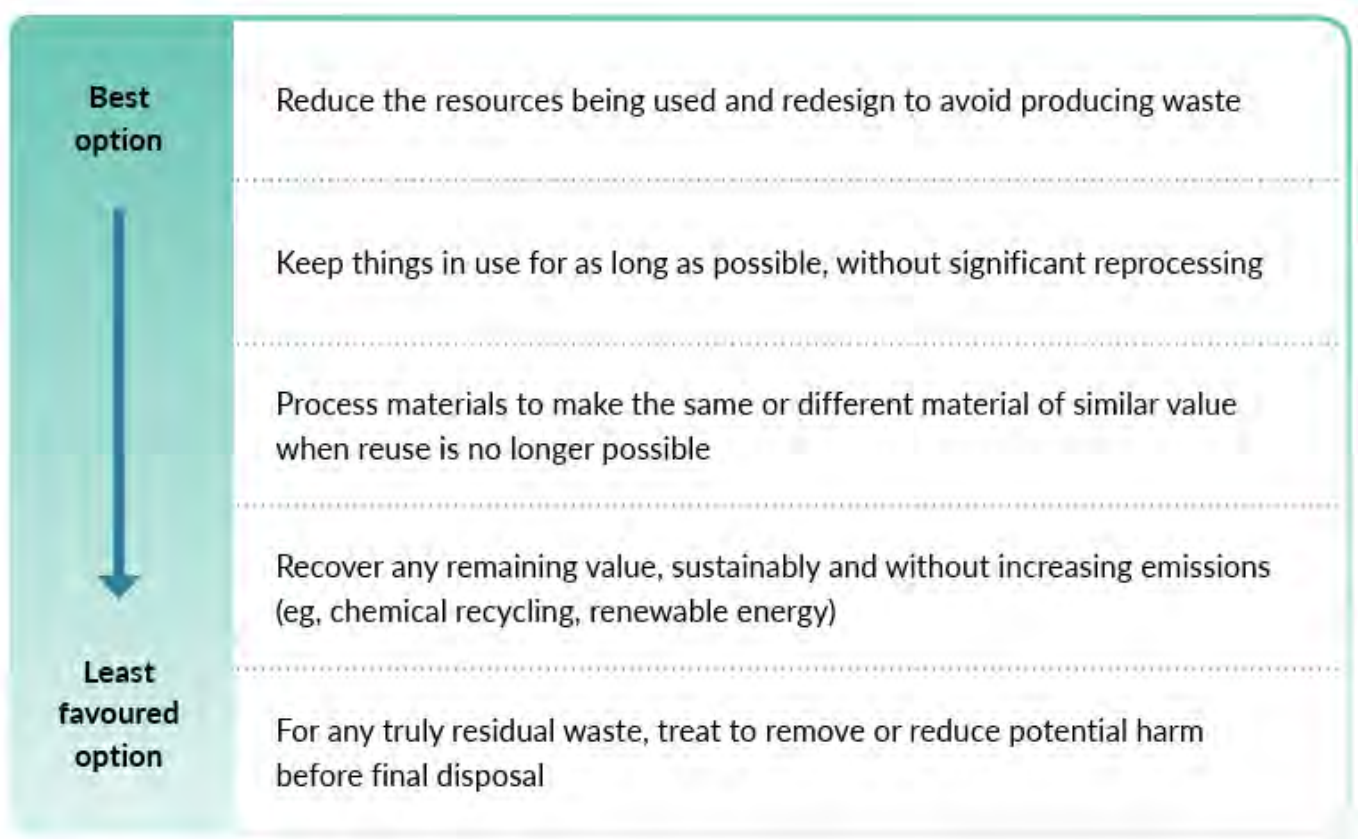
⁴⁰ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/aotearoa-new-zealand-waste-strategy/>

Table 1-4 Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy Outcomes and Actions

Outcomes	Actions
Reduction of waste disposal per person	Fit-for-purpose legislation that supports an efficient market for waste management and recycling, optimal investment decisions, and appropriate responsibilities across the supply chain
Increase reuse and recycling of materials and products so that we retain valuable resources in the economy	Cost-effective, outcomes-focused investment of the waste disposal levy in infrastructure, innovation and local projects
Minimising emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter (including, where relevant, consideration of impacts not just associated with disposal)	Working with the sector, business, iwi/Māori, local government and communities to develop and implement practical cost-effective solutions
Ensuring resource recovery and disposal facilities are managed to minimise their environmental impacts	Where necessary, targeted policy and regulatory measures
Limiting the environmental harm cause by contaminated sites including legacy sites.	Using the waste hierarchy to guide decision-making, enabling us to keep resources in the economy at their highest value where possible.

A revised waste hierarchy is included in the Strategy, shown below. The hierarchy is intended to illustrate the options from best to least favoured (top-down). Options towards the top of the hierarchy have better waste minimisation outcomes and less environmental impact than those towards the bottom of the hierarchy.

Figure 1-1: Revised Waste Hierarchy



1.4.2 Container Return Scheme

Container return schemes (CRS) place deposits on containers (e.g. bottled drinks) when sold. This deposit can then be redeemed by consumers when they return the containers. These schemes are in use worldwide including in Australia. They are designed to promote higher rates of recovery of containers and reduce littering by providing an incentive to consumers.

In 2019, the Ministry funded a project led by Auckland Council and Marlborough District Council on the research and design of a potential container return scheme for New Zealand. The outcomes from this project were reported to the Ministry, who analysed the information and produced advice for ministers.

As part of the 'Transforming Recycling' consultation, the Ministry then consulted on a detailed implementation proposal for a container return scheme in New Zealand; and feedback indicated widespread support.

In early 2023, the government announced that the CRS development would be put on hold. This position has since been softened to a 'delay', but it remains unclear when, or how, a CRS would be introduced for New Zealand.

The implementation document proposed a deposit of 20c per container for a wide range of beverage containers, excluding 'fresh milk' (the logic being that this product is rarely consumed outside the home and can be recycled in kerbside collection). Depending on the details of the eventual container return scheme, and the extent to which containers may be captured in the scheme, two key effects on household kerbside recycling collections are likely:

- The quantity of containers collected in a kerbside collection would reduce; and

- The value of containers that are part of the CRS, but are still collected in a kerbside collection, will likely result in income for the 'owner' of the items. Usually, the owner is either a council and/or its contractor; so the impact of material lost from kerbside recycling schemes may be mitigated to some extent by deposit redemptions.

One possible implication for the Councils, if a CRS was introduced, is that the frequency of recycling collections could be reduced due to lower volumes of material. The current MfE work programme indicates that the review of the Waste Minimisation Act would include provision for the regulatory settings that enable a CRS.

1.5 Other Strategic Context

1.5.1 International Commitments

New Zealand is party to international commitments; five key agreements are briefly outlined in Table 1-5.

Table 1-5 International Commitments

Commitment Name	Overview
Basel Convention	to reduce the movement of hazardous wastes between nations
Montreal Protocol	to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances
Paris Agreement	Commits New Zealand to reduce GHG emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. ⁴¹
Stockholm Convention	to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants
Waigani Convention	bans export of hazardous or radioactive waste to Pacific Islands Forum countries

⁴¹ New Zealand recently submitted its second update on the nationally determined contribution: [New Zealand's second Nationally Determined Contribution.pdf](#)

1.5.2 Local Government Waste Policy Manifesto 2026 (WasteMINZ TAO Forum)

In March 2026 the Territorial Authorities' Officers (TAO) Forum of the Waste Management Institute New Zealand (WasteMINZ) released the Local Government Waste Policy Manifesto (Manifesto).⁴² The TAO forum is a sector group with representatives that work in waste on behalf of TAs. The aim of the forum is to create consistency and efficiency of waste practices and services within New Zealand. MPDC is an active and contributing member of the TAO forum.

The Manifesto describes the urgency for central and local government to improve waste minimisation and management by setting out a clear policy agenda and actions to deliver better value for money, reduce harm from waste, and protect community wellbeing, and outlines four priority areas.

Priority one recognises the responsibility placed on TAs rather than producers and consumers to respond to waste, regardless of their limitations to influence production or consumption. This responsibility comes with large cost and resourcing challenges, as well as receiving misplaced blame from the public. This priority has complementary actions including accelerating the government's extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme and container return scheme (CSR) to provide clear options for waste management, particularly for waste streams that pose the most harm. The recommendations include liability and accountability safeguards.

The second priority raises the need to ensure the waste disposal levy is dependable, supports local investment, and continues to focus on waste minimisation as per its initial purpose outlined in the WMA. The forum has concerns that the legislative changes in 2024 have moved away from the purpose and will result in extensive amounts of funding being used in response to emergency events. TAs are experiencing rising costs for waste management and the need to do more for less with rates caps and other financial limitations, meaning that they are likely to rely more heavily on levy funding. The Manifesto asserts that the levy should not fund workstreams that are existing central government functions. The actions assigned to this priority include central government financially supporting local services that reduce waste to landfill, funding emergency waste management, and considering further fairness for distributing the levy to councils (e.g. variable populations due to tourism).

The third priority describes the lack of coherent planning for infrastructure and investment. The infrastructure landscape is fragmented and outdated and relies on a small number of relatively inaccessible and variable end markets. Infrastructure also depends on economies of scale that exclude rural, small, and tourist communities due to limited ratepayer bases, transport, and existing infrastructure. The Manifesto noted that MfE's Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) pool and scope was reduced significantly. Actions include increasing the WMF pool and scope to include infrastructure beyond organics and to focus on gaps in infrastructure and material stream capture.

The fourth priority reports the difficulty to manage waste through planning, enforcement, and investment without reliable waste type and flow data. The visibility of data to councils is low, especially for commercial and industrial wastes, however it is known that this data is reported to the Ministry. The Manifesto proposes actions including improving and expanding data regulations and sharing existing data through existing national systems. The Manifesto raises the need to focus on waste streams that pose the greatest risks to the environment and people, as well as illegal dumping.

1.5.3 Waste to Energy

There have been several applications to councils around New Zealand for waste to energy facilities, mostly incinerators (where waste is burned to create electricity and sometimes heat). Due to the nature

⁴² <http://wasteminz.org.nz/our-work/local-government-waste-manifesto>

of these facilities, the ideal locations are rural areas. Smaller rural councils are more commonly receiving applications for large waste to energy facilities than councils in urban areas.

Any proposal for an incinerator can only be assessed by a local council as a land use consent, so many of the wider implications e.g. waste ownership, impact on council's strategic direction for waste, or te ao Māori beliefs are not factors for strong consideration.

In 2023 two local councils commissioned Eunomia Research & Consulting to undertake research on the waste to energy context generally, and in Waikato and Tauranga specifically. The key findings from the study in a quantitative sense related to carbon emissions, and concluded⁴³:

- If the waste stream going to an incinerator was similar in composition to waste currently sent to landfill from the Matamata-Piako district, emissions may be higher compared to landfill in some scenarios;
- A hypothetical waste stream that was proportionally higher in plastics, rubber, and other fossil carbon (with organic waste removed) would result in even higher emissions again from incineration compared to landfill.
- The emissions from incinerating a hypothetical waste stream that represents mixed construction waste would produce lower emissions through incineration compared to sending this type of waste to landfill; and
- Emissions from organic wastes are minimised by making use of anaerobic digestion rather than incineration or landfill (bearing in mind that this study only compared WtE technologies).

There are competing interests, varying levels of understanding, and complexities in navigating te ao Māori and iwi considerations in the WtE space. Iwi have the mandate for speaking on WtE issues within their rohe, but there is currently no dedicated collective iwi body specifically focused on waste management; such as there are with freshwater and climate. This is compounded by a lack of clarity and understanding generally of WtE in its various forms and little guidance for territorial authorities in how to appropriately engage with iwi on WtE projects. There is opportunity to develop a more cohesive approach to engaging with Māori views on waste issues.

While WtE as a method to deal with "waste" is still widespread in Europe (due to longevity in technology), there is a general trend towards moving away from WtE. This is because as rates of organic waste diversion increase, feedstocks are becoming more fossil-carbon intensive. At the same time electricity generation has steadily been decarbonising, with greater use of hydro, wind and solar power, complemented by nuclear power in some countries, with coal, oil and gas use reducing. Alongside this, circular economy policies focused on the top end of the waste hierarchy now drive the waste management strategies in Europe.

The recommendations from the study were that residual waste treatment and disposal technologies that are chosen should be those that best align with strategic aims to create a circular economy and reduce environmental impacts. Based on these considerations, the report recommends, for the Waikato region and Tauranga city and indeed Aotearoa New Zealand more generally, that:

- Food waste should be separated for anaerobic digestion, and/or composting with other organics, and this should be mandated nationwide;
- WtE 'incineration' for mixed waste and fossil-based materials may not be preferred unless there is strong evidence that fossil fuel use will be directly offset, with a clear carbon benefit; and/or

⁴³ <https://eunomia.co.nz/waste-to-energy-technology-implications-in-the-aotearoa-new-zealand-context/>

drives to increase circularity (as part of a circular economy) will not be impeded by the technology, in the short to medium term;

- In the view of the study's authors; if WtE for uses other than the above is to be effectively avoided, this will potentially require a strong level of sanction, and legislative and/or regulatory instruments should be considered;
- Advanced thermal treatments, such as pyrolysis and gasification, for treatment of mixed solid waste these technologies may present challenges in terms of viability in practice due to high technical and commercial risks;
- Burning mixed waste as refuse-derived fuel only be allowed in co-processing, e.g. in a cement kiln or a thermal power station, as a transitional solution offsetting the burning of coal or oil;
- Landfill (with optimised gas capture and energy generation, to limit methane emission impacts) be used as the only waste management approach for genuinely residual mixed waste (i.e. that cannot be reused, recycled, anaerobically digested or composted) in the transition to a circular economy. It is important to note that waste to landfill can be gradually reduced in that transition, whereas waste to incineration can only realistically be reduced by closing whole facilities; and,
- Māori are proactively engaged in WtE matters. Options for this include establishing a representative iwi body for waste issues, providing iwi with the resources for well-informed decision-making, engaging through genuine relationships and partnerships, and empowering councils to provide resources to support iwi and Māori to engage.

2.0 The District

This section presents a brief overview of key aspects of the district's planning context, geography, economy, and demographics. These key aspects influence the quantities and types of waste generated and potential opportunities for Council to manage and minimise these wastes in an effective and efficient manner.

2.1 Local and Regional Planning Context

This Waste Assessment and any resulting WMMP amendments or versions will be prepared within a local and regional planning context. Actions and objectives identified in the Waste Assessment and WMMP will reflect, intersect with, and are expressed through other planning documents. Key planning documents and waste-related goals and objectives are noted in this section.

2.1.1 Solid Waste Bylaw

Council has responsibilities and powers as regulators through the statutory obligations placed upon them by the WMA. Council operates in the role of regulator with respect to:

- management of litter and illegal dumping under the Litter Act 1979
- trade waste requirements
- nuisance-related bylaws.

Council adopted their Waste Management and Minimisation bylaw in 2024. This is a comprehensive, wide ranging regulatory tool.

2.1.2 Long Term Plan

In July 2024, a new Long-term Plan was adopted by Council, with the overarching vision: "to make Matamata-Piako the place of choice".

This vision is supported by five key outcomes:

1. Connected infrastructure
2. Economic opportunities
3. Healthy communities
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Vibrant cultural values.

While waste management contributes to a number of these goals, the goal that is most directly relevant is environmental sustainability. The intention to move from a user pays kerbside waste collection system to a rates funded collection service was highlighted under this goal and has since been implemented by Council. The other key action was to focus on the three transfer stations within the district. A review of the sites has been completed, and further work is being done by Council to address next steps.

The 2024 LTP highlighted that a joint business case for waste minimisation would be developed within Eastern Waikato. This proposal suggested looking at the recycling facilities at the three transfer stations in the district and extending the Enviroschools programme. The joint plan did not go ahead; however,

Council is in the process of investigating options regarding the three transfer stations and continues to work with the EnviroSchools programme.

2.1.3 Solid Waste Asset Management Plan (SWAMP)

In 2023 Council developed a Solid Waste Asset Management Plan (SWAMP), which reviewed the current assets relating to solid waste management in the district and identified key areas for improvement. The key improvement areas identified were:

- To introduce new kerbside collection services
- To review, identify and implement improvements to refuse transfer stations.

Since the completion of the SWAMP, Council has introduced new kerbside collections and is in the process of reviewing options for updating the refuse transfer stations. Further information on the current kerbside services is explored in section 4.0.

2.1.4 The Waikato Region

The Waikato Regional Council has a statutory duty to adopt a plan to manage and mitigate the environmental impacts on air, land, and water. In the Waikato region, this is currently directed by three documents;

- The Waikato Regional Plan
- The Waikato Regional Coastal Plan
- The Operative Waikato Regional Policy Statement.

The Waikato Regional Plan aims to guide the Waikato region to achieve environmental outcomes that the region as a whole aspires to.

It recognises the long life of community infrastructure, including the fact that many critical infrastructural elements in the region are either the same structures or have been in the same location for the last century. Additionally, the effects of current activities are projected to take many years for their full impacts to be realised.

The relevant environmental results anticipated from the plan are:

- a decline in the number of contaminated sites created each year;
- an increase in the number and use of refuse transfer stations in rural areas and hazardous waste collection depots;
- solid waste on farms managed in a way that avoids adverse effects (this specifically refers to responsible management of offal holes or dumps. When they are closed, their location should be clearly identified so that future users or owners of the farm do not accidentally disturb the site);
- a reduction in the proportion of garden waste in municipal solid waste streams going to landfill; and
- increased rates of waste oil recycling/recovery through the oil industry waste oil collection programme and TA collection systems.

2.2 Waikato and Bay of Plenty - Cross Regional Waste Strategy

The Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions are combining efforts to develop The Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross-Regional Waste Strategy to establish a robust foundation for future collaborative projects, including coordinated infrastructure development to enable the growth of a circular economy. This strategy is accompanied by an infrastructure plan. The work aims to assess current waste services and infrastructure, and identify key issues and opportunities.

The Cross Regional Waste Strategy takes a holistic approach to waste management, aligning waste networks with the waste hierarchy and connecting the regional economy to the waste network across the supply chain. It sets out a 30-year roadmap with short (3-year), medium (10-year), and long-term (30-year) outcomes, providing clear direction for coordinating long-term planning, behaviour change, and future-proofing the regions.

The strategy highlights opportunities for network integration across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, including shared infrastructure, coordinated service delivery, and aligned strategic planning across districts, with the goal of optimising the waste network through a better understanding of the broader waste system and key opportunities for collaboration.

The strategy responds to several challenges currently facing the region, including significant volumes of recoverable waste, such as organics, plastics, and timber, going to landfill, limited data availability, infrastructure constraints, and regional landfills approaching capacity within the next decade. Serving as a critical link between the national waste and resource efficiency strategy and local council WMMPs, the strategy includes actions for the next three years alongside a monitoring framework to measure success. The cross-regional strategy is now in its final stages of confirmation, with early-stage discussions underway regarding the associated infrastructure work.

2.3 Physical Characteristics

2.3.1 Overview

The Matamata-Piako district is in the centre of what is known as the 'golden triangle' – Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga. The district's location means that it is well-connected to the rest of New Zealand through a network of road, rail and air links. Nearly half of New Zealand's population live within 100 kilometres of Matamata-Piako⁴⁴.

The Matamata-Piako district has a land area of 1,755 square kilometres⁴⁵ and is made up of three small towns and rural communities; Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha, along with the three smaller rural settlements of Waitoa, Waihou and Waharoa. It is a predominantly rural area, with agriculture and manufacturing featuring as extremely important to the economy.

⁴⁴ <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/about-the-district/central-location>

⁴⁵ Geographic Boundary View. Info Territorial Authority – 2025. Available at; <https://statsnz.maps.arcgis.com/apps/insant/sidebar/index.html?appid=3a406ce8fbb14367ab5caae21c07ab8b>

Figure 2-1 Map of the District⁴⁶



With rich high-quality soils, over 75% of the land in the district is used for agricultural activities. Key geographical features include the Kaimai Range in the east and the Piako and Waihou rivers. It is also known for hosting the Hobbiton movie set.

2.3.2 Climate

Matamata-Piako has a warm summer climate, with the average temperature for the year being 14.76°C, 1.69% higher than New Zealand's average. The district typically receives about 86.56 millimetres of rain and has 154.16 rainy days annually⁴⁷.

³⁷ [Geographic Boundary Viewer](#)

⁴⁷ [Matamata, Waikato, NZ Climate Zone, Monthly Averages, Historical Weather Data](#)

2.3.3 Demographics

Matamata-Piako had an estimated population of 39,574 residents in 2025⁴⁸. Waikato Regional Council commissioned a report containing a set of 2023-base demographic projections of the Waikato Region, and all of the territorial authorities that are wholly or substantively contained within the region. In March 2026 Council adopted the high growth projection scenario from the 2023-base Population, Family and Household, and Labour Force Projections for the Waikato Region, 2023-2073 report. The population projections for the district are shown in the Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Population Projections to 2073

Projection	2025	2033	2043	2053	2063	2073	Change 2025 – 2073: number
Population	39,574	42,196	45,338	48,689	52,104	55,912	16,338
Growth Rate	*	6.6%	7.4%	7.4%	7.0%	7.3%	41.3%

The average population growth rate for Matamata-Piako over the 2025-2073 period is 0.7% per annum, with an expected increase of 16,338 by 2073. This growth rate is slightly lower than the national annual average projected growth of 0.9% per annum by 2043⁴⁹.

The median age of the population in the district is 40.8 years, which is higher than the national median of 38.1⁵⁰. The population distribution is more weighted toward older age groups, with a comparatively smaller proportion of residents in the 15–39-year-old group. This demographic profile reflects an ageing population, which may moderate household formation rates but increase demand for smaller households and different housing typologies over time.

The projections in Table 2-2 show the predicted growth in households in the district.

⁴⁸ 2023-base SA2-level Population, Family and Household, and Labour Force Projections for the Waikato Region, 2023-2073. Te Ngira – Institute for Population Research, University of Waikato.

⁴⁹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/family-and-household-projections-2018base-2043/>

⁵⁰ <https://tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/places/TA/matamata-piako-district?total-population=true&maori-population=true&graph=true&table=true&metadata=true&quick-stats=true&population-structure=true&location=true%C3%B0nicity,-culture,-and-identity=true&businesses=true&work=true&income=true&education-and-training=true&transport=true&families-and-households=true&housing=true&activity-limitations=true&health=true&socioeconomic-deprivation=true&more-data-and-information=true&download-data=true&get-help=true#total-income>

Table 2-2 Household Projections 2025-2073

Household type	2025	2033	2043	2053	2063	2073
Family households	10,479	11,053	11,895	12,711	13,577	14,661
Other multi-person households	634	680	752	770	788	850
One-person households	3,518	3,955	4,158	4,150	3,935	3,880
Total households	14,631	15,588	16,805	17,632	18,300	19,391

These projections indicate that one-person households show steady growth, increasing from 3,518 in 2025 to 3,980 in 2073. While this growth is less pronounced in absolute terms than family households (10,479 in 2025 to 14,661 in 2073), it represents a gradual increase in their share of total households. This trend is indicative of the ageing population, with more older residents living alone, as well as broader social shifts toward smaller household sizes.

Table 2-3 below demonstrates the key demographic statistics for the district⁵¹.

Table 2-3 Key Demographic Statistics 2023

Demographic indicators	Private Dwellings (occupied)	Average household size	Median income	Home ownership	Building consents
Matamata-Piako District	14,001	2.5–2.6	\$40,000	69.4%	295
New Zealand	1,664,313	2.7	\$41,500	66%	46,925

Overall, these indicators point to a district experiencing steady but not rapid growth, with an ageing population, smaller household sizes, and relatively high home ownership. Collectively, these factors suggest that future demand will be driven less by rapid population expansion and more by gradual changes in household composition and ageing, with corresponding implications for infrastructure planning, service accessibility, and community engagement approaches.

A majority of the district's population identifies as European (83.3%), which is significantly higher than the national average of 67.8%. The proportion of residents identifying as Māori is 18.6%, slightly above the national average of 17.8%. The cultural composition of the population is an important consideration for service design and engagement, particularly in ensuring that waste minimisation initiatives are inclusive and appropriately tailored.

⁵¹ <https://tools.summaries.stats.govt.nz/places/TA/matamata-piako-district?total-population=true&maori-population=true&graph=true&table=true&metadata=true&quick-stats=true&population-structure=true&location=true%C3%B0nicity,-culture,-and-identity=true&businesses=true&work=true&income=true&education-and-training=true&transport=true&families-and-households=true&housing=true&activity-limitations=true&health=true&socioeconomic-deprivation=true&more-data-and-information=true&download-data=true&get-help=true#dwelling-occupancy>

2.4 Economy

The main industry in Matamata-Piako is dairy farming, with primary industries also including horticulture and meat processing. Dairy cattle farming accounts for 16.4% of the district's economy and 1.9% of the national economy.⁵²

These industries have a major and growing economic influence that is evidenced through GDP growth for the district. In 2025 the gross domestic product (GDP) for Matamata-Piako district measured \$3,016.2M, an increase of 1.1% from the previous year. The growth rate was higher in the district compared to the national growth rate which was -0.9% in the same period.⁵³ In 2025, the district accounted for 0.7% of national GDP.

The largest contributors to GDP growth in the district are manufacturing and agriculture, forestry and fishing, making up 21.4% and 20.6% respectively. In 2025, agriculture, forestry, and fishing made the largest contribution to overall growth in Matamata-Piako district, growing by 5.8% over the period and contributing \$34.3m to the district's total growth. The largest detractor from growth was construction, which declined by \$16m.⁵⁴ Agriculture, forestry and fishing also make up 13.7% of total employment in the district.

GDP is considered to have a significant determinative effect on the volume of waste produced, as high GDP reflects high income, production, and consumption. Projected growth in the economy will lead to more industrial, commercial, and residential development. This development requires additional infrastructure capacity, which includes increased capacity to manage waste.

⁵² <https://www.mpd.c.govt.nz/about-the-district/economic>

⁵³ <https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/matamata-piako-district/economy/growth?compare=new-zealand>

⁵⁴ matamata-piako-district-economic-profile-2025.pdf available at: <https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/matamata-piako-district/report>

3.0 Waste Infrastructure

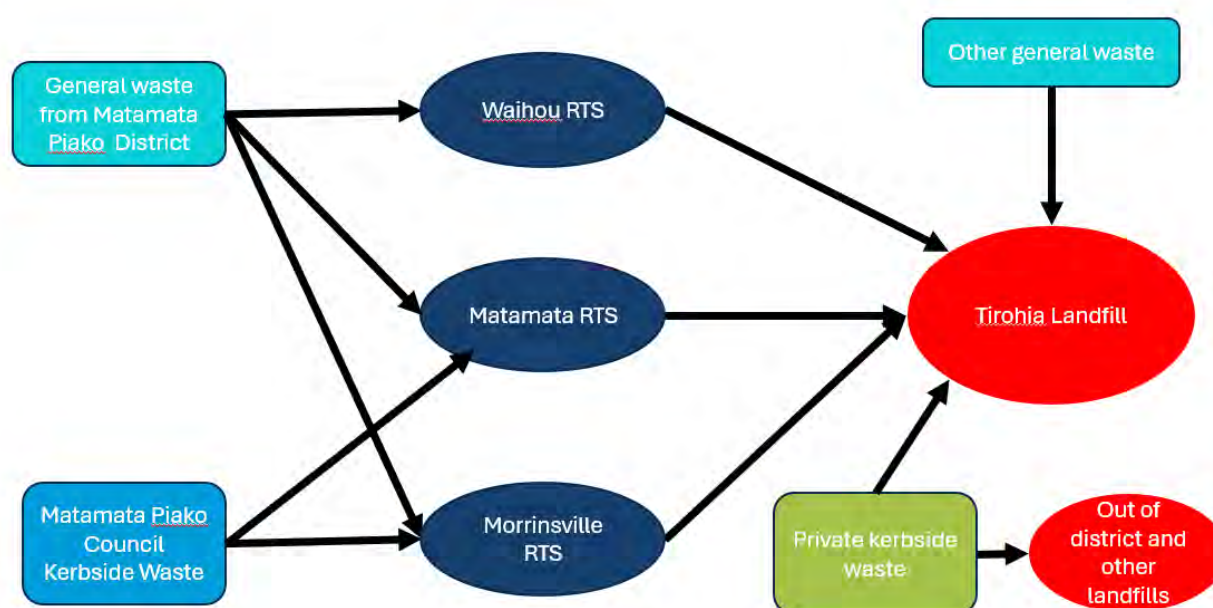
Facilities available in Matamata-Piako include those owned, operated, and/or managed by Council, and those that are owned and/or operated by commercial entities or community groups.

This inventory is not to be considered exhaustive, particularly with respect to the commercial waste industry as these services are subject to change. It is also recognised that there are many small private operators and second-hand goods dealers that are not specifically listed. However, the data is considered accurate enough for the purposes of determining future strategy and to meet the needs of the WMA.

3.1 Summary of Waste Management in Matamata-Piako

Figure 3-1 below shows the main municipal rubbish flows in Matamata-Piako including sources (general rubbish, kerbside rubbish), the resource transfer stations, and the Tirohia landfill.

Figure 3-1 Key Waste Flows in Matamata-Piako



Matamata-Piako District Council controls the flow of waste coming out of all three of the transfer stations, as these are owned by Council. *kerbside rubbish is transported directly to Tirohia Landfill*; with waste from all three RTS being disposed of at Tirohia landfill. A significant proportion of waste disposed of to landfill from Matamata-Piako district is taken directly to Tirohia landfill, owned by Waste Management New Zealand (WM New Zealand) Ltd, for disposal. Waste from the district is taken to the landfill by both Council contractors and private waste operators.

3.2 Disposal Facilities

As discussed in Section 1.3.2.4, the Ministry adopted regulations to extend the landfill levy and apply information requirements to facilities that were not already subject to the levy and reporting

requirements in 2021. These regulations also established legal definitions for disposal facilities and other fills. Previously, disposal facilities had been categorised according to the 2016 Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land. As there are differences, albeit slight, between the two; the legal definitions take precedence.

The definitions of the six classes of facilities in the regulations are summarised below.

1. Class 1 - Municipal Disposal Facility

Accept any of the following:

- Household waste
- Waste from commercial or industrial sources
- Waste from institutional sources
- Garden waste
- Waste that is not accepted at Class 2-5 disposal facilities.

2. Class 2 – Construction and Demolition Disposal Facility

Accepts waste from construction and demolition activities. Does not accept Class 1 waste.

3. Classes 3 and 4 – Managed or Controlled Fill Disposal Facility

Accepts any of the following:

- Inert waste material from construction and demolition activities
- Inert waste material from earthworks or site remediation
- Does not accept Class 2 waste.

4. Class 5 – Cleanfill

Accepts only virgin excavated natural material (such as clay, soil, or rock) for disposal – but is not a 'disposal facility'.

5. Industrial Monofill

A facility that accepts disposal waste that:

- Discharges or could discharge contaminants or emissions
- Is generated from a single industrial process (e.g. steel or aluminium making, or pulp and paper making) carried out in one or more locations.

Any facility that accepts Class 1 waste must be defined as a Class 1 facility. The actual wording used in the regulations and examples of types of waste accepted at each facility are provided in A.2.0.

The regulations also define a transfer station as a facility that receives waste and where waste is then transferred to a final disposal site or for further processing. Significantly, if a site does not accept waste that is then transferred to a final disposal site (i.e. residual waste), it is not a transfer station (but is instead a recycling drop-off site or similar) and isn't required to report data.

3.2.1 Class 1 Disposal Facilities

Waikato Regional Council holds regulatory oversight over both active and closed landfill sites. Within the Matamata-Piako district, there are three closed landfills situated in Matamata, Waihou, and Morrinsville, and no operating Class 1 facilities.

Residual municipal solid waste is collected across the district's three RTSs and transported to the Class 1 Tirohia landfill in the neighbouring Hauraki district that has a resource consent will expire in 2035. Tirohia is privately owned and managed by WM New Zealand Ltd and is equipped with a landfill gas capture system that converts collected gas into electricity. Tirohia has a unique emissions factor (UEF) of 0.091 tCO₂e/t waste.⁵⁵ Waste Management proposed to develop Tirohia to extend its lifespan, as it is expected to reach capacity by 2029.⁵⁶ The extension was opposed by Ngāti Hako, who had an memorandum of understanding (MOU) to stop landfill development past 2038. The iwi appealed at the Environment Court and the proposed expansion was halted.⁵⁷

The Hampton Downs Landfill in the Waikato district may provide an additional Class 1 option with the capacity to accept waste volumes from the Matamata-Piako district.

3.2.2 Class 2-4 fills, Cleanfills, and Industrial Monofills

The annual average of all waste sent to landfill reports a significant amount (46%, by weight) is sent to Class 2-4, cleanfills, and industrial monofills, while the remainder (54%, by weight) goes to Class 1⁵⁸. Class 2, which are construction and demolition disposal facilities, are subject to pay a waste levy of \$40 per tonne from 1 July 2026. Class 3 and 4 fills are also subject to the levy, with a rate of \$15 per tonne effective from 1 July 2025.⁵⁹ Other disposal sites include Class 5 cleanfills and farm dumps which the solid waste levy does not apply.

Class 2-5 fills (and farm dumps) can be an issue for effective and efficient waste management as, for some materials these fills compete with better-managed options (like composting or Class 1 landfills). This is a problem because waste that could possibly be composted or properly landfilled is instead going to cheaper, less regulated fills. Class 5 cleanfills that strictly accept virgin excavated and natural material only are not required to pay the levy but were required to report on quantities accepted from 1 January 2023.

Although theoretically data could be accessed from Class 2-4 facilities on TA request to MfE, these facilities are not required to record the geographical area that waste comes from and so. Where facilities accept waste from catchments larger than a single TA area, there is no way to allocate quantities to any particular district or city. This lack of clarity makes it difficult for TAs to adequately plan for future services and infrastructure as they do not have knowledge of waste collected in their area that is sent out of their boundary.

There are a total of 42 Class 2-5 fills in the region, a full list of these can be found in appendix A.4.1.

⁵⁵ <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-au3444>

⁵⁶ <https://www.wm.nz/siteassets/pdfs/proposal-for-tirohia.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://www.waikatotimes.co.nz/nz-news/350220114/tirohia-landfill-expansion-proposal-quashed>

⁵⁸ <https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/waste-facilities-and-disposal/>

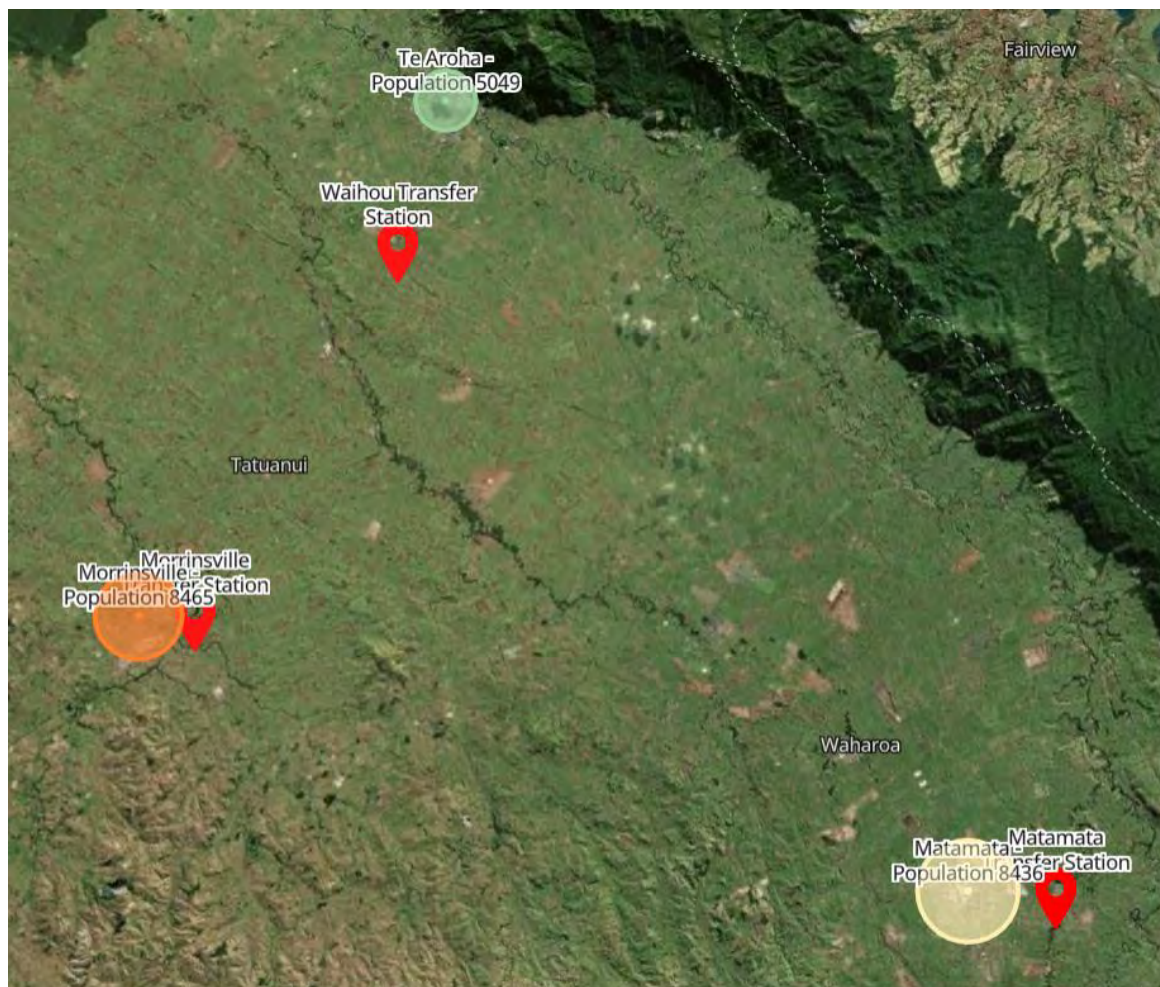
⁵⁹ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/waste-disposal-levy/waste-disposal-levy-information-for-site-operators/>

3.2.3 Transfer Stations, Resource Recovery Centres, and Recycling Drop-off Points

RTSs and drop-off centres accept waste from those that can't access a landfill directly. General public access is not usually possible at Tirohia landfill, for example. RTSs are also frequently used by waste operators. Waste can be dropped off at these sites by the public and commercial collectors after paying a gate fee, and the waste is subsequently compacted before transport to a Class 1 landfill.

Council operates three RTS across the district. These are located in the townships of Waihou, Morrinsville, and Matamata. Figure 3-2 shows the locations of the three RTS sites in Matamata-Piako district.

Figure 3-2 RTS Site Locations



All three RTS are owned by Council and operated by Kaimai Valley Services, the works division of Matamata-Piako District Council.

Table 3-1 Transfer Stations in Matamata-Piako

Facility Description	Operation	Hours	Materials Accepted
Matamata Transfer Station	Council	Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm	General refuse, garden waste, whiteware, scrap metal, vehicle tyres, kerbside recyclables, e-waste and batteries. Hazardous waste is
Morrinsville Transfer Station	Council	Monday,Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm	General refuse, garden waste, whiteware, scrap metal, vehicle tyres, kerbside recyclables, e-waste and batteries.
Waihou Transfer Station	Council	Wednesday, Friday & Sunday 10am-4pm	General refuse, garden waste, whiteware, scrap metal, vehicle tyres, kerbside recyclables, e-waste and batteries.

Domestic quantities (up to 10 litres) of hazardous waste can also be disposed of for \$22.50 at any of the RTS.

The below table shows the locations and levels of service per annum for each of these sites.

Table 3-2 Level of Service per RTS per Annum

	Waihou	Morrinsville	Matamata
Population served (based on assumed catchment)	10,090	11,230	14,020
Matamata-Piako district waste processed (tonnes per annum)	610	859	1096
Matamata-Piako district organics processed (tonnes per annum)	262	374	290
Matamata-Piako district recycling processed (tonnes per annum)	67	233	289
Total processed (tonnes per annum)	938	1465	1676

The following table represents the levels of service as a percentage relative to each RTS site.

Table 3-3 RTS Levels of Service per Annum %

	Waihou	Morrinsville	Matamata
Population served (based on assumed catchment)	28.50%	31.80%	39.70%
Matamata-Piako District waste processed	23.80%	33.50%	42.70%
Matamata-Piako District organics processed	28.30%	40.40%	31.30%
Matamata-Piako District recycling processed	11.40%	39.50%	49.10%
Total processed	23.10%	35.90%	41.00%

3.2.3.1 Assessment of Transfer Stations and Recycling Drop-off Centres

In late 2025 Council completed a full review of the three RTS in the district. The review provided a comprehensive assessment of the current condition, functionality, and fitness-for-purpose of each site, identifying a number of significant shortcomings that will need to be addressed as part of any future waste infrastructure strategy.

All three RTS sites are between 25 and 30 years old. While each site remains broadly operational and continues to serve its respective catchment population, ranging from approximately 10,090 residents at Waihou to 14,020 at Matamata, the infrastructure reflects its age and requires ongoing investment. The

age of the facilities means that significant and ongoing maintenance expenditure will be required simply to keep existing operations running at their current level, without delivering any improvements to service quality or resource recovery capability.

As assets age, this increases the importance of ongoing investment to maintain safe and reliable operations. Without proactive investment, the cost of reactive maintenance is likely to increase over time, ongoing investment will be needed to help manage the risk of future service disruptions or safety issues.

A key finding of the 2025 review is that the sites were are not designed to support enhanced resource recovery activities. As waste management practice and policy continues to shift away from disposal and toward resource recovery, this represents a material gap in the district's infrastructure capability. Specifically, the sites lack dedicated areas for reuse, repair, and resale activities, appropriate facilities for managing specialist waste streams such as farm plastics, agricultural chemicals, and e-waste, and sufficient layout to accommodate sorted drop-off bays that would allow residents to separate materials at the point of disposal.

This is particularly relevant given that the three sites collectively processed approximately 4,079 tonnes of material per annum. With increasing volumes and growing community expectations around resource recovery, the limitations of the current facilities are likely to become more pronounced over time.

Overall, the existing RTS infrastructure is not fit to meet the district's future waste management needs. The combination of aging assets, limited resource recovery capability, and a poor user experience represents a compounding challenge and will likely require planned future investment and upgrades over time. The need for upgrade is driven by shifting legislative expectations, government reporting requirements, modern environmental standards, public health and safety obligations, and the goal of providing residents with an improved and consistent customer experience. Any future capital investment should be viewed as an opportunity to reorient the district's waste facilities toward resource recovery, public engagement, and long-term environmental performance.

3.2.4 Closed Landfills

There are three closed landfills in the Matamata-Piako district. They are located adjacent to the RTS sites at Waihou, Morrinsville and Matamata. The closed landfill sites are actively managed and monitored to ensure unfavourable effects on the environment are avoided⁶⁰.

3.3 Hazardous Waste Facilities and Services

The hazardous waste market comprises both liquid and solid wastes that require further treatment before conventional disposal methods can be used. The most common types of hazardous waste include:

- Organic liquids, such as those removed from septic tanks and industrial cesspits
- Solvents and oils, particularly those containing volatile organic compounds
- Hydrocarbon-containing wastes, such as inks, glues and greases
- Contaminated soils (lightly contaminated soils may not require treatment prior to landfill disposal)
Chemical wastes, such as pesticides and agricultural chemicals
- Medical and quarantine wastes

⁶⁰ https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/pdf/CouncilDocuments/Plans/DistrictPlan/PlanEffectiveness/12-Solid_Waste.pdf

- Wastes containing heavy metals, such as timber preservatives
- Contaminated packaging associated with these wastes

Most disposal is to Class 1 landfills or through the trade waste system. Some of these treatments result in trans-media effects, with liquid wastes being disposed of as solids after treatment. A very small proportion of hazardous wastes are 'intractable' and require exporting for treatment. These include polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides, and persistent organic pollutants.

Domestic quantities (up to 10 litres) of hazardous waste can also be disposed of for \$22 at the transfer stations, including solvents (labelled), cleaning fluids (labelled) and paints. Fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides may also be disposed of if they are placed in a sealed, clear plastic bag and labelled. Larger quantities may be accepted by prior arrangement⁶¹. There are also options to take paint to Resene colour shops and household lightbulbs to Mitre 10.

3.4 Recycling and Reprocessing Facilities

Matamata-Piako currently only processes organic waste within the district, there are currently no other diverted material processing facilities in the Matamata-Piako district. MPDC uses facilities in neighbouring districts for the processing of material it collects. There are a wide range of recycling and reprocessing facilities outside the district. The key facilities are listed below.

Table 3-4 – Recycling, Reprocessing and Organics Facilities

Name/Operator	Type	Key services/waste streams	Location
Carbon Cycle	Organics	Household food waste (small/community scale only)	Multiple locations
EcoGas	Anaerobic digestion	Household and commercial food scraps and organic processing wastes	Reporoa
Ecostock	Depackaging	Commercial food waste	Auckland
EnviroNZ Services	MRF	Sorting and bulking of recyclables	Hamilton
Flight Plastics	Reprocessing	Plastic	Wellington
Green Gorilla	MRF and bulking	Mixed recycling is sorted into bales of single materials for sale onwards into the recycling reprocessing market	Huntly
Living Earth	Organics	Garden waste, animal by-products, commercial garden waste	Tirohia
MyNoke	Vermicomposting	Organic wastes	Kinleith, Tokoroa

⁶¹ <https://www.mpdc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling/transfer-stations>

Name/Operator	Type	Key services/waste streams	Location
OJI Fibre Solutions	Reprocessing	Fibre – paper and some card	Kinleith
Revital	Organics	Garden waste, commercial garden waste, animal manure	Cambridge
SIMS Pacific	Reprocessing	Ferrous metals	Otahuhu, Auckland
Smart Environmental	Materials recovery facility (MRF) and bulking station	Sorting and bulking of recyclables	Kopu
Soilpro	Reprocessing	Wood and timber and animal manure	Auckland
South Waikato Achievement Trust	Dismantling site	E-waste	Tokoroa
Treadlite	Reprocessing	Upcycles tyres into granular rubber product for reuse in sports and equestrian surfaces	Cambridge
Tyres	Golden Bay – incineration	Multiple sites, via the Tyrewise product stewardship programme.	Nationwide
Visy Glass	Reprocessing	Colour-sorted glass	Penrose, Auckland
Wilson Sand	Composting facility	Garden waste	Matamata

In addition, there are charity shops, second-hand stores, and smaller scrap metal recyclers that have a role in diverting material from landfill disposal and keeping resources in circulation.

In the Matamata-Piako district, like many other parts of New Zealand, many material types are transported out of the district and region. Reprocessing infrastructure for some materials requires significant throughput to be economically sound and so one site tends to service multiple regions.

3.5 Assessment of Waste Infrastructure

The waste infrastructure that is used by the Matamata-Piako district reflects a system that has historically prioritised disposal over resource recovery. This infrastructure now faces mounting pressure from multiple directions including aging assets, legislative change, growing community expectations, and a narrowing window of landfill capacity.

The main landfill used by Matamata-Piako is the Tirohia landfill located in the Hauraki district and while it is consented until 2035 it is expected to close by 2029. Dependence on disposal facilities outside of the district means that there is a lack of control in respect of critical infrastructure and Council oversight which presents a certain level of vulnerability. The Hampton Downs Landfill in the Waikato district has been identified as a potential alternative Class 1 option; however, its suitability, capacity allocation, and cost implications for the district have not yet been confirmed. Engagement in regional planning processes and strengthened collaboration with neighbouring councils across the Waikato region will be essential to managing this risk and ensuring continuity of disposal access in the medium to long term.

There are 42 Class 2-5 fills in the Waikato region. Cleanfills accepting above 2,500 m³ of waste per annum require resource consent and can therefore be identified, while those below this threshold operate as permitted activities and are more difficult to account for.

Council operates three transfer stations across the district at Waihou, Morrinsville, and Matamata, *are operated by Kaimai Valley Services, the works division of Matamata-Piako District Council* widely serving the population catchment. The 2025 infrastructure review confirmed that all three sites are between 25 and 30 years old, and not fit for purpose in meeting the district's future waste management needs. The aging infrastructure presents compounding risks; maintenance costs will continue to rise to sustain even current service levels, and the probability of unplanned closures or safety incidents grows as assets deteriorate further. Fundamentally, none of the three sites are equipped to support enhanced material separation and resource recovery. Any future capital investment should be viewed as an opportunity to reorient these facilities to more modern resource recovery centres.

The district has organic processing facilities, but no other material reprocessing facilities within its boundaries. All diverted materials are transported to facilities in neighbouring districts. The district's location within the 'golden triangle' between Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga provides reasonable access to a broad range of processing options. However, reliance on external infrastructure means Council has limited influence over the availability, cost, or continuity of these pathways, and changes in commodity markets or operator decisions can directly affect the district's diversion capability.

Taken together, the district's waste infrastructure is facing increasing demand and evolving requirements. The combination of a single, time-limited disposal option in Tirohia, aging and functionally limited transfer stations, an absence of local reprocessing capacity, and incomplete data on waste flows to Class 2–5 fills, creates a system with limited resilience and reduced capacity to adapt to future demands. Addressing these challenges will require a coordinated approach to capital investment, regional collaboration, and service redesign with a clear shift in emphasis from disposal management toward resource recovery and long-term waste minimisation.

4.0 Waste Services

A range of collection, drop-off, and resource recovery services are provided to Matamata-Piako households and businesses by Council.

4.1 Council Provided Waste Services

Prior to September 2023, Council provided the following services.

Table 4-1 Previous Council Provided Waste Services (until September 2023)

Kerbside collection service	Collection container	Charges/funding
Weekly rubbish collection	Bags	User-pays
Fortnightly glass collection	Crates	Rates funded
Fortnightly mixed recycling	240L wheelie bin	Rates funded

In September 2023, Council introduced a new system that is funded through a targeted rate. Table 4-2 below outlines the key refuse and recycling collection services provided by Council. The key changes are rubbish moving from user pays bags to rates funded bins, and the introduction of the rates funded food scraps bins.

Table 4-2 Current Council Provided Waste Services (from September 2023)

Kerbside collection service	Collection container	Charges/funding
Fortnightly rubbish collection	120L wheelie bin	Rates funded
Weekly food scraps collection	23L bin	Rates funded
Fortnightly glass collection	Crates	Rates funded
Fortnightly mixed recycling	240L wheelie bin	Rates funded

4.1.1 Other Council Services

In addition to the services described above, there are other waste-related programmes and services provided by the Council. These services include removal of illegal dumping, provision of litter bins, event waste recycling, and support of community clean-up events.

4.1.1.1 Waste Education and Minimisation Programmes

Matamata-Piako District Council provides a range of communication and education initiatives to inform ratepayers, schools, and other users of the available waste services and to promote waste minimisation. Key communication and education initiatives that Council supports include:

- Coordination and delivery of communication and education initiatives, including:
 - o Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust (EERST) - Waste minimisation workshops from early childhood to year 8 aged students.
 - o EERST - Paper4Trees, waste minimisation and tree planting programme in schools and preschools
 - o Enviroschools
 - o Waste-ED with Kate
- Sustainable Matamata
- Para Kore Marae Trust workshops on themes including ikura (menstruation) and reusable kope (nappies).

4.1.2 Hazardous Waste

As discussed in the previous section, Council accepts some hazardous waste at the three RTSs within the district. Other services for certain hazardous wastes are available through businesses in the district. Further information can be found in section 3.3.

4.2 Assessment of Council-provided Solid Waste Collection Services

As outlined in Section 4.1 Council upgraded its kerbside collection system in 2023 by transitioning from a user-pays rubbish bag model to a comprehensive rates-funded service. Prior to this change, Council provided weekly collection of official rubbish bags, fortnightly glass collection, and fortnightly mixed recycling. The new system, delivered under contract by Waste Management, replaced the bag-based rubbish collection with a fortnightly 120L wheelie bin, and added a weekly food scraps collection using a 23L bin, a meaningful step forward in organic waste diversion. Glass continues to be collected fortnightly in crates, and mixed recycling is collected fortnightly in 240L wheelie bins. All four streams are funded through a targeted rate.

Moving from rubbish bags to bins is constructive as they contain rubbish more securely, reduces hygiene and pest risks, and are safer for residents and collectors. They also limit how much a household can put out for collection in a single week, which is expected to improve waste minimisation behaviours.

The introduction of the weekly food scraps collection is a positive development, providing a direct diversion pathway for organic material that would otherwise enter the residual waste stream and emit

methane at landfill.

Continuing to separate glass at source is also ideal, as it improves the quality of both the glass and commingled recycling streams.

The kerbside collection service is available to residential properties only. Council no longer collects rubbish and recycling from commercial areas, having ceased that service in September 2023. Businesses are now directed to arrange private collections. Unfortunately this decreases Council's visibility of commercial waste.

Council's RTS network provides an important complementary service for materials not accepted at kerbside including e-waste, batteries, and engine oil. The recent addition of dedicated battery collection points at all three sites is an important development, given the fire risk these materials pose when disposed of in kerbside bins and the growing volumes of e-waste being generated nationally. There are gaps around other diversion potentials for other materials, such as textiles.

4.3 Private Waste Collection Services

There are several private (non-council) waste and recycling service providers operating in the district. Table 4-3 below describes the kerbside collection services provided by the private sector.

Table 4-3 Non-Council Waste Collection Services

Kerbside collection service	Charges/funding	Refuse collection provider
Weekly collection of household residual waste from wheeled bins	User pays charges varying depending on size – 80L to 240L bins available	Wheelie Bin Services, Waste Management, Smart Environmental, Enviro NZ, Red Lid, JJ's Waste and Recycling
Weekly or fortnightly collection of garden waste from wheeled bins	User pays charges varying depending on size – 80L to 240L bins available; with larger bags from some providers	Wheelie Bin Services, Waste Management, Smart Environmental, Enviro NZ
Regular collection of commercial residual waste and recycling in various containers	User pays charges depending on type, size, and frequency	Wheelie Bins Services, Enviro NZ, Smart Environmental, Waste Management
Regular collection of hazardous and medical waste	User pays charges depending on type, size and frequency of collection	Enviro NZ, Waste Management, Interwaste

Kerbside collection service	Charges/funding	Refuse collection provider
Ad hoc removal of waste.	User pays charges depending on type and quantity of waste.	Wheelie Bins Services, Enviro NZ, Smart Environmental, Waste Management, JJ's (Hamilton), Pete's Bins, Bun Buddy, Green Gorilla, Purpose fill Skip Bins, Cambridge Bin Hire, Northland Waste, Waikato skip bins, Philaskip, Char Bro Limited, AP Waste, Payless Bins, Just Rubbish.

4.3.1 Assessment of Private Services

The non-council kerbside collection market in the Matamata-Piako District is reasonably competitive, with at least 6 private sector operators providing household residual and garden waste services across the district. Providers including Wheelie Bin Services, Waste Management, Smart Environmental, and Enviro NZ. These providers offer both weekly and fortnightly collection options, with bin sizes ranging from 80L to 240L, and larger bags available from some providers for garden waste. All services are user-pays, with charges varying by bin size, type, and frequency of collection

The commercial collection market is served entirely by private operators. Matamata-Piako District Council ceased rubbish and recycling collections from commercial areas in September 2023, with businesses directed to arrange their own services. Private operators provide regular collection of commercial residual waste and recycling in various container types, with charges depending on type, size, and frequency. This market is reasonably well-served, with multiple providers offering flexible options suited to differing commercial needs. However, Council now has less visibility and control over this waste stream.

While facilities for collection of medical wastes exists, there is a notable lack of readily available data on commercial, medical, and hazardous waste flows. With better data it would be possible to better identify potential opportunities for improved waste minimisation.

5.0 Situation Review

The terminology used in this section to distinguish sites where waste is disposed of to land is taken from the relevant Ministry regulations, as discussed in section 2.1.

5.1 Waste Quantities

5.1.1 Waste to Class 1 Landfill

A high proportion of waste from Matamata-Piako that is landfilled goes to Tirohia landfill. Some waste travels directly from source to Tirohia landfill, while all Council collected waste passes through one of the RTS.

No new data was available for private waste collections or drop offs since the 2020 Solid Waste Assessment Plan SWAP. A SWAP is a standardised method to collect and understand the composition of solid waste.

As updated Council collection data alone cannot account for the market share split between private and Council waste to landfill, it was not possible to gain a clear picture of overall waste volumes and trends. Therefore, rather than incorporating updated Council figures in isolation, a blanket population growth rate has been applied to the total waste to landfill figure from the 2020 SWAP to provide a projected estimate of current volumes. The growth rate used was 9.0%.

The projected tonnage of waste from the district is shown in Table 5-1 below.

Table 5-1 Annual Tonnage of Waste to Tirohia landfill from Matamata-Piako RTS

	Tonnes per annum
Combined waste to landfill	13,856
Per capita disposal of waste to landfill	0.35

5.1.2 Waste to Class 2-5 Fills

As discussed earlier in this report, there is limited information available regarding most clean filled waste. MfE does receive tonnage reports from operators of Class 2-5 facilities and industrial monofills. However, as information is not reported on the geographic source of the waste received at these types of facilities, there is no way to ascribe a particular portion to Matamata-Piako.

Based on the total waste to Class 2-4 landfills reported by MfE in 2024/2025, 451.5kgs of waste per capita is sent to one of these facilities annually⁶². Using the population for MPDC this would mean 16,443 tonnes per year to Class 2-4 fills.

⁶² <https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/waste/waste-facilities-and-disposal/>

5.2 Waste to Class 1 Landfill

5.2.1 Composition

The composition of waste to Class 1 landfill is taken from the 2020 SWAP report by Waste Not Consulting on behalf of Matamata-Piako District Council⁶³. All waste to Class 1 landfills from Matamata-Piako District comprises the following:

- Waste from the three RTS in the District, taken to Tirohia landfill
- Council kerbside rubbish collections taken directly to Tirohia landfill
- Waste from private waste operators taken directly to Tirohia landfill
- Waste from private waste operators disposed of at Class 1 landfills, other than Tirohia landfill, or at transfer stations outside of the district.

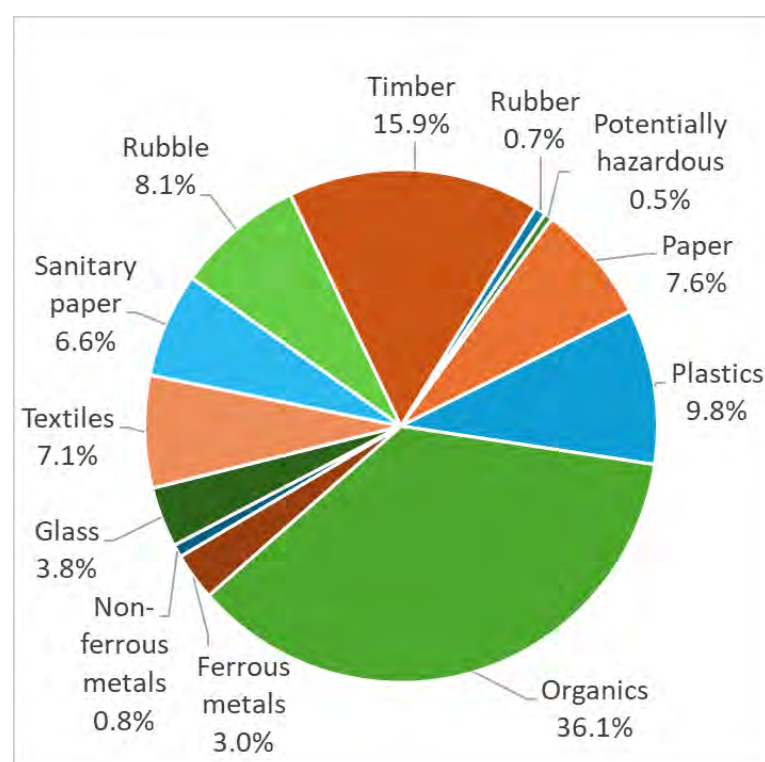
It is expected that the composition of waste and the proportion of waste from each of the above waste streams has changed since 2020, but there is no recent private waste operator data available. The tonnages provided in the following table have been updated to reflect population growth over the same period.

⁶³ As noted in section 5.1 this figure has been adjusted with the same growth rate as population – 9%

Table 5-2 Composition of Overall Waste to Class 1 Landfill – Projected 2025

Overall Waste composition	Proportion of total %	Tonnes per annum	Tonnes per week
Paper	7.6	1,053	20
Plastics	9.8	1,358	26
Organics	36.1	5,002	96
Ferrous metals	3.0	416	8
Non-ferrous metals	0.8	111	2
Glass	3.8	527	10
Textiles	7.1	948	19
Sanitary paper	6.6	915	18
Rubble	8.1	1,122	22
Timber	15.9	2,203	42
Rubber	0.7	97	2
Potentially hazardous	0.5	69	1
TOTAL	100.0	13,856	266

Figure 5-1 Composition of Overall Waste to Class 1 Landfill – Projected 2025



The total waste to landfill was estimated at 13,856 tonnes per annum, equivalent to approximately 266 tonnes per week. The largest contributor by composition was organics, accounting for 36.1% or 5,002 tonnes per annum. The next most significant categories of waste to Class 1 Landfill are timber at 15.9% or 2,203 tonnes per annum and plastics at 9.8% or 1,358 tonnes per annum.

It is important to note that this composition data is not reflective of the waste stream changes that may have resulted from new or updated council services introduced since 2020. As updated data from private waste operators has not been made available, it is not possible to account for shifts in market share between private and council collections, or to fully understand how the overall waste composition may have changed. As such, this data should be interpreted with caution and used as an indicative baseline only.

5.2.2 Diversion Potential

Various materials are diverted from landfill in Matamata-Piako through recycling, reuse, and recovery. Services and infrastructure available include Council's kerbside food scraps collection, kerbside recycling collection, private recycling collections, recycling drop-off points and the three RTS. Used clothing, reusable wood, some e-waste and scrap metals can also be diverted. Further information on diversion infrastructure in the district is explored in section 3.2 and 3.4.

As well as the various drop-off options, garden waste can be composted at home or collected in a private garden waste collection service. New plasterboard is also able to be composted. Untreated/unpainted timber can be used for fuel or mulch.

Table 5-3, on the following page, shows the proportion of general and overall waste disposed of at Class 1 landfill that could potentially be diverted from landfill disposal using existing systems or systems that could potentially be established⁶⁴.

⁶⁴ Based on the 2020 data projected with a 9% growth rate

Table 5-3 Diversion Potential of Matamata-Piako Waste Stream – Projected 2025

Overall waste - Diversion potential	% of total	Tonnes per week	Tonnes/annum (indicative only)
Recyclable and recoverable materials			
Paper - Recyclable	3.6	9.5	493.2
Paper - Cardboard	2.8	7.3	379.8
Plastic - Recyclable	1.3	3.5	181.4
Ferrous metals	3.0	7.8	408.2
Non-ferrous metals	0.8	2.2	113.4
Glass - Recyclable	2.9	7.7	402.5
Textiles - Clothing	1.8	4.9	255.1
Rubble - Cleanfill	2.0	5.2	272.1
Timber - Reusable	0.6	1.7	90.7
Subtotal	18.8	49.9	2596.4
Compostable materials			
Food waste	16.7	44.5	2313.0
Compostable greenwaste	14.2	37.6	1955.8
New plasterboard	1.4	3.6	187.1
Untreated/unpainted timber	2.1	5.6	289.1
Subtotal	34.3	91.2	4745.0
TOTAL - Potentially divertable	53.1	141.2	7341.4

Overall, over 50% of the waste going to Class 1 Landfill (53.1%) could have been diverted through recycling or composting. This equates to approximately 141.2 tonnes per week, or 7,341.4 tonnes per annum, that could be diverted through improved collection, processing, and resource recovery infrastructure.

Food waste made up the highest recoverable component at 16.7% (44.5 tonnes per week, 2,313 tonnes per annum) of the total weight of divertable materials. Compostable greenwaste represents a further 14.2% (37.6 tonnes per week, 1,955 tonnes per annum), suggesting that together, organic materials alone account for over 30% of all waste currently going to landfill.

Recyclable and recoverable materials collectively account for 18.8% of the waste stream (49.9 tonnes per week, 2,596.4 tonnes per annum). Paper and cardboard combined represent the largest recoverable fraction at 6.4% (16.8 tonnes per week, 873 tonnes per annum).

The data underscores that organics diversion, particularly food waste and greenwaste, presents the single greatest opportunity to reduce landfill volumes for MPDC.

As with the above composition and total waste to landfill data, it is important to note that this data is not fully reflective of the current waste stream, as updated data from private waste operators has not been made available. Without visibility of private collection volumes and market share, the true proportion of divertable materials may differ from what is presented here. This data should therefore be treated as an indicative baseline, highlighting the significant opportunity for diversion through improved organics, recycling, and resource recovery services.

5.3 Kerbside Collected Waste

5.3.1 Composition of the Full Kerbside Stream

Kerbside refuse in Matamata-Piako was surveyed in accordance with the Ministry for the Environment's Solid Waste Analysis Protocol 2002 (SWAP) in mid July 2025. The sort-and-weigh audit of kerbside rubbish included residential kerbside rubbish from Council's 120-litre wheelie bin collection. Although, as highlighted previously in the report, private waste operators offer a residential service, privately collected kerbside rubbish was not included in the audit⁶⁵.

The primary composition of the kerbside waste stream is shown below⁶⁶ in Table 5-4. The estimated composition of the kerbside waste stream has been converted into an average weekly tonnage and tonnes per annum (indicative only).

⁶⁵ The quantity collected privately is considered, by Council, to be minor and the private collector's schedules do not correspond with the Council schedules, making sample collection problematic

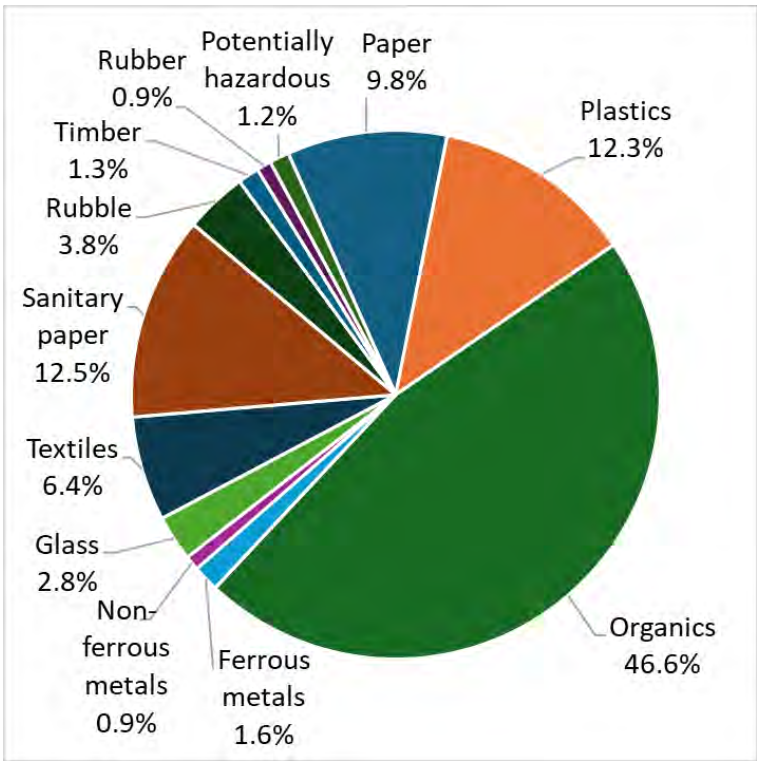
⁶⁶ Detailed composition data is presented in the Waste Not Consulting SWAP report.

Table 5-4 Primary Composition of Council 120-litre Rubbish Wheelie Bins - November 2025

Council 120-litre kerbside rubbish bins - November 2025	Proportion of total %	Mean wt. per wheelie bin kg	Tonnes per week	Tonnes per annum (indicative only)
Paper	9.80	0.80	4	208
Plastics	12.30	1.02	5.1	265.2
Organics	46.60	3.84	19.1	993.2
Ferrous metals	1.60	0.13	0.7	36.4
Non-ferrous metals	0.90	0.07	0.4	20.8
Glass	2.80	0.23	1.1	57.2
Textiles	6.40	0.52	2.6	135.2
Sanitary paper	12.50	1.03	5.1	265.2
Rubble	3.80	0.31	1.6	83.2
Timber	1.30	0.10	0.5	26
Rubber	0.90	0.07	0.4	20.8
Potentially hazardous	1.20	0.10	0.5	26
TOTAL	100.00	8.23	41	2132

The contents of the average 120-litre wheelie bin weighted 8.23 kg. The biggest contributor to kerbside rubbish was organic material, mainly food waste, which made up nearly half the total weight at 46.6%, or 3.84 kg per bin. Sanitary paper was the second most common component at 12.5%, followed closely by plastics at 12.3%

Figure 5-2 Primary composition of Council 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins - November 2025



5.3.2 Diversion Potential of Matamata-Piako Kerbside Waste

As detailed in Section 4.0, MPDC provides all urban and some rural properties with kerbside collections of food scraps, glass bottles and jars and mixed recycling (paper, plastics 1, 2, & 5, and cans). All materials that are accepted by the kerbside mixed recycling and glass collections are also accepted at the three RTS in the district.

Table 5-5 below shows the proportion of materials in 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins that could have been diverted using the Council kerbside services. The table also shows the weights of materials per average wheelie bin that could have been diverted and the tonnages per week.

Table 5-5 Diversion Potential of Council 120-Litre Rubbish Wheelie Bins - November 2025

Council 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins - Diversion potential - November 2025	% of total	Kg/120-litre rubbish bin	Tonnes per week (Nov-24-Oct 25)
MPDC kerbside recyclable materials			
Paper - Recyclable	4.20	0.34	1.7
Plastics - #1,2,5 containers	2.10	0.17	0.9
Ferrous metals - Steel cans	0.40	0.03	0.2
Non-ferrous metals - Aluminium cans	0.40	0.03	0.2
Glass - Bottles/jars	2.30	0.19	0.9
Subtotal	9.30	0.77	3.8
Compostable materials			
Organics - Food waste	31.70	2.61	13
Organics - Garden waste	8.10	0.67	3.3
Subtotal	39.80	3.28	16.3
TOTAL - Potentially divertable	49.10	4.04	20.1

Approximately 9.3% of all the material in the 120L rubbish wheelie bins could have been recycled through the Council kerbside recycling collections or at one of the RTS. A further 39.8% of all materials in the rubbish bins could have been composted onsite or diverted through food or garden waste collections. Of the 39.8% of the compostable materials in the kerbside rubbish bins, 31.7 % was food waste that could have been diverted through the Council food scrap collection.

In total, nearly half (49.10%) of the contents of the 120L rubbish wheelie bins could have been diverted from landfill through recycling or composting. This equates to 20.1 tonnes per week.

It should be noted that diversion rates are theoretical maximums as recovery systems are unlikely to divert 100% of a material from landfill.

5.3.3 Comparative Diversion Potential of Kerbside Refuse 2020 and 2025

A previous SWAP was completed in 2020 prior to the service changes to kerbside collections in MPDC. The table below provides a comparison of divertable materials in council kerbside rubbish collections in November 2025 to those in July 2020. It should be noted that in July 2020, council was collecting waste in pay per use rubbish bags⁶⁷.

⁶⁷ In the 2020 SWAP divertable materials included plastics numbered 1-7

Table 5-6 Comparative Diversion Potential of Kerbside Refuse 2020 and 2025

Council 120-litre rubbish wheelie bins - Diversion potential - November 2025	% of total (2025)	% of total (2020)	Kg/120-litre rubbish bin (2025)	Kg council bag kerbside rubbish household set out (2020)
MPDC kerbside recyclable materials				
Paper - Recyclable	4.20	5.20	0.34	0.35
Plastics - #1,2,5 containers	2.10	3.10	0.17	0.21
Ferrous metals - Steel cans	0.40	0.70	0.03	0.05
Non-ferrous metals - Aluminium cans	0.40	0.40	0.03	0.02
Glass - Bottles/jars	2.30	1.00	0.19	0.07
Subtotal	9.30	10.50	0.77	0.69
Compostable materials				
Organics - Food waste	31.70	43.80	2.61	2.90
Organics - Garden waste	8.10	5.50	0.67	0.36
Subtotal	39.80%	49.30%	3.28	3.26
TOTAL - Potentially divertable	49.10%	59.70%	4.04	3.95

Between 2020 and 2025, the proportion of potentially divertable material in kerbside rubbish decreased from 59.7% to 49.1%, representing a reduction of approximately 10%. In weight terms, however, divertable material per bin remains relatively high, increasing slightly from 3.95 kg to 4.04 kg per household set out (in 2025 per bin set out, and in 2020 per household bag set out). This indicates that while a smaller proportion of the waste stream is now divertable, the absolute quantity has not materially declined. Together, these trends suggest some improvement in diversion performance, with households separating waste more effectively, but not a fundamental reduction in the overall quantities of divertable materials.

Food waste, which represents the single largest divertable component, showed an encouraging reduction in weight from 2020 to 2025. The weight of food waste decreased from 2.90 kg to 2.61 kg, suggesting that the food scraps collection service and behaviour change programmes have had a positive effect on diverting food waste from landfill. However, even with this positive progress, food waste remains the single largest component of divertable material in kerbside rubbish.

Overall, while diversion performance has improved, nearly half of the residual waste stream remains recoverable, highlighting continued opportunities to strengthen both recycling and organics diversion systems.

It is also worth noting that the transition from bag-based to wheelie bin collection systems may have influenced waste generation behaviour, as households tend to dispose of greater volumes of waste when provided with a larger, lidded bin compared to the physical and cost constraints associated with bagged refuse.

5.4 Composition of Kerbside Mixed Recycling

The composition of materials in kerbside mixed recycling bins is shown in Table 5-7. Council data shows that council recycling services collected an average of 18.9 tonnes per week of mixed recycling between November 2024 and October 2025, and this figure was used to scale the audit results⁶⁸. The table is broken down into the four materials that meet Council's published guidelines for the kerbside mixed recycling collection and the 11 materials that do not meet the criteria.

⁶⁸ Kerbside recycling volumes fluctuate seasonally, applying this annual average to the November audit may reduce the precision of the estimates.

Table 5-7 Composition of Kerbside Mixed Recycling

Contamination in Council 240-litre kerbside mixed recycling wheelie bins - Nov-25	% of total weight	Weight per bin (kg)	Tonnes per week (Nov-24-Oct 25)
Recyclable materials that meet Council and MfE criteria for mixed recycling bin			
Recyclable paper	47.70	2.01	8.4
Plastics # 1, 2, 5 bottles & containers	17.90	0.75	3.2
Steel cans	6.70	0.28	1.2
Aluminium cans	5.50	0.23	1.0
Subtotal	77.80	3.27	13.8
Contamination - Do not meet Council and MfE criteria for mixed recycling bin			
Non-recyclable paper	1.90	0.08	0.3
Plastics # 3, 4, 6, 7 bottles & containers	0.20	0.01	0.0
All non-recyclable plastic	3.90	0.16	0.7
Organics	2.30	0.10	0.4
Steel other	1.30	0.05	0.2
Non-ferrous other	0.30	0.01	0.1
Recyclable glass	1.90	0.08	0.3
Non-recyclable glass	0.20	0.01	0.0
Textiles	0.90	0.04	0.2
Sanitary paper	1.70	0.07	0.3
All other material	7.80	0.33	1.4
Subtotal	22.20	0.94	3.9
TOTAL	100.00	4.21	17.7

The contents of the average mixed recycling bin weighed 4.21 kg. The majority of the material was recyclable paper, representing 47.7% of the total weight, or 2.01 kg per bin. The second largest component was Plastic #1, 2, 5 bottles & containers, which represented 17.9% of the total weight, or 0.75 kg per bin.

Overall, 3.27 kg, or 77.8% of the total weight of materials in kerbside mixed recycling wheelie bins, met Council's and MfE's published guidelines for kerbside mixed recycling. Materials that did not meet the criteria represented 22.2% of the total weight, or 0.94 kg per bin. The largest components of the contamination were: '*all other materials*' (7.8%) and '*all non-recyclable plastic*' (3.9% of total weight).

Table 5-8 shows the level of contamination across the three main urban areas of Matamata-Piako district:

Table 5-8 Comparison of Urban Centres’ Recycling Contamination

Comparison of mixed recycling bins - November 2025	Matamata	Morrinsville	Te Aroha
Average weight per bin	3.26 kg	4.62 kg	4.77 kg
Recyclable materials per bin	2.71 kg	3.60 kg	3.52 kg
Contamination per bin	0.55 kg	1.02 kg	1.25 kg
Contamination %	17%	22%	26%

The average weight per mixed recycling bin varied between 3.26 kg in Matamata and 4.77 kg in Te Aroha. The highest rate of contamination in recycling was found in Te Aroha.

5.5 Diverted Materials

Diverted materials in Matamata-Piako include food waste, garden waste, and recyclables such as paper, card, glass, metals and plastic. More recently E-waste and batteries are able to be diverted at the RTS. Table 5-9 below shows the tonnage of divertable materials through all Council waste streams, privately diverted materials are not shown in the figures below.

Table 5-9 Tonnes of Diverted Materials Through Council Streams

Material	2023-24	2024-2025
Kerbside comingled recycling	788	1024
Kerbside Glass	515	558
Kerbside Food scraps	360	487
Total kerbside diverted	1662	2069
RTS Greenwaste	771	695
RTS Recycling	233	260
RTS Glass	349	316
RTS Scrap Metal	232	323
Total diverted at RTS	1584	1594
Total diverted	3246	3663

Total diverted material increased from 3,246 tonnes in 2023–24 to 3,663 tonnes in 2024–25, an increase of 417 tonnes (12.9%), indicating overall improvement in diversion performance. This growth was driven primarily by kerbside collections, which rose by 24.5%, with strong increases in comingled recycling

(+236 tonnes) and food scraps (+127 tonnes). In contrast, RTS diversion remained largely stable overall (+0.6%), with declines in garden waste and glass offset by gains in scrap metal and recycling.

Overall, the data shows a clear shift toward increased kerbside diversion activity, particularly for organics and recycling streams.

5.6 Current Performance Measurement

This section provides comparisons of several waste metrics between MPDC and other territorial authorities. The data from the other districts has been taken from a variety of research projects undertaken by Eunomia Research & Consulting and Waste Not Consulting.

5.6.1 Per Capita Waste to Class 1 Landfills

Table 5-10 below shows a comparison of per capita waste of various councils across the country.

As noted in section 5.1 these figures are not reflective of the updated services within Matamata-Piako district and have been updated from 2020 data, based on population growth.

Table 5-10 Per Capita Kg Disposal to Class 1 Landfill – Comparison with Other Areas

Overall waste to Class 1 landfills including special wastes	Kg per capita per annum
Matamata-Piako District (2025)	350
Palmerston North 2025 (excl. special wastes)	573
Waimakariri District 2017	325
South Waikato District 2025	368
Gisborne District 2023	433
Napier/Hastings 2022	595
Invercargill City 2024	598
Porirua City 2022 & 2023	652
New Zealand 2022/23	706
Taupō District 2022	716
Auckland region 2024	873
Hutt Valley 2022	899
Queenstown Lakes District 2023-24	940

The council areas with high per capita disposal rates tend to be those with significant manufacturing and/or tourism activity. The areas with lower per capita disposal rates tend to be those that are mainly rural or have lower levels of economic activity. Overall, Matamata-Piako district has a relatively low waste per capita to Class 1 landfill.

5.6.2 Per Capita Domestic Kerbside Refuse to Class 1 Landfills

The quantity of domestic kerbside refuse disposed of per capita per annum has been found to vary considerably between different areas. There are several reasons for this variation.

Kerbside refuse services are used primarily by residential properties, with small-scale commercial businesses comprising a relatively small proportion of collections (typically on the order of 5-10%). In districts where more businesses use kerbside wheelie bin collection services - which can be related to the scale of commercial enterprises and the services offered by private waste collectors - the per capita quantity of kerbside refuse can be higher. There is relatively little data in most areas on the proportion of businesses that use kerbside collection services, so it is not usually possible to provide data solely on residential use of kerbside services.

Evidence indicates that the most important factor determining the per capita quantity of kerbside refuse is the proportion of households that use private wheelie bin collection services. Households that use private wheelie bins, particularly larger, 240-litre wheelie bins, tend to set out greater quantities of refuse than households that use refuse bags. As a result, in general terms the higher the proportion of households that use private wheelie bins in a given area, the greater the per capita quantity of kerbside refuse generated.

The disposal rate of domestic kerbside refuse for Matamata-Piako was calculated to be 93 kg per capita in 2025. This figure is based on the proportion of households that receive the council kerbside collection service (59% of the district's population), rather than the total district population. As such, this rate reflects only the council-operated kerbside collection and does not include any waste disposed of through private collection services.

Table 5-11 compares the per capita rate of disposal of kerbside refuse in Matamata-Piako with other urban areas in New Zealand. Data for the other districts has been taken from SWAP surveys conducted by Waste Not Consulting.

Table 5-11 Per Capita Disposal of Kerbside Refuse – Comparison with Other Areas

District and year of survey	Kg/capita/ annum	Kerbside rubbish services used ⁶⁹
Matamata-Piako 2025	93	Rates-funded fortnightly 120L wheelie bins (with weekly food scraps)
Hamilton 2022	83	Rates-funded fortnightly 120L wheelie bins (with weekly food scraps)
Christchurch City 2019	115	Rates-funded fortnightly 140-litre wheelie bins (with weekly organic)
Gisborne District 2023	141	Rates-funded rubbish bag stickers
Waikato District 2022	131	Bags and wheeled bins
South Waikato District 2025	156	Rates-funded
Ashburton 2021	144	Rates-funded weekly 80L wheelie bins
Auckland Council 2022	141	User-pays rubbish bags + rates-funded wheelie bin
Porirua City 2023	181	User-pays rubbish bags
Central Otago 2022	168	Rates-funded fortnightly 240L wheelie bins
Taupo 2022	183	User-pays rubbish bags
Hastings/Napier 2022	197	Rates-funded 120-litre wheelie bins
Palmerston North 2025	217	User-pays rubbish bags

Of the urban areas that have been assessed, Hamilton city has the lowest per capita disposal rate of kerbside rubbish. Hamilton City Council introduced new services in August 2020, which resulted in a significant increase in performance. A weekly food scraps collection started, and the weekly collection of two rubbish bags per household was replaced with a fortnightly collection from a 120L wheeled bin.

Matamata Piako through Council kerbside collections have the second lowest per capita waste to landfill from the areas that have been assessed. This is likely a result of the introduction of new services provided by council, similar to those results seen by Hamilton City Council.

⁶⁹ Assuming all areas are also serviced with private collections by those who choose

Christchurch City has the third lowest per capita disposal rate of kerbside refuse. This is associated with the diversion of organic waste through the council's kerbside organic collection and the council's high market share.

Performance generally depends on the type of waste collection services available, and the service choices made by residents.

5.6.1 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling

Per capita recycling rates for Matamata-Piako are calculated in Table 5-12 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling

Table 5-12 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling

Tonnes per annum	2023/24	2024/25
Kerbside comingled recycling	788	1023
Kerbside glass	514	558
Total Kerbside Recycling	1302	1582
Population	39,102	39,574
Kg/capita/annum	33	40

The table below represents a benchmarking of other councils per capita kerbside recycling

Table 5-13 Per Capita Kerbside Recycling – Kg/Capita/Annum

District	Kg/capita/annum	System Type
Matamata-Piako 2025	40 kg	Fortnightly glass crate, fortnightly comingled 240L wheeled bin
Palmerston North City Council 2024/2025	49 kg	Fortnightly glass crate, fortnightly comingled 240L wheeled bin
Napier City Council	52 kg	Fortnightly bags or crates
Wellington region	53 kg	Various systems
Ashburton District	62 kg	Weekly bags or crates depending on area
Hamilton City Council (2022)	61 kg	Fortnightly glass crate and comingled 240L wheeled bin
Tauranga City Council	65 kg	Private wheelie bin collection (note that this was before glass was excluded)
<i>Palmerston North City Council 2017/18</i>	<i>67 kg</i>	<i>Fortnightly glass crate, fortnightly comingled 240L wheeled bin</i>
Invercargill City Council	69 kg	Fortnightly 240-litre wheeled bin, comingled
Waipa District	73 kg	Weekly/Fortnightly 55-litre crate, separate paper collection
Waikato District	74 kg	Weekly 55-litre crate, separate paper collection
Dunedin City	77 kg	Fortnightly 240-litre wheeled bin, fortnightly crate for glass
Horowhenua District	81 kg	Weekly crate
Auckland Council	84 kg	Fortnightly 240-litre comingled wheelie bins or 140-litre wheelie bin with separate paper collection
Waimakariri District Council	85 kg	Fortnightly 240-litre wheeled bin, comingled
Christchurch	109 kg	Fortnightly 240-litre wheeled bin

While data on kerbside recycling collections is readily available, accurate and reliable data relating to the total quantity of diverted materials, which includes commercial recycling, is not available for most districts. Currently, Matamata Piako is recording lower kerbside recycling volumes per capita compared to other urban areas. A lower recycling rate is not straightforwardly a good or bad outcome, it could reflect lower overall waste generation across the district, meaning there is simply less material available to be recycled. However, it may indicate that a greater proportion of recyclable materials are being disposed of as refuse rather than diverted through recycling streams, or that the coverage limitations of the council kerbside service (which reaches approximately 59% of the district's population) are constraining the total volumes captured.

6.0 Review of the 2021 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Council has carried out a review of their last WMMP as part of the WMA requirement to review WMMPs at least every six years. Council's current WMMP was adopted in June 2021, which followed their Waste Assessment that was received in February 2021. To fulfil the requirement of the WMA, this review and Waste Assessment need to be received as complete by February 2027.

This WMMP review will discuss present the key issues, vision, goals, targets, and actions of the 2021 WMMP and evaluate their effectiveness. It will consider their relevance to the Government's Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy (Strategy) published in March 2025.⁷⁰ As per the WMMP guide, Council can determine whether to confirm their commitment to the current overarching vision and associated goals, or whether to make changes.⁷¹ It is important to note that MPDC should not be limited by the new Strategy, so long as it ensures that it does not contradict the Strategy's five outcomes:

1. Reduction of waste disposal per person
2. Increasing reuse and recycling of materials and products
3. Minimising emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter
4. Ensuring resource recovery and disposal facilities are managed to minimise their environmental impacts
5. Limiting the environmental harm caused by contaminated sites including legacy sites.

6.1 Key Issues

MPDC's WMMP pulls through **key issues** identified in the 2020 Waste Assessment to be addressed by the WMMP:

1. A significant proportion of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste present across all kerbside rubbish collection systems.
2. There is a significantly higher proportion of material that should not be going to landfill in rubbish from households with private wheelie bin collections (particularly those with large bins), including organic waste and glass bottles and jars.
3. Many households use a wheelie bin service for rubbish rather than use the Council-provided bagged service and send far more material to landfill that could have been recycled, recovered and repurposed.
4. There is a lack of facilities to recycle or otherwise divert a range of materials other than household recyclables, garden waste, scrap metal and waste for disposal.
5. Licensing provisions in the Council waste bylaw are not yet implemented, so there is little data available on private operator activities and non-Council waste streams in general.

⁷⁰ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/new-zealand-waste-strategy-v2.pdf>

⁷¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Publications/Files/wmmp-guide.pdf>

6. While there are services to manage household hazardous waste, there are no other services.
7. Community engagement, understanding and awareness of waste issues could be improved.
8. More recyclables could be diverted from both domestic and commercial properties.
9. There are no permanent services to recover materials including bulky items, E-waste, rural waste (silage wrap and containers) and there is room for improvement, including collaboration.
10. Industrial and commercial waste generally presents scope for increased diversion, with paper/card the main material type currently diverted.

6.2 Vision

MPDC's WMMP hosts the overarching te whakakitenga, or **vision**, of para kore, or zero waste, by 2038. The WMMP centres para kore alongside ōhanga āmiomio, the circular economy. While this vision is aligned with the previous Waste Strategy, the current strategy does not centre zero waste or the circular economy like its predecessor.

6.3 Goals

This vision is supported by two **goals**, G1 and G2 as shown in Table 6-1 Goals, and the eleven corresponding objectives.

Table 6-1 Goals

Goal	Objectives
G1: A community that considers, and where appropriate implements, new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling wastes minimising waste sent to landfill	• Provide sustainable services that are cost-effective to the community as a whole. • View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products are diverted from landfill. • Prioritise waste reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling initiatives that align with other council objectives. • Promote, encourage, and emphasise reduction, reuse and recycling.

Goal	Objectives
	- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community of make best use of existing services and any potential new services. - Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective. - Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled. - Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations. - Consider the Circular Economy in making any decisions.
G2: Minimise environmental harm and protect public health	- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices. - Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

6.4 Targets

Table 6-2 Progress on Targets show the three **targets**, the corresponding measures, and the progress made. These targets cover some objectives of the goals outlined above.

Table 6-2 Progress on Targets

Ref	Target	Measure	Progress Update
1	Decrease the volume of kerbside household rubbish to landfill	Reduction of 1% per person per year (from previous year)	Given recent service changes like bags to bins and introduction of kerbside food scraps bins, kerbside rubbish is very likely to have decreased over time. Council is not consistently keeping track of this target.
2	Increase the recovery of organic materials (food and garden waste) by assessing the most appropriate and cost effective services to recover these resources and introduce services to achieve this	A 30% decrease in organic waste going to landfill by 2025	From the recent introduction of kerbside food scraps bins an increase in recovery is expected. However, Council notes difficulty in obtaining data for garden waste when it is managed privately. Council is not consistently keeping track of this target.
3	Work collaboratively within our community developing relationships to increase the range of, and options for, an increased range of products and materials, particularly in the rural sector	A minimum of five new waste minimisation services are implemented before 2025 (i.e. e-waste, batteries etc.)	MPDC now collect e-waste and batteries, and fund Sustainable Matamata to collect tetra-pak. LPG & fire extinguisher recycling, Lead-acid battery recycling and Tyre recycling. This target has been achieved.

Ref	Target	Measure	Progress Update
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6.5 Action Areas

The WMMP outlines five key **action areas** to achieve the vision, the key actions that pertain to them, and what the actions will address specifically, as presented in Table 6-3 Action Areas.

Table 6-3 Action Areas

Action Area	Key Actions	Issue Addressed and What it Will Do
Leadership and management	Engage with central government, and work more closely with the community	Various issues such as extended producer responsibility cannot be addressed at a council level; Council can engage with central government. Working more closely with our community will ensure understanding and support for Council's plans.
Collections	Maintain kerbside rubbish and recycling, investigate a kerbside food waste collection, encourage garden waste diversion	Diverting household food waste and garden waste from landfill is the single biggest opportunity to increase diversion rates.
Infrastructure	Retro-fit our Refuse Transfer Stations to become resource recovery parks, and investigate other waste minimisation services that	Maintains existing diversion, and potentially provide services for sectors that are currently not well served. i.e. the rural sector

Action Area	Key Actions	Issue Addressed and What it Will Do
	could operate from these sites	
Education, engagement, and communication	Increase community engagement and involvement. Carry out one-off campaigns where necessary such as for a new service, or significant service changes	Ensure community is engaged and understands service decisions; and are able to make the most of existing and any new or altered services
Data, regulation, and reporting	Implement the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2016, and consider introducing maximum limits for certain materials in household kerbside rubbish collection. Collect data externally through licensing (enabled by the bylaw) and regular surveys. Improve recording and analysis of internal data to enable performance monitoring over time	This will help council set standards and gather data so we can plan and manage waste better. Consistent, high-quality data will help us track and report on progress and will support effective decision making.

6.6 Actions

There are 22 **actions** allocated to the five key action areas which meet objectives set out by goals G1 and G2. The WMMP describes the action plan as a living document that is regularly updated with progress. Table 6-4 Progress on Actions presents the 22 actions and progress updates provided by MPDC staff.⁷²

Table 6-4 Progress on Actions

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
Te Hautūtanga me te Whakahaeretanga - Leadership and Management			
1	Advocate to central government for more extended producer responsibility; addressing problem waste streams at the source for difficult waste streams such as e-waste, packaging and rural waste.	Existing, ongoing	MPDC have supported WasteMINZ initiatives, participated in central government consultations, and advocated for improved management of beverage containers, e-waste and farm plastics, as well as packaging. We will continue to do so.

⁷² The full table of actions as per the 2021 WMMP can be found in A.5.0.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
2	Work closely with mana whenua, community groups, and the private sector to progress opportunities for increased waste diversion.	Existing, ongoing	MPDC have an ongoing partnership with Para Kore and work closely with Transition/Sustainable Matamata. • Sustainable Matamata (SM) have been providing composting workshops at Firth Tower since 2022. On average 60x people attended each workshop run 3x per annum. • developed a collection system in Matamata at all cafes for Tetra Pak which is taken for recycling. • We also fund the Sustainability Day annually.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			Have recently funded Ngati Hua Mahi Trust nurse to trial a shift from plastic plant pots to degradable plant pots.
3	We will adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content, where possible, to avoid emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and to support the circular economy.	New, ongoing	Future Post recycled plastic has been used at Waihou and Morrinsville RTSS.
Ngā Kohikohinga - Collections			
4	Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers	Existing, 2021-23	MPDC moved kerbside recycling collections from bags to crates and bins in September 2023, this also involved transitioning from user pays to targeted rates for recycling.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			MPDC also funded the waste collection contractor to audit recycling bins for contamination.
5	Continue to deliver and optimise household waste collection services to urban rate payers	Existing, 2021-23	MPDC moved kerbside rubbish collections from bags to bins in September 2023, this also involved transitioning from user pays to targeted rates for rubbish and recycling. Collection days were changed to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to avoid confusion to residents by public holiday-related service disruptions. Ended shared services contract with Thames-

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			Coromandel and Hauraki district councils and entered an individual contract.
6	Review waste collection services to rural communities, private roads and the business sector	New, 2021-22	Completed a review following consultation. Opted out of CBD and business collections. Expanded collections to households in rural residential areas.
7	Implement new rubbish and recycling services when new contract commences and support this with a comprehensive education and information campaign before and after implementation	New and expanded services, 2023-onwards	From MfE funding, MPDC undertook rollout workshops in mornings and evenings in each township and produced a new calendar to communicate changes. MPDC have ongoing communication with

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			communities through messaging, calendar updates, and kerbside leaflets. Funded new lids for kerbside recycling bins to match the new refuse bins stating what items should not be put in bins including batteries and e-waste to reduce the risks of fire. Provided stickers for existing recycling bins due to the change to standard materials by central government
8	Investigate the introduction of food waste collections services, kerbside collections vs services at Refuse Transfer Stations including the cost	New, 2022-23	Investigations undertaken and a kerbside food waste collection service was introduced in preference to a refuse transfer station service.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
9	Undertake a review of the existing waste team resources and capability to ensure there are adequate resources to both implement the new services and implement this plan	New, 2022-23	Two new team members have been employed by MPDC Kaimai Valley Services (KVS). These staff now manage the MPDC refuse transfer stations.
Te Hanganga Pū - Infrastructure			
10	Prepare a plan for a new 'fit for purpose' Community Resource Recovery Centre that provides for an expanded range of waste recovery services	New, 2021-23	A concept plan was developed that needs to be reviewed based on Council decisions. In the interim MPDC started the collection of e-waste and batteries at three RTS sites since December 2023 recovering 4060 items weighing 35.19 tonnes, and 1074kg of batteries.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
11	Continue to enhance our Refuse Transfer Stations by upgrading each site	Existing, ongoing	Waihou RTS has been upgraded & Morrinsville upgrade is currently being scoped for August 2026, <i>Matamata RTS has undergone improvements to traffic flow, and the kiosk has been renovated</i>
12	Develop a Business Plan to develop a 'green field' community resource recovery park to act as a hub for the District that provides indicative CAPEX and OPEX costs	New, 2020-21	Eunomia have prepared a Future of RTS sites – which will go to Council April 2026.
13	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery including with social enterprise to extract value from waste and to provide employment	New, ongoing	MPDC are working with Sustainable Matamata and Ngati Hua Mahi Trust. Participating in the Cross Regional Waste and Infrastructure Plan with WRC and EBOP.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			Funded an op shop tour in partnership with Waipa District Council.
			Funded the Mens Shed in Matamata to build the battery sheds for three RTS sites.
Ngā tūhononga, ngā whakawhitiwhitinga, ngā whakaakoranga ki te hapori - Community Engagement, Communication and Education			
14	Develop and deliver a comprehensive waste minimisation programme promoting the waste hierarchy and the circular economy	Existing, ongoing	Limited to advertising changes to materials collection and changes to services. We provide an annual calendar and kerbside collection leaflets.
15	Work collaboratively with central government, local government organisations and other key stakeholders to	Existing, ongoing	Supported AgRecovery and held a collection day at the

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
	undertake research and actions to advance solutions to waste issues such as packaging, rural waste, e-waste and advocate for increased or mandatory producer responsibility for problematic waste		Matamata RTS 2021 in partnership with 3R. Regularly contribute to the Love Food Hate Waste project led by WasteMINZ.
16	Support Iwi and marae to promote and undertake waste minimisation by the provision of (but not limited to) support for the Para Kore programme	Existing, ongoing	Five new rōpū signed up for Para Kore, held five wananga, one presentation, and four hui related to waste minimisation.
17	Support education programmes that raise awareness and promote waste minimisation including targeted programmes	Existing, ongoing	MPDC continue to support: • EnviroSchools; have increased participating schools from 11 to 13 over this period • Zero Waste Education annually ZWE provide 70-90 classes in 12 schools reaching up to 1653 students

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			• Ikura projects have been provided to schools by Waste-Ed and Para Kore covering reusable nappies, and menstrual products reaching over 500x participants collectively • 31 schools are funded for Paper4Trees who have recovered 36 tonnes of fibre annually and planted 180 trees
18	Introduce a contestable community grant.	New, 2021-onwards	A contestable fund was undertaken in 2022 and three recipients were funded. Two Carbon Cycle composting systems were provided to Ngati Tumutumu

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			and Te Wharekura o Te Rau Aroha.
			Transition Matamata were funded to run composting workshops and these are now funded annually.
Ngā raraunga, ngā waeŭre, me ngā pŭrongo - Data, Regulation and Reporting			
19	Collect and manage data in accordance with the National Waste Data Framework	Existing, ongoing	Ongoing project with regional TAs. This is yet to be implemented and we are considering alternatives.
20	Review and implement MPDC Solid Waste By Law that includes Waste Operator Licensing	Existing, ongoing	Bylaw has been updated.
21	Actively enforce control and reduce Littering and illegal dumping	Existing, ongoing	No update from the waste team. This is expected to be

Ref.	Description	New/Existing/Timeframes	Progress Update
			handled by a compliance team within Council.
22	New Developments and Multi-Development Units (MUDs)	Existing, ongoing	No action as MPDC has very few MUDs. Research was completed based on Wellington data however this requirement would need to be included in consents.

6.7 Commentary

Table 6-5 Commentary

2021 WMMP	Commentary
Vision	The vision of zero waste by 2038 is aspirational and can cause confusion as it may appear to some as a measurable outcome rather than a strategic approach. The vision's use of "para kore" and "circular economy" are reflective of the previous Strategy, however they do not contradict the current Strategy, so can remain if MPDC choose.
Goals	Goal one (G1) is relatively complex and thorough while goal two (G2) is more concise. Both goals are reflective of the previous Strategy and do not contradict the current Strategy.
Objectives	G1 has many (nine) corresponding objectives. These objectives are reflective of the previous Strategy but do not contradict the current Strategy. Some objectives of G1 could relate to the first and second outcomes of the Strategy. G2 has less (two) corresponding objectives. The first objective prioritises Māori practices and knowledge, which is not a requirement of the Strategy but is integral for Council to meet te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. The second objective could meet the third, fourth, and fifth outcomes of the Strategy depending on how "all waste management options" is interpreted.
Targets	Target 1 meets the first outcome and targets 2 and 3 both meet the second outcome of the Strategy. All targets support the WMMP's vision of zero waste. The measures are simple and should be easy for Council staff to keep track of.
Action Areas	The action areas are clear and encompass aspects of waste that Council can influence. There is some crossover between the areas "Leadership and management" and "Education, engagement, and communication".

2021 WMMP	Commentary
Actions	Significant progress was made on the 22 actions, with particular effort on 20 actions. Action 21 was not progressed (litter and illegal dumping enforcement), as responsibility sits outside of the waste team. The second action that was not progressed is for MUDs, which are uncommon in the district, although preliminary investigation was undertaken. Actions 3 (circular economy procurement approach) and 14 (comprehensive waste minimisation programme) have somewhat limited progress. One effort to meet action 3 was the procurement of FuturePost plastic at RTSs and efforts to meet action 14 are limited to Council services only, rather than comprehensive waste minimisation information. Other than the four actions mentioned above, the remainder were progressed sufficiently. Five actions were completed (6, 7, 8, 9, 20), nine were completed but are ongoing by nature (1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18), and the remaining four actions appear to be on track (10,11,12, 19). The council has demonstrated its ability to achieve actions that it set out in the 2021 WMMP. MPDC met actions involving working with others across mana whenua, community groups, the waste sector, local and central governments, and introduced a contestable grant. They have focused on consistency and ease for residents through improving kerbside waste services, simplifying collection days and bin colours, and providing clear messaging. MPDC has also undertaken reviews and research across CBD, business, and rural services, as well as the RTSs. The actions address most of the key issues, where household diversion has likely increased and use of private services have likely decreased with the transition from bags to bins, introduction of food scraps collections, and community education and engagement. Issues around lack of facilities and limited waste stream capture are likely to be improved with the upcoming RTS improvements. Two key

2021 WMMP	Commentary
	issues that did not appear to be addressed in the actions were 6 (hazardous waste) and 10 (industrial and commercial waste).

As evidenced by Table 6-5 Commentary, much of the 2021 WMMP is aligned with the current Strategy, even while it is more relevant to the previous version. The table also shows the considerable effort that Council has made to progress the 22 actions of the 2021 WMMP. Therefore, it is recommended that Council adopt a new WMMP to reflect their progress and consider the relevance of existing visions, goals, objectives, and targets and set out new actions that meet all key issue areas.

7.0 Future Demand and Gap Analysis

7.1 Future Demand

There are a wide range of factors that are likely to affect future demand for waste minimisation and management. The extent to which these influence demand could vary over time and in different localities. This means that predicting future demand has inherent uncertainties. Key factors are likely to include the following:

- Overall population growth
- Economic activity
- Changes in lifestyle and consumption
- Changes in waste management approaches

The last couple of years have also demonstrated how unpredictable factors can influence demand and provision of services; with COVID-19 pandemic management making normal waste services difficult to deliver at times due to lock-downs and staffing shortages, and disaster-related wastes requiring management often with very short notice.

7.1.1 Population

In March 2026 MPDC adopted a high growth scenario for population projections, show in Table 7-1 Population Projections to 2073.

Table 7-1 Population Projections to 2073

Projection	2025	2033	2043	2053	2063	2073	Change 2025 – 2073:
Population	39,574	42,196	45,338	48,689	52,104	55,912	16,338
Growth Rate	*	6.6%	7.4%	7.4%	7.0%	7.3%	41.3%

Growth rate is discussed in further detail in section 2.0. As the population grows, so too will the amount of waste requiring management, both from everyday consumption and from the construction and demolition activity needed to accommodate more people. This points to the need for local facilities that can successfully divert this waste from landfill and the need to encourage residents and construction operators to reduce waste at source.

7.1.2 Economic Activity

The district's GDP growth (1.1% in 2025) signals increasing production and consumption, which is directly correlated with higher waste volumes. Growth in agriculture (5.8%) and its significant share of employment (13.7%) will likely drive increased demand for specialised waste services, including organics processing, farm waste recovery and rural collection solutions.

In addition, ongoing economic growth will support further residential and commercial development, placing additional pressure on kerbside collection systems, transfer stations, and processing infrastructure.

Overall, upward economic trends point to a need for expanded capacity, improved diversion systems, and investment in infrastructure to manage increasing and evolving waste streams across the district.

7.1.3 Changes in Lifestyle and Consumption

Consumption habits affect waste and recyclables generation rates. For example, there has been a national trend in the decline in newsprint production since 2005, as a result of increasing online news consumption⁷³. Anecdotally, this has been accompanied by an increase in the use of printed direct mail ('junk mail') both in real terms and as a proportion of the overall paper/cardboard waste stream. This presents challenges for paper/cardboard recycling as this paper is a less desirable recycling commodity.

Retail purchasing habits are also changing. Increasingly, retail transactions are occurring online. According to NZ Post's 2024 Full Download Report, in New Zealand shoppers spent over \$6.09 billion online in 2024, a 5% increase on 2023, even as overall retail spending fell 1.7% amid tough economic conditions⁷⁴. This report identified that growth was driven largely by shoppers transacting more frequently rather than spending more per purchase, there were more than 64.1 million online transactions in 2024, up 13% on 2023.⁷⁵ This is likely to result in more consumption of products and packaging which will increase waste quantities and put pressure on waste destinations, especially with those products and packaging streams that are more difficult to capture and manage appropriately.

Growing access to international retail websites (e.g. Ali Express, Amazon etc) also means that there is an expanding range of products that can be ordered quickly, easily and often for a very low price, with the associated required packaging. This easier access to retail products and cheaper prices means the volume of purchases being made is increasing and may also be creating a more disposable approach to the items being bought. It's likely that these lower purchase prices would translate to lower quality products with a shorter lifespan and due to being bought online, returning for repair is unlikely.

The ongoing growth in electronic devices will ensure that e-waste continues to be a growing waste stream, with (for example) data showing that households now tend to access the internet through multiple devices within the home and out, rather than a single home computer⁷⁶. Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly common⁷⁶, bringing specific end-of-life management issues for large batteries (noting that there is a product stewardship scheme proposed for these items). Batteries contained within household electronics and other domestic items also pose a significant concern, given the limited availability of responsible recycling and disposal pathways and the lack of consumer education around proper disposal practices. The increasing uptake of vapes in New Zealand further compounds this issue, as these devices present similar end-of-life challenges. Related issues are being faced with textile items that are increasingly ending up in landfill.

The ongoing restrictions and outright bans of various plastic packaging types, along with a general public perception that plastic packaging is to be avoided⁷⁷, is likely to have contributed to the growing variety of 'compostable' packaging types available in New Zealand⁷⁸. These packaging types can vary significantly from a simple paper-based moulded container, which can easily be recycled or composted, to clear rigid packaging that looks and behaves in a similar way to petrochemical-based plastics. New Zealand doesn't currently have any clear standards or defined terminology around 'compostable' packaging, and there is a risk that adding these packaging types to composting

⁷³ http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=10833117

⁷⁴ [Record transaction levels drive 2024's online growth | NZ Post Business IQ](#)

⁷⁵ Data from www.stats.govt.nz 'Household Use of Information and Communication Technology' accessed September 2018

⁷⁶ [Electric vehicle imports continue to climb | Stats NZ](#)

⁷⁷ [Motivation for rethinking plastics | Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor \(pmcsa.ac.nz\)](#)

⁷⁸ [Use-case-consultation-paper-02.06.2021.pdf \(packagingforum.org.nz\)](#)

processes will result in a lower quality end product⁷⁹ - for example, there is growing concern globally about the presence of persistent chemicals like PFAS in compostable packaging⁸⁰.

7.1.4 Changes in Waste Management Approaches

There are a range of drivers that mean methods and priorities for waste management are likely to continue to evolve, with an increasing emphasis on diversion of waste from landfill and recovery of material value. These drivers include:

- Increased cost of landfill - landfill costs have risen in the past due to higher environmental standards under the RMA, introduction of the Waste Disposal Levy (currently \$65 per tonne for Class 1 disposal facilities) and the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme. The current price for carbon credits, and ongoing increases in the landfill levy, will make disposal prices a more significant consideration in waste management practices.
- Infrastructure investment - an increased landfill levy and other funding sources should drive increased investment in waste infrastructure.
- Aging refuse transfer stations. Changing attitudes in moving away from using transfer stations to manage waste and looking at recovering value and resources from waste will require updated infrastructure.
- Waste industry capabilities - as the nature of the waste sector continues to evolve, the waste industry is changing to reflect a greater emphasis on recovery and is developing models and ways of working that will help enable effective waste minimisation in cost-effective ways. The impending closure of Tirohia landfill will affect the effectiveness of current waste management services.
- Local and national policy/legislative drivers, including actions and targets in the WMMP, bylaws, and licensing; and the possible requirement for construction site waste management plans through the Building Act.
- Recycling and recovered materials markets - recovery of materials from the waste stream for recycling and reuse is heavily dependent on the recovered materials having an economic value. This particularly holds true for recovery of materials by the private sector. Markets for recycled commodities are influenced by prevailing economic conditions, by commodity prices for the equivalent virgin materials, and by market controls in key destinations such as China. The risk is linked to the wider global economy through international markets, as the impact of the China National Sword policies demonstrated.

7.1.5 Summary of Demand Factors

The factors shaping future demand for waste minimisation and management services in the district are varied and, in some cases, difficult to predict with certainty. Taken together, however, they point clearly toward growing pressure on existing infrastructure and an increasing need for investment in diversion, recovery, and processing capacity.

Population growth is the most direct driver of increased waste volumes. This growth will generate greater volumes of household waste and recyclables and will also drive the construction and demolition activity

⁷⁹ [compostables-packaging-position-statement.pdf \(environment.govt.nz\)](#)

⁸⁰ [Understanding PFAS in food packaging - The Packaging Forum](#)

needed to accommodate new residents, adding further demand for appropriate waste management solutions. Economic growth compounds this pressure. Positive GDP performance, expansion in agriculture, and ongoing residential and commercial development will increase both the volume and diversity of waste streams requiring management. This points to a need for expanded infrastructure capacity and more sophisticated diversion systems across the district.

Changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns are also reshaping the composition of the waste stream in ways that present both challenges and opportunities. The rise of online retail is increasing volumes of packaging and fast consumer goods that will quickly end up in landfills. Growth in electronic devices and the uptake of electric vehicles is driving an expanding e-waste stream, including battery disposal, which currently lacks adequate recovery pathways.

Finally, the broader waste management landscape is evolving in ways that will require the district to adapt its approach. Rising landfill costs are making diversion increasingly economically attractive. At the same time, the aging condition of existing transfer station infrastructure, the impending closure of Tirohia landfill, and shifting national policy and legislative requirements all signal that the status quo is not sustainable. Investment in updated, fit-for-purpose facilities and services will be essential to meet both current and future needs effectively.

7.2 Future Demand – Gap Analysis

The aim of waste planning at a territorial authority level is to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation. The following significant gaps or key issues have been identified:

7.2.1 Waste Infrastructure

Waste infrastructure represents one of the most pressing gaps in the Matamata-Piako district's current waste management system. The three Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) at Matamata, Morrinsville, and Te Aroha are aging and not fit for future purpose. Key areas for improvement include insufficient covered areas for sorting and storing recovered materials, inadequate separation of waste streams, and opportunities to improve health and safety outcomes. Without investment in these facilities, the district's ability to improve diversion will remain constrained.

Compounding this is the impending closure of the Tirohia landfill, which will remove the district's primary residual waste disposal pathway and is expected to increase transport distances and disposal costs. Together, the aging RTS network and the Tirohia closure create a clear and urgent case for infrastructure investment particularly a long-term RTS network strategy.

7.2.2 Organic Waste

As discussed earlier in section 5.2, a large proportion of all waste collected in the Councils' household kerbside rubbish collection is compostable; and the majority of that is food waste. There are also large amounts of garden waste going to landfill disposal, much of this also collected through household kerbside rubbish collections. Other organic wastes going to landfill could also be recovered, such as clean plasterboard, some timber, and organic processing/by-product wastes.

Organic waste going to landfill breaks down anaerobically (without oxygen), creating methane, a gas that contributes to emissions. Much of this organic material could be processed into a soil amendment product such as compost or liquid digestate, which may provide environmental benefits through displacement of other inputs.

A full understanding of the available organic wastes in the district and region, and the appropriate processing options for these waste materials, is an essential step in understanding the scope of the issue and the possible solutions.

7.2.3 Leadership and Collaboration

Previous regional projects have highlighted the lack of structures and arrangements to progress collaboration projects. Various barriers are in place that make this difficult to improve, such as variable contract arrangements and expiry dates across the Waikato region and variable strategic approaches to waste as well as staff capacity issues.

As is commonly found nationally, collaborative projects tend to focus on the lower levels of the waste hierarchy, particularly recycling and reprocessing. The impact of (and therefore funding for) actions higher up the hierarchy such as prevention, reduction, and reuse initiatives is harder to define and measure/monitor.

Current work on the cross regional waste strategy within the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions is looking to address these issues. Focusing on aligning with the waste hierarchy may address some of these issues, while continued collaborative work will need to remain a focus.

7.2.4 Construction Waste

The local waste bylaw includes provisions requiring a Site Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (SWMMP) for construction activities, which is intended to drive better planning and reporting around C&D waste generation and diversion. However, to date the council has not received consistent data from this mechanism, meaning there is currently no reliable picture of how much C&D waste is being generated across the district, where it is going, or what proportion is being recovered versus sent to landfill. This is a meaningful data gap that limits the council's ability to identify opportunities, set targets, or measure progress in this waste stream.

This gap is particularly significant given the growth the Matamata-Piako district is experiencing. Residential development, infrastructure investment, and commercial construction activity are all increasing, and with that comes a corresponding rise in C&D waste volumes. Without better data collection and enforcement of existing bylaw provisions, the council risks missing a substantial and growing diversion opportunity. Improving SWMMP compliance and reporting, alongside investment in C&D-specific infrastructure at RTS sites such as dedicated drop-off bays and on-site sorting capacity, would provide a much stronger foundation for managing this waste stream as the district continues to grow.

7.2.5 Data Monitoring

There are a number of areas where data collection would enable better management and minimisation of waste, such as:

- Overall waste to Class 1 landfill from the district
- Quantities of kerbside waste collected by private operators – both rubbish and diverted materials
- Management and quantities of farm waste, and rural waste more generally
- Quantities and types of waste going to Class 2-5 fills
- Construction waste to landfill

While there are current provisions in the Solid Waste Bylaw, enforcement and collection of this data is currently lacking.

7.2.6 Waste Streams

Composition data discussed earlier in sections **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.** showed that there is significant scope to divert more from the domestic residual waste stream and also scope to divert from commercial waste streams (although there is less certainty around quantities).

Priority waste streams that could be targeted include:

- Kerbside recyclables from domestic and commercial properties
- Organic waste, particularly food waste from domestic properties
- Garden waste from domestic and commercial properties
- Construction and demolition waste
- E-waste
- Textiles
- Industrial and commercial waste.

Infrastructure to manage increased quantities of materials and new waste streams will be required.

7.2.6.1 E-waste

Electronic waste (e-waste) is a growing and problematic waste stream. Items such as televisions, computers, small appliances, and batteries that contain hazardous materials make landfill disposal inappropriate, yet the district currently has limited dedicated infrastructure to manage them safely. Collection at existing RTS sites is inconsistent, and without purpose-designed drop-off and storage facilities, e-waste is likely finding its way into general residual waste or being dumped illegally.

Without a national product stewardship scheme, e-waste treatment and collection systems will continue to be somewhat precarious. Currently, companies tend to cherry-pick the more valuable items, such as computers and mobile phones. As a result, the more difficult or expensive items to treat, such as CRT TVs and domestic batteries, are often still sent to landfill.

7.2.6.2 Textiles

Textiles are a material stream that has historically had a low profile nationally. The recent focus on carbon reduction through waste management has increased this profile, as textiles can contribute significantly to carbon impact assessments. Research released by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment also shows the number of plastics that are entering the country through textiles⁸¹. Textiles are a growing waste stream to Class 1 landfill. Various national programmes exist to divert some textiles from landfill, but these are capturing small quantities and are unlikely to have the ability to cope with large quantities of varying quality.

7.2.6.3 Medical Waste

Medical waste can be an issue at home and in medical facilities. Generally, it is comprised of:

- Hazardous waste (which can be sharps, such as needles, or non-sharps such as infectious waste or radioactive);
- Controlled waste (such as potentially infectious bodily fluids); and
- Non-hazardous waste (which is general waste or recyclables).

⁸¹ [plastics-in-complex-finished-products-and-packaging-eunomia-whirika.pdf](#)

At home, non-hazardous waste can generally be managed through usual general refuse and recycling services (although there are some exceptions due either the size of the item, or the sheer quantity). However, the management of hazardous and controlled wastes at home can be difficult, and with the increasing prevalence of in-home medical care, this is becoming a more significant problem.

Anecdotally, a significant proportion of in-home medical waste is disposed of through general waste and recycling systems⁸². This could result in significant health and safety concerns for collection and processing staff.

Ideally, in-home medical care would include provision for appropriate handling and disposal of medical wastes. However, for various reasons such as lack of awareness and cost, this is not always the case.

For healthcare in medical facilities, The Pharmacy Practice Handbook states:⁸³

4.1.16 Disposal of Unused, Returned or Expired Medicines

Members of the public should be encouraged to return unused and expired medicines to their local pharmacy for disposal. Medicines, and devices such as diabetic needles and syringes, should not be disposed of as part of normal household refuse because of the potential for misuse and because municipal waste disposal in landfills is not the disposal method of choice for many pharmaceutical types. Handling and disposal should comply with the guidelines in NZ Standard 4304:2002 – Management of Healthcare Waste.

While Council is not responsible for the provision of medical waste management services for either home-based care or medical facilities, it would be beneficial for Council to work proactively with the health service and other medical service providers to ensure that appropriate services are being offered and put in place.

7.2.6.4 Reuse

There is no provision for the recovery of reusable items in the district.

In other areas, such as Auckland, this material is recovered both through a charged collection service, and by establishing a network of community resource recovery centres (CRRCs).

7.2.6.5 Disaster Waste

Disaster waste is an increasingly large issue, as changing weather patterns and more frequent severe weather events such as flooding and slips, along with other natural disasters (such as earthquakes).

7.2.6.6 Farm waste

Nationally rural wastes are estimated to account for up to 12% of waste disposed of.⁸⁴ There is very little information available regarding rural wastes. Rural wastes are most commonly managed on farm with material stockpiled, burned, and/or buried. There are very few controls over waste disposal on farm sites,

⁸² Of 7,145 patients cared for at home by Capital & Coast DHB staff in 2016, only 200 had a specific medical waste collection service in place. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/93705822/needles-sanitary-waste-and-pharmaceuticals-putting-waste-workers-at-risk>

⁸³ <https://nzpharmacy.wordpress.com/2009/06/09/disposal-of-unwanted-medicines/>

⁸⁴Ministry for the Environment. 2019. *Reducing waste: a more effective landfill levy – consultation document*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.

and much of the material which is currently managed on farm in less desirable ways could be recycled, recovered, or properly disposed of.

The key issue is that current management methods are essentially no-cost and relatively convenient for farmers. Services that collect non-natural materials for recovery or proper disposal are likely to be costly due to the distances involved and remoteness from processing and consolidation points.

The Rural Recycling Scheme is currently in the process of having regulations drafted and these are expected to be completed in 2026⁸⁵.

⁸⁵ <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/product-stewardship/priority-product-stewardship/#six-priority-products-for-product-stewardship>

8.0 Statement of Options

This section sets out the range of options available to the Councils to address the key issues that have been identified in this Waste Assessment. Options presented in this section would need to be fully researched, and the cost implications understood before being implemented through WMMP action plans and LTP/Annual Plan.

8.1 Options Categorised by Work Area

These sections present the high-level options to address the key issues described above, broken down into the categories of regulation, measuring/monitoring, education/engagement, collections/services, infrastructure, and leadership/management. Options are presented this way as the role of TAs is likely to be fairly consistent within each of these categories and one option may address a number of key issues; also this enables the options to show a progression of options in one category with (for example) an increasing level of circular economy alignment.

The Council's roles could be:

Strategic: Simply identify the need at a strategic level, with other sectors able to respond to the need as they wish

Facilitation/Leadership: Take a facilitation and leadership role in addressing the need, such as by creating working groups focusing on a particular material e.g. construction waste

Regulator: Use regulatory tools available to councils to create an environment that encourages solutions, such as requiring construction site waste management plans, banning certain materials from landfill, etc.

Funder: Influence the way gaps addressed by others by making funding available for specific initiatives that address the need in some way

Provider: Take direct action by providing services or facilities that address the need.

For each option, we have identified the key issue being addressed, the extent to which we expect the issue to be addressed or the future demand to be met, and what Councils' role may be. An example of how this links to the key issues is below:

Reference number: To take forward to WMMPs, when more detailed actions are set out and options are narrowed down in preference For example: Regulation 1 = R1	High level description of an option that addresses a key issue For example: Adopt consistent solid waste bylaws and implement provisions	Detail of how this option addresses a key issue For example: Bylaws can restrict the use of 240L wheeled bins for private rubbish collections	Statement of how this option would address current and/or future demand For example: Gives access to better data, and encourages/enables better management of some waste streams	Councils' role , as per the list shown above, with additional detail where applicable For example, when setting local bylaws, Council is the Regulator
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Table 8-1 Regulation

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
R1	Implement the provisions in the local waste bylaw in full - as part of this introduce operator licensing and licensing fees. Act on conditions requiring that operators provide ongoing reporting on quantities and types of waste.	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill. Poor understanding of rural waste streams,	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues.	Regulator

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
		construction and demolition waste. Increase monitoring and reporting required by central government.		
R2	Introduce a new provision in the bylaw to ban the use of 240L residual waste bins from private operators	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill.	Preventing the use of 240L wheeled bins for household rubbish collections will improve waste diversion	Regulator
R3	Require construction SWMMP and related data reporting as per the provisions in the solid waste bylaw. Require event WMMP and related data reporting as per the provisions in the solid waste bylaw	Poor understanding of construction and demolition waste. Poor understanding and control of event related waste.	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues.	Regulator
R4	Introduce regulation to ban organic waste from residual waste containers (over 5% by weight) and use licensing	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill.	Reducing the amount of organic waste going to landfill.	Regulator

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
	provisions to require private waste operators to enforce the provision			
R5	Continue to take action against illegal dumping and littering, using relevant legislation	Waste is dumped and enters the environment	Reduce the amount of waste being dumped illegally or littered	Regulator

Table 8-2 Measuring and Monitoring

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
M1	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows to better understand opportunities for waste management and minimisation	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste going through the district year-round.	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues.	Provider/funder
M3	Maintain current monitoring levels; monitoring waste at kerbside, transfer stations, and to landfill	Understanding of current Council waste streams provides some information for performance.	Maintain status quo	Provider
M4	Monitor non-council waste flows through waste operator licensing with associated data collection requirements (linked to option R1)	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste.	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues.	Provider/funder

Table 8-3 Education and Engagement

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
E1	Provide community-wide waste minimisation education and awareness raising.	Support action on many other waste issues.	Need for education/ engagement (i.e. demand) is proactively identified and addressed.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
	Including to continue to educate households on the importance of food waste collections and participation in kerbside food waste collection services.	Need for additional waste minimisation education.	Increased responsibility taken by various sectors for waste management within the community.	
		Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill.	Better understanding across the board of non-household waste management and opportunities to move up the hierarchy.	
E2	Monitor and survey to identify areas that are not performing as well (e.g. higher contamination, lower recycling, problematic waste streams) and undertake targeted education campaigns	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken in areas where particular issues have been identified, improving the community's understanding of the issues and the	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
		opportunities to improve waste management and minimisation		
E3	Work in partnership with private waste companies to educate wheeled bin users about preferred behaviour - e.g. encouraging organic collections	Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill. Support action on many other waste issues.	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities.	Facilitator, Funder.
E4	Encourage all householders to make use of existing services for garden waste such as home composting, delivery to a drop-off facility, or private collections	Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill.	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
E6	Undertake targeted communication campaigns as required to support service changes e.g. new/altered services, regulatory changes, legislative changes	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken to ensure services are used appropriately. Contamination and usage levels addressed	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
E7	Develop community-based behaviour change interventions, identifying appropriate community groups and working with them to develop and deliver behaviour change campaigns. Including, but not limited to, the Para Kora programme.	Education and engagement activities are undertaken with a consistent behaviour change approach, and are delivered where possible through community groups	Education and engagement is extended into behaviour change campaigns, delivered within the communities	Facilitator, Funder.

Table 8-4 Waste Services

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
S1	Continue to provide current Council household collection services as present. Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers.	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
S2	Provide a user-pays bookable collection service for reusable items and e-waste for resale, repair, and/or safe disposal	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
S3	Provide/facilitate a repair café for reusable items needing repair and electronic items needing certification. Work with communities to identify and support implementation of opportunities to improve local reuse and recycling (e.g. local trading platforms, Civil share, free cycle groups, tool libraries)	More items are traded and shared within communities, reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling	Waste is reduced and additional material is diverted from landfill	Facilitator.
S4	Work with product stewardship scheme providers to proactively encourage new	More material can be diverted from landfill,	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional	Facilitator.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
	and additional diversion options for the district/ region	particularly agricultural and rural waste streams and textiles	services are available in the district/region.	
S5	Work with the commercial waste sector to identify and facilitate improvements to collection services	More material is collected for diversion outside Council's kerbside collections	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling	Facilitator.

Table 8-5 Waste Infrastructure

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
WI1	Update the current RTS by keeping all three RTS and provided minimum needed updates to each site	Aging infrastructure presenting operational risks.	Maintains current service levels and reduces immediate risks.	Provider, Funder.
WI2	Update only some of the current RTS and provided minimum needed maintenance to the other site	Aging infrastructure presenting operational risks and fit future purpose at priority sites.	Increase in infrastructure serviceability at two sites.	Provider, Funder.
WI3	Build a new RTS to consolidate the current 3 RTS in a new 'supersite'.	Aging infrastructure not fit for future purpose.	Improved resource recovery capability and operational efficiency. Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional services are available in the district/region.	Provider, Funder.
WI4	Work with community groups to identify infrastructure needs, such as workshop space (Menz Shed, community composting) or reuse centre, and consider how this could be provided or facilitated.	Limited provision for reuse, repair, and community-led waste minimisation activities.	Additional material is diverted from landfill through reuse and repair; community capability and engagement is increased.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
WI5	Provide storage space at an RTS for increased diversion. E.g. Space for storing reuse items, covered space for textile sorting or E-waste storage.	Large quantities of divertible waste going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional services are available in the district.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
WI6	Develop or procure organic waste processing, appropriate for the types/quantities of organic wastes to be processed (i.e. food waste only or mixed food and garden, etc)	Large quantities of organic waste still going to landfill.	Additional organic waste can be diverted from landfill	Provider, Funder.
WI7	Work with communities to support the establishment of community composting sites	Large quantities of organic waste still going to landfill.	Additional organic waste can be diverted from landfill	Facilitator.
WI8	Work with the commercial waste sector to identify and access opportunities to divert construction waste.	Lack of data and infrastructure to manage construction and demolition waste; significant volumes going to landfill.	Construction and demolition waste is better captured and diverted from landfill; improved data on C&D waste flows.	Facilitator, Funder.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
WI9	Work with product stewardship scheme providers to identify infrastructure needs and consider provision/facilitation locally (such as collecting batteries at the RTS)	Limited local infrastructure to support product stewardship schemes, particularly for e-waste, batteries, and farm plastics.	Additional material is diverted from landfill through product stewardship; district residents have improved access to scheme drop-off points.	Facilitator, Funder, Provider.
WI11	Prepare a plan for a new Community Resource Recovery Centre that provides for an expanded range of waste recovery services	Lack of facilities to recover a range of materials including bulky items, e-waste, textiles, and rural waste streams.	Increased material recovery across a wider range of waste streams; improved community access to recovery services.	Facilitator, Funder, Provider.
WI12	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery, including with social enterprise, to extract value from waste and to provide employment	Fragmented regional infrastructure; limited economies of scale for processing and recovery.	Improved regional resource recovery outcomes; potential for social and employment benefits through enterprise partnerships.	Facilitator, Funder.

Table 8-6 - Leadership

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
L1	Continue to provide a local fund for waste minimisation projects (the Resource Recovery Fund)	Community and business capacity to develop and implement local waste minimisation initiatives.	Local innovation and waste minimisation activity is supported and sustained; community-led projects receive funding to develop.	Funder.
L2	Undertake targeted funding rounds to encourage specific outcomes e.g. construction and demolition recovery, textiles recovery	Specific waste streams, including C&D waste and textiles, remain largely unaddressed	Focused funding drives activity in priority waste streams; additional material is diverted from landfill in areas where market-led solutions have not yet emerged.	Funder.
L3	Liase with neighbouring councils and regions to identify and progress collaborative opportunities	Limited economies of scale for smaller councils acting alone.	Regional collaboration improves efficiency and service quality; shared infrastructure and aligned strategies reduce costs and improve resource recovery outcomes across the region.	Provider, Facilitator, Funder.
L4	Continue involvement in the development of a national approach to disaster waste management, and	Growing risk of disaster waste events.	The district is better prepared to manage disaster waste efficiently.	Provider, Facilitator.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
	prepares a local disaster waste management plan			
L5	Establish a working relationship with Te Whatu Ora to identify and deliver collaborative options to improve medical waste management	Increasing volumes of medical waste.	Medical waste is managed through appropriate channels, reducing risk to collection and processing workers and improving public health outcomes.	Provider, Facilitator.
L6	Collaborate with the commercial waste sector to proactively identify and facilitate opportunities for improved waste management services and infrastructure.	Limited visibility of commercial and industrial waste flows. Large quantities of waste going to landfill.	Improved commercial waste diversion; better alignment between Council strategy and private sector service delivery across the district.	Facilitator.
L7	Advocate to central Government for increased action on issues such as product stewardship and extended producer responsibility	Councils bear disproportionate responsibility for managing waste streams, that are better addressed through centrally led schemes.	Central government action on product stewardship reduces the burden on local ratepayers and improves management of difficult waste streams at a national scale.	Facilitator.

Ref	Option	Issues Addressed	Impact on Current/Future Demand	Councils' Role
L8	Continue with regular Manawhenua Forum, where updates can be provided on key projects and progress towards targets, and partnership working options are identified and pursued	Need to ensure waste minimisation strategies reflect tikanga Māori and fulfil te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations; importance of mana whenua partnership in waste planning and delivery.	Stronger relationships with mana whenua support culturally appropriate service design and community engagement; partnership opportunities are identified and progressed.	Facilitator.
L9	Adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content, where possible, to avoid emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and to support the circular economy	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill.	Procurement decisions reinforce the district's broader waste minimisation goals.	Provider, Funder, Facilitator.

9.0 Statement of Council's Intended Role

9.1 Statutory Obligations and Powers

Councils have a number of statutory obligations and powers in respect of the planning and provision of waste services. These include the following:

- Under the WMA each Council “must promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within its district” (s 42). The WMA requires TAs to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).⁸⁶
- The WMA also requires TAs to have regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy, which has five goals (set out in section 1.5.1). These goals must be taken into consideration in the development of the Councils' waste strategy.
- Under Section 17A of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) local authorities must review the provision of services and must consider options for the governance, funding and delivery of infrastructure, local public services and local regulation. There is substantial cross over between the section 17A requirements and those of the WMMP process particularly in relation to local authority service provision.
- Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Councils must consult the public about their plans for managing waste.
- Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), TA responsibility includes controlling the effects of land-use activities that have the potential to create adverse effects on the natural and physical resources of their district. Facilities involved in the disposal, treatment or use of waste or recoverable materials may carry this potential. Permitted, controlled, discretionary, noncomplying and prohibited activities and their controls are specified within district planning documents, thereby defining further land-use-related resource consent requirements for wasterelated facilities.
- Under the Litter Act 1979 TAs have powers to make bylaws, issue infringement notices, and require the clean-up of litter from land.
- The Health Act (1956) provisions for the removal of refuse by local authorities have been repealed by local government legislation.
- The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (the HSNO Act). The HSNO Act provides minimum national standards that may apply to the disposal of a hazardous substance. However, under the RMA a regional council or TA may set more stringent controls relating to the use of land for storing, using, disposing of or transporting hazardous substances.
- Under current legislation and the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council has a duty to ensure that its contractors are operating in a safe manner.

Council, in determining their role, needs to ensure that their statutory obligations, including those noted above, are met.

⁸⁶ The development of a WMMP in the WMA is a requirement modified from Part 31 of the LGA 1974, but with even greater emphasis on waste minimisation.

9.2 Overall Strategic Direction and Role

The role taken by Councils in implementing the options described in the previous section can vary significantly; for example Councils can:

- Simply identify the need at a strategic level, with other sectors able to respond to the need as they wish
- Take a facilitation and leadership role in addressing the need, such as by creating working groups focusing on a particular material e.g. construction waste
- Regulator - use regulatory tools available to Councils to create an environment that encourages solutions, such as requiring construction site waste management plans, banning certain materials from landfill, etc.
- Influence the way gaps addressed by others by making funding available for specific initiatives that address the need in some way
- Take direct action by providing services or facilities that address the need.

The statement of options outlines the possible roles that Councils could take in each option. The overall strategic direction, preferred options, and the Councils' role in each will be presented in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

A.0.0 Appendix

A.1.0 Medical Officer of Health Statement

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

29 June 2026

Katy Chamley
Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd (NZ)
35 Gilfillan Street
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600

Dear Katy Chamley

Re: Matamata Piako District Council Waste Assessment

Thank you for providing a copy of the Matamata Piako District Council Waste Assessment, May 2026, in accordance with your obligations under Section 51 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, to consult with the Medical Officer of Health.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service (Health NZ) has statutory obligations under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Of particular focus for Health NZ is embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi as its foundation toward improving health outcomes for Māori.

Waste Management

Effective waste management is critical for good public health outcomes. From a public health perspective appropriate disposal of solid waste is essential for:

- Human disease control (for example pathogenic wastes and reducing harbourage of human disease vectors such as rats, fleas and mosquitoes)
- Control of health nuisances from dust, odour, pest species, or smoke from indiscriminate burning of waste.
- Control of health risks from hazardous wastes
- Prevention of contamination of drinking or recreational water from runoff or leachate
- Public safety, in terms of uncluttered thoroughfares

The protection of public health includes ensuring that the impact of waste management and minimisation does not create or increase inequities between different groups within the community. It is important that decisions around waste management consider unintended consequences for vulnerable groups (such as the elderly, people with disabilities and low socioeconomic households) and that collection systems are made accessible and affordable for all groups.

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Ph: 07 8382569

Feedback on the Matamata Piako District Council Waste Assessment

The Matamata Piako District Council Waste Assessment identifies key risks, infrastructure constraints and service gaps, and sets out a range of appropriate options. I am satisfied that the Waste Assessment has identified the key public health risks and system gaps.

As Medical Officer of Health I provide the following comments on the Waste Assessment:

- The Waste Assessment has identified significant gaps in data in a number of areas, including for private and commercial waste flows, rural and farm waste, and waste to landfills. There is also no data on the types of hazardous waste being disposed of. A population growth rate has been applied to the 2020 figures for waste to landfill to get an estimate of current waste flows to landfill. This does not allow true comparisons to be made over time or between different geographical areas. Lack of data undermines the ability to identify risks, monitor performance and respond to emerging issues. This is an ongoing challenge but I encourage Council to take action to improve data collection. I support the proposed options M1 and M4 of the Waste Assessment, being to undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows, as well as monitoring of non-council waste flows through waste operator licensing.
- Some of the refuse transfer stations (RTS) in Matamata Piako District are reported to be aging, lacking in infrastructure for resource recovery, and are at risk of safety incidents and unplanned closures if they deteriorate further. Action is required to update or replace these RTS and the Waste Assessment outlines three possible options for this. Further detail would be required to determine which of the proposed options would be best from a public health perspective. In making their decision, Council should take into consideration the health and safety risks associated with the current sites, equity of access across the region and the prevention of contamination risk to surrounding land or waterways from spills and leaching of hazardous substances. I recommend that the updates aim to improve resource recovery and diversion of material away from landfill.
- I note that the impending closure of Tirohia landfill creates an urgent need for a long term strategy for waste management, which will need to be addressed.
- Organic waste remains the dominant fraction of the waste stream. It is pleasing to see the introduction of a food waste collection service in 2023. However, I note that food waste still makes up 31% of bin contents in 2025. Reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill will extend the life of existing landfills and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas generated. I encourage consideration of further actions to reduce organics going to landfill, including provision of education on both the food waste collection service and on other means of disposal of garden waste.
- It is good to see that hazardous waste in domestic quantities can be disposed of at any of the RTS, although this is currently associated with a cost. Removing charges

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for acceptance would improve equity of access and may reduce the likelihood of hazardous waste being dumped or disposed of in general waste bins.

- Disaster waste has been identified as an increasingly large issue, with changing weather patterns and more frequent severe weather events occurring, as well as other natural disasters. I recommend that Council prepares a local disaster waste management plan, as per the proposed option L4, to be better prepared to manage this issue.
- The Waste Assessment has identified the need to ensure waste minimisation strategies reflect tikanga Māori and fulfil te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, noting the importance of mana whenua partnerships in waste and planning delivery. I encourage Council to undertake to achieve this, whether that is by adopting the proposed option L8, of continuing the regular Manawhenua forum, or via other mechanisms to communicate with local Iwi.

I hope that my comments will add to the utility of the Waste Assessment and be helpful in the further development of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. I am happy to be contacted for further discussion on these issues as Council moves forward to develop their Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Ngā mihi



Richard Wall

Medical Officer of Health
National Public Health Service
Te Manawa Taki | Waikato

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A.2.0 Classifications of Disposal to Land

The Ministry have classified disposal and other waste facilities under two regulations, which enable the application of the disposal levy and the collection of data. Facilities had also previously been categorised according to the WasteMINZ 'Technical Guidelines for the Disposal of Waste to Land', and there are some slight variations between the two.

A.2.1 Technical Guidelines Definitions

Class 1 - Landfill

A Class 1 landfill is a site that accepts municipal solid waste. A Class 1 landfill generally also accepts C&D waste, some industrial wastes and contaminated soils. Class 1 landfills often use managed fill and clean fill materials they accept, as daily cover.

Class 1 landfills require:

- a rigorous assessment of siting constraints, considering all factors, but with achieving a high level of containment as a key aim;
- engineered environmental protection by way of a liner and leachate collection system, and an appropriate cap, all with appropriate redundancy; and
- landfill gas management.

A rigorous monitoring and reporting regime is required, along with stringent operational controls. Monitoring of accepted waste materials is required, as is monitoring of sediment runoff, surface water and groundwater quality, leachate quality and quantity, and landfill gas.

Waste acceptance criteria (WAC) comprises:

- municipal solid waste; and
- for potentially hazardous leachable contaminants, maximum chemical contaminant leachability limits (TCLP) from Module 2 Hazardous Waste Guidelines – Class A4.

WAC for potentially hazardous wastes and treated hazardous wastes are based on leachability criteria to ensure that leachate does not differ from that expected from non-hazardous municipal solid waste.

For Class 1 landfills, leachability testing should be completed to provide assurance that waste materials meet the WAC.

Class 2 Landfill

A Class 2 landfill is a site that accepts non-putrescible wastes including C&D wastes, inert industrial wastes, managed fill material and clean fill material. C&D waste can contain biodegradable and leachable components which can result in the production of leachate – thereby necessitating an increased level of environmental protection. Although not as strong as Class 1 landfill leachate, Class 2 landfill leachate is typically characterised by mildly acidic pH, and the presence of ammoniacal nitrogen and soluble metals, including heavy metals. Similarly, industrial wastes from some activities may generate leachates with chemical characteristics that are not necessarily organic.

Class 2 landfills should be sited in areas of appropriate geology, hydrogeology and surface hydrology. A site environmental assessment is required, as are an engineered liner, a leachate collection system, and

groundwater and surface water monitoring. Additional engineered features such as leachate treatment may also be required.

Depending on the types and proportions of C&D wastes accepted, Class 2 landfills may generate minor to significant volumes of landfill gas and/or hydrogen sulphide. The necessity for a landfill gas collection system should be assessed.

Operational controls are required, as are monitoring of accepted waste materials, monitoring of sediment runoff, surface water and groundwater quality, and monitoring of leachate quality and quantity.

Waste acceptance criteria comprises:

- a list of acceptable materials; and
- • maximum ancillary biodegradable materials (e.g. vegetation) to be no more than 5% by volume per load; and
- • maximum chemical contaminant leachability limits (TCLP) for potentially hazardous leachable contaminants.

Class 3 Landfill – Managed/Controlled Fill

A Class 3 landfill accepts managed fill materials. These comprise predominantly clean fill materials, but may also include other inert materials and soils with chemical contaminants at concentrations greater than local natural background concentrations, but with specified maximum total concentrations.

Site ownership, location and transport distance are likely to be the predominant siting criteria. However, as contaminated materials (in accordance with specified limits) may be accepted, an environmental site assessment is required in respect of geology, stability, surface hydrology and topography.

Monitoring of accepted material is required, as are operational controls, and monitoring of sediment runoff and groundwater.

Waste acceptance criteria comprises:

- a list of acceptable solid materials; and
- maximum incidental or attached biodegradable materials (e.g. vegetation) to be no more than 2% by volume per load; and
- maximum chemical contaminant limits.

A Class 3 landfill does not include any form of engineered containment. Due to the nature of material received it has the potential to receive wastes that are above soil background levels. The WAC criteria for a Class 3 landfill are therefore the main means of controlling potential adverse effects.

For Class 3 landfills, total analyte concentrations should be determined to provide assurance that waste materials meet the WAC.

Class 4 Landfill – Controlled Fill

A Class 4 landfill accepts controlled fill materials. These comprise predominantly clean fill materials, but may also include other inert materials and soils with chemical contaminants at concentrations greater than local natural background concentrations, but with specified maximum total concentrations.

Site ownership, location and transport distance are likely to be the predominant siting criteria. However, as contaminated materials (in accordance with specified limits) may be accepted, an environmental site assessment is required in respect of geology, stability, surface hydrology and topography.

Monitoring of accepted material is required, as are operational controls, and monitoring of sediment runoff and groundwater.

Waste acceptance criteria comprises:

- a list of acceptable solid materials; and
- maximum incidental or attached biodegradable materials (e.g. vegetation) to be no more than 2% by volume per load; and
- maximum chemical contaminant limits.

A Class 4 landfill does not include any form of engineered containment. Due to the nature of material received it has the potential to receive wastes that are above soil background levels. The WAC criteria for a Class 4 landfill are therefore the main means of controlling potential adverse effects.

Class 5 – Landfill

A Class 5 landfill accepts only clean fill material. The principal control on contaminant discharges to the environment from Class 5 landfills is the waste acceptance criteria.

Stringent siting requirements to protect groundwater and surface water receptors are not required. Practical and commercial considerations such as site ownership, location and transport distance are likely to be the predominant siting criteria, rather than technical criteria.

Clean filling can generally take place on the existing natural or altered land without engineered environmental protection or the development of significant site infrastructure. However, surface water controls may be required to manage sediment runoff.

Extensive characterisation of local geology and hydrogeology is not usually required.

Monitoring of both accepted material and sediment runoff is required, along with operational controls.

Waste acceptance criteria:

- virgin excavated natural materials (VENM), including soil, clay, gravel and rock; and
- maximum incidental inert manufactured materials (e.g. concrete, brick, tiles) to be no more than 5% by volume per load; and
- maximum incidental or attached biodegradable materials (e.g. vegetation) to be no more than 2% by volume per load; and
- maximum chemical contaminant limits are local natural background soil concentrations.

Materials disposed to a Class 5 landfill should pose no significant immediate or future risk to human health or the environment.

The WAC for a Class 5 landfill should render the site suitable for unencumbered potential future land use, i.e. future residential development or agricultural land use.

The WAC for a Class 5 landfill are based on the local background concentrations for inorganic elements, and provide for trace concentrations of a limited range of organic compounds.

Note: The Guidelines should be referred to directly for the full criteria and definitions.

A.2.2 Ministry for the Environment Classifications

The Ministry for the Environment have recently extended the payment of the waste disposal levy to a wider range of disposal facilities, and have also required reporting of data from 'cleanfills' and transfer stations. This has entailed two regulations – the first to extend the levy to other facilities⁸⁷ and the second to require data reporting from 'cleanfills' and transfer stations⁸⁸.

These regulations establish definitions for a range of disposal and other waste facilities beyond the Class 1 landfills that were captured by the waste disposal levy when it was first introduced.

These are summarised in the table below:

Disposal facility class	Description	Types of waste not accepted	Examples of types of waste accepted
1 Municipal Disposal Facility	A facility, including a landfill: • where waste is disposed of • that operates, at least in part, as a business to dispose of waste • accepts waste that is or includes any one or more of the following: - household waste - waste from commercial or industrial sources - waste from institutional sources (eg, hospitals, educational facilities and aged-care facilities) garden waste (eg, degradable		Types of waste may include (but not limited to): • mixed municipal waste from residential, commercial and industrial sources • construction and demolition waste • contaminated soils • rocks, gravel, sand, clay • sludges • slurries • putrescible waste • garden waste • biosolids • clinical waste • treated hazardous waste

⁸⁷ [Waste Minimisation \(Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy\) Regulations 2009 \(SR 2009/144\) \(as at 01 July 2024\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)

⁸⁸ [Waste Minimisation \(Information Requirements\) Regulations 2021 \(LI 2021/69\) \(as at 01 July 2024\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)

	plant materials such as tree branches, leaves, grass, and other vegetation matter) waste that is not accepted at other disposal facilities in the WMA. It is not a: • class 2: construction and demolition disposal facility • class 3 and 4 managed or controlled fill disposal facility • an industrial monofill facility • a cleanfill facility.		• incidental hazardous waste.
2 C&D Disposal	Accepts waste from construction and demolition activity It is not a: • class 3 and 4 managed or controlled fill disposal facility • an industrial monofil facility • a cleanfill facility.	Does not accept any of the following for disposal: • household waste • waste from commercial or industrial sources • waste from institutional sources (eg, hospitals, educational facilities, and aged-care facilities) • waste generated from a single industrial process (eg, steel or aluminium-making, or pulp and paper-making) carried out in one or more locations	Mixed construction and demolition waste including: • rubble, plasterboard, treated and untreated timber • wood products,including softboard, hardboard, particle board, plywood, MDF, customwood, shingles, sawdust • concrete, including reinforced or crushed concrete blocks • clay products including pipes, tiles

• Is not a class 3 and 4 managed or controlled fill facility

• asphalt (all types), and roading materials, including road sub-base

• plasterboard and Gibraltar board

• masonry, including bricks, pavers

• metal, or products containing metals, including corrugated iron, steel, steel-coated tiles, wire, wire rope, wire netting, aluminium fittings

• plastic products, including plastic bags, pipes, guttering, building wrap

• insulation products

• laminate products, including Formica

• flooring products, including carpet and underlay, vinyl/linoleum, cork tiles

• paper and cardboard products, including wallpaper, lining paper, building paper

• site clearance and excavation materials including soils, clays, rocks, gravel, tree stumps

3/4 Managed or Controlled Fill Disposal	Accepts any one of the following for disposal: • inert waste material from construction and demolition activities • inert waste material from earthworks or site remediation	Does not accept: • household waste • waste from commercial or industrial sources • waste from institutional sources (eg, hospitals, educational facilities, and aged-care facilities) • waste generated from a single industrial process (eg, steel or aluminium-making, or pulp and paper-making) carried out in one or more locations • waste material from construction and demolition activity (except for inert waste material).	Types of waste may include (but not limited to): • lightly contaminated soil below applicable consent limits and inert construction and demolition materials, including: - site facilities - clearance and excavation materials including soils, clays, rocks, gravel, tree stumps - masonry, including bricks and pavers - clay products, including pipes, tiles - concrete, including crushed concrete and blocks (for reinforced concrete, exposed reinforcing must be removed) - asphalt (bitumen-based only) - road sub-base.
5 Cleanfill	A facility that accepts only virgin excavated natural material (such as clay, soil, or rock) for disposal	Any materials other than virgin excavated natural materials (VENM)	VENM such as clay, soil and rock

Industrial monofill	A facility that accepts for disposal waste that: • discharges or could discharge contaminants or emissions • is generated from a single industrial process (eg, steel or aluminium-making, or pulp and paper-making) carried out in one or more locations.	• household waste • waste from commercial or institutional sources (eg, hospitals, educational facilities, and aged-care facilities) • waste not generated by a single industrial process.	Waste generated by industrial processes such as: • steel-making • aluminium-making • pulp and paper • oil exploration and extraction
Transfer station	A facility: • that contains a designated receiving area where waste is received; and • from which waste or any material derived from that waste is: transferred to a final disposal site transferred elsewhere for further processing that does not itself provide long-term storage for waste or material derived from that waste.	N/A (no disposal of waste occurs)	N/A

A.3.0 National Legislative and Policy Context

A.3.1 The New Zealand Waste Strategy 2025

The New Zealand Waste Strategy 2025 provides the Government's strategic direction for waste management and minimisation in New Zealand. This strategy was released in March 2025 and replaced the 2023 Waste Strategy.

The strategy aims to provide direction to central and local government, businesses (including the waste industry), and communities on where to focus their efforts to manage waste.

Under section 44 of the Waste Management Act 2008, in preparing their waste management and minimisation plan (WMMP) councils must have regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy, or any government policy on waste management and minimisation that replaces the strategy.

A copy of the current New Zealand Waste Strategy is available on the Ministry's website.

The strategy highlights several key facts that demonstrate New Zealand's relatively poor performance in waste management and minimisation:

- Emissions from waste produce 8.5% of New Zealand's biogenic methane emissions, and 4.5% of our total greenhouse gas emissions, with most of the emissions caused by the breakdown of organic materials in landfill.
- In 2023, 669 kg of waste per capita was sent to municipal landfills⁸⁹ – compared to the OECD average of 538 kg.
- In 2021, New Zealanders used over 2.5 billion single-use beverage containers, more than half of which ended up in landfills, 'unused stockpiles', or as litter.
- Over half of our landfills have been assessed as being vulnerable to one or more natural hazards.

A.3.1.1 Targets

The strategy does not include any specific targets, although there are references to reducing waste and waste emissions, and specifically to climate targets.

A.3.2 Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Although the Waste Minimisation Act is currently under review, little is known about what changes may be recommended at this point. This section describes the existing Act.

The purpose of the Act is to encourage waste minimisation and a decrease in waste disposal to protect the environment from harm and obtain environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits.

The Act introduced tools, including:

- waste management and minimisation plan obligations for territorial authorities
- a waste disposal levy to fund waste minimisation initiatives at local and central government levels
- product stewardship provisions.

⁸⁹ 'municipal landfill', 'municipal solid waste landfill' 'sanitary landfill' and 'Class 1 landfill' are all terms that essentially refer to the same type of facility.

Part 4 of the Act is dedicated to the responsibilities of a council, in that it “must promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within its district” (section 42).

To meet this requirement, councils are required to develop and adopt a WMMP. The development of a WMMP in the Act is a requirement modified from Part 31 of the Local Government Act 1974, but with even greater emphasis on waste minimisation.

To support the implementation of a WMMP, section 56 of the Act also provides councils the ability to:

- develop bylaws
- regulate the deposit, collection and transportation of wastes
- prescribe charges for waste facilities
- control access to waste facilities
- prohibit the removal of waste intended for recycling.

A number of specific clauses in Part 4 relate to the WMMP process. It is essential that those involved in developing a WMMP read and are familiar with the Act and Part 4 in particular.

The Act provides a regulatory framework for waste minimisation that had previously been based on largely voluntary initiatives and the involvement of territorial authorities under previous legislation, including Local Government Act 1974, Local Government Amendment Act (No 4) 1996, and Local Government Act 2002. The purpose of the Act is to encourage a reduction in the amount of waste disposed of in New Zealand.

In summary, the Act:

- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of territorial authorities with respect to waste minimisation e.g. updating Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMPs) and collecting/administering levy funding for waste minimisation projects.
- Requires that a Territorial Authority promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within its district (Section 42).
- Requires that when preparing a WMMP a Territorial Authority must consider the following methods of waste management and minimisation in the following order of importance:
 - o Reduction
 - o Reuse
 - o Recycling
 - o Recovery
 - o Treatment
 - o Disposal
 - o Put a levy on all waste disposed of in a landfill.
 - o Allows for mandatory and accredited voluntary product stewardship schemes.
 - o Allows for regulations to be made making it mandatory for certain groups (for example, landfill operators) to report on waste to improve information on waste minimisation.
 - o Establishes the Waste Advisory Board to give independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on waste minimisation issues.

Various other aspects of the Act are discussed in more detail below.

A.3.3 Waste Levy

The waste levy originally came into effect from 1st July 2009, adding \$10 per tonne to the cost of landfill disposal at sites which accept household solid waste (essentially Class 1 disposal facilities). The levy has two purposes, which are set out in the Act:

- to raise revenue for promoting and achieving waste minimisation
- to increase the cost of waste disposal to recognise that disposal imposes costs on the environment, society and the economy.

This levy is collected and managed by the Ministry who distribute half of the revenue collected to territorial authorities (TA) on a population basis to be spent on promoting or achieving waste minimisation as set out in their WMMPs. The other half is retained by the Ministry and managed by them as a central contestable fund for waste minimisation initiatives (the Waste Minimisation Fund).

In April 2021, the government introduced regulation to expand the scope of the levy from Class 1 landfills to also include classes 2-4.⁹⁰

The Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act 2024⁹¹ came into force on 1 July 2024. This amendment broadens the scope of the waste disposal levy, enabling funds to be used for a wider range of environmental outcomes, including the remediation of contaminated sites and support for local authorities in managing emergency waste. It also introduces a second phase of levy rate changes to incentivise waste reduction and support better resource use.

The table below shows the timetable and rates for the new levy regime:

Table 9-1: Levy Rates by Disposal Facility Type and Year

DISPOSAL FACILITY CLASS	1-Jul-21	1-Jul-22	1-Jul-23	1-Jul-24	1-Jul-25	1-Jul-26	1-Jul-27
Municipal landfill (class 1)	\$20	\$30	\$50	\$60	\$65	\$70	\$75
Construction and demolition fill (class 2)		\$20	\$20	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45
Managed fill (class 3)			\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20
Controlled fill (class 4)			\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/waste-and-government>

As the waste disposal levy is expanded and raised there will be an impact on the quantity of material going to the different destinations; however, the extent to which this occurs, and for which materials, depends on a number of other factors.

One impact that has been noted in some areas of New Zealand, for example, is Class 2 landfill operators choosing to close rather than add cost to their gate fee, and undertake the administrative task of

⁹⁰ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0069/latest/whole.html>

⁹¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/waste-minimisation-act-waste-disposal-levy-amendment-act-2024/>

monitoring waste quantities to the extent required by the online waste levy system (OWLS). Some of these facilities don't have weighbridges in place and instead base their charges on volume estimates. To report to the OWLS, these facilities then need to translate volumes to weights, and it is on this basis that their waste disposal levy obligations are calculated. Therefore, any variances in conversion rates between volume and weight could result in an over- or under-calculation of the required waste disposal levy at the gate.

A.3.4 Product Stewardship

Under the Act, if the Minister for the Environment declares a product to be a priority product, a product stewardship scheme must be developed and accredited to ensure effective reduction, reuse, recycling or recovery of the product and to manage any environmental harm arising from the product when it becomes waste.⁹²

The following voluntary product stewardship schemes have been accredited by the Minister for the Environment:⁹³

- Agrecovery rural recycling programme
- Envirocon product stewardship
- Fonterra Milk for Schools Recycling Programme
- Fuji Xerox Zero Landfill Scheme
- Holcim Geocycle Used Oil Recovery Programme (no longer operating)
- Interface ReEntry Programme
- Kimberly Clark NZ's Envirocomp Product Stewardship Scheme for Sanitary Hygiene Products
- Plasback
- Public Place Recycling Scheme
- Recovering of Oil Saves the Environment (R.O.S.E. NZ)
- Refrigerant recovery scheme
- RE:MOBILE
- Resene PaintWise
- The Glass Packaging Forum

Further details on each of the above schemes are available on: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/product-stewardship/accredited-voluntary-schemes>

Until July 2020, the ability under the Act to name a product as a 'priority product' had not been used. Once a product has been named such, an extended producer responsibility approach must be taken and a regulated product stewardship scheme developed. The first six priority products named are:

1. Plastic packaging
2. Tyres
3. Electrical and electronic products (e-waste including large batteries)
4. Agrichemicals and their containers
5. Refrigerants
6. Farm plastics

The Ministry has taken a 'co-design' approach, which involves industry developing and operating product stewardship schemes with central government oversight. To date regulated product

⁹² Waste Management Act 2008 2(8)

⁹³ <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/product-stewardship/accredited-voluntary-schemes>

stewardship schemes are in development for tyres, large batteries, e-waste, refrigerants, and agrichemicals and farm plastics, although only tyres have currently been accredited. Consultation on regulations to enable the schemes for tyres and large batteries was undertaken in late 2021 and is due to take place in the second half of 2022 for refrigerants and farm plastics.

A.3.5 Waste Minimisation Fund

The Waste Minimisation Fund was set up by the Ministry for the Environment to help fund waste minimisation projects and to improve New Zealand's waste minimisation performance through:

- Investment in infrastructure;
- Investment in waste minimisation systems and
- Increasing educational and promotional capacity.

Criteria for the Waste Minimisation Fund have been gazetted:

1. Only waste minimisation projects are eligible for funding. Projects must promote or achieve waste minimisation. Waste minimisation covers the reduction of waste and the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and diverted material. The scope of the fund includes educational projects that promote waste minimisation activity.
2. Projects must result in new waste minimisation activity, either by implementing new initiatives or a significant expansion in the scope or coverage of existing activities.
3. Funding is not for the ongoing financial support of existing activities, nor is it for the running costs of the existing activities of organisations, individuals, councils or firms.
4. Projects should be for a discrete timeframe of up to three years, after which the project objectives will have been achieved and, where appropriate, the initiative will become self-funding.
5. Funding can be for operational or capital expenditure required to undertake a project.
6. For projects where alternative, more suitable, Government funding streams are available (such as the Sustainable Management Fund, the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund, or research funding from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology), applicants should apply to these funding sources before applying to the Waste Minimisation Fund.
7. The applicant must be a legal entity.
8. The fund will not cover the entire cost of the project. Applicants will need part funding from other sources.
9. The minimum grant for feasibility studies will be \$10,000.00. The minimum grant for other projects will be \$50,000.00.

The focus of the Waste Minimisation Fund is currently on infrastructure that supports the diversion of priority materials from landfill, specifically construction and demolition waste, organic waste (food and garden waste, paper and cardboard), and plastics (plastic grades 1, 2 and 5, coloured PET/grade 1, farm plastics such as bale wrap, soft plastics).

The minimum grant sizes are \$100,000 for feasibility studies, business cases, and pilots; and \$250,000 for all other project types. The WMF may contribute between 40 to 50% of project costs, and only in exceptional cases may contribute up to 75%.

A.3.6 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provides the general framework and powers under which New Zealand's democratically elected and accountable local authorities operate.

The LGA contains various provisions that may apply to councils when preparing their WMMPs, including consultation and bylaw provisions. For example, Part 6 of the LGA refers to planning and decision-making requirements to promote accountability between local authorities and their communities, and a long-term focus for the decisions and activities of the local authority. This part includes requirements for information to be included in the long-term plan (LTP), including summary information about the WMMP.

More information on the LGA can be found at ww.dia.govt.nz/better-local-government.

A.3.6.1 Section 17A Review

Local authorities are now under an obligation to review the cost-effectiveness of current arrangements for meeting community needs for good quality infrastructure, local public services and local regulation. Where a review is undertaken local authorities must consider options for the governance, funding and delivery of infrastructure, local public services and local regulation that include, but are not limited to:

- a) in-house delivery
- b) delivery by a CCO, whether wholly owned by the local authority, or a CCO where the local authority is a part owner
- c) another local authority
- d) another person or agency (for example central government, a private sector organisation or a community group).

Local authorities had three years from 8 August 2014 to complete the first review of each service i.e. they must have completed a first review of all their services by 7 August 2017 (unless something happened to trigger a review before then).

Other than completion by the above deadline, there are two statutory triggers for a section 17A review:

- The first occurs when a local authority is considering a significant change to a level of service
- The second occurs where a contract or other binding agreement is within two years of expiration.

Once conducted, a section 17A review has a statutory life of up to six years. Each service must be reviewed at least once every six years unless one of the other events that trigger a review comes into effect.

While the WMMP process is wider in scope – considering all waste service provision in the local authority area – and generally taking a longer term, more strategic approach, there is substantial crossover between the section 17A requirements and those of the WMMP process, in particular in relation to local authority service provision. The S17A review may however take a deeper approach go into more detail in consideration of how services are to be delivered, looking particularly at financial aspects to a level that are not required under the WMMP process.

Because of the level of crossover however it makes sense to undertake the S17A review and the WMMP process in an iterative manner. The WMMP process should set the strategic direction and gather detailed information that can inform both processes. Conversely the consideration of options under the s17A process can inform the content of the WMMP – in particular what is contained in the action plans.

A.3.7 Resource Management Act 1991

The previous Government had made significant progress on new Acts to replace the Resource Management Act. However, the current Government has revised the approach and the review below is based on the current Act.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) promotes sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Although it does not specifically define 'waste', the RMA addresses waste management and minimisation activity through controls on the environmental effects of waste management and minimisation activities and facilities through national, regional and local policy, standards, plans and consent procedures. In this role, the RMA exercises considerable influence over facilities for waste disposal and recycling, recovery, treatment and others in terms of the potential impacts of these facilities on the environment.

Under section 30 of the RMA, regional councils are responsible for controlling the discharge of contaminants into or on to land, air or water. These responsibilities are addressed through regional planning and discharge consent requirements. Other regional council responsibilities that may be relevant to waste and recoverable materials facilities include:

- managing the adverse effects of storing, using, disposing of and transporting hazardous wastes
- the dumping of wastes from ships, aircraft and offshore installations into the coastal marine area
- the allocation and use of water.

Under section 31 of the RMA, council responsibility includes controlling the effects of land-use activities that have the potential to create adverse effects on the natural and physical resources of their district. Facilities involved in the disposal, treatment or use of waste or recoverable materials may carry this potential. Permitted, controlled, discretionary, noncomplying and prohibited activities, and their controls, are specified in district planning documents, thereby defining further land-use-related resource consent requirements for waste-related facilities.

In addition, the RMA provides for the development of national policy statements and for the setting of national environmental standards (NES). There are currently two enacted NESs that directly influence the management of waste in New Zealand:

1. The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004; this NES requires certain landfills (e.g., those with a capacity of more than 1 million tonnes of waste) to collect landfill gases and either flare them or use them as fuel for generating electricity. Unless exemption criteria are met, the NES for Air Quality also prohibits the lighting of fires and burning of wastes at landfills, the burning of tyres, bitumen burning for road maintenance, burning coated wire or oil, and operating high-temperature hazardous waste incinerators. These prohibitions aim to protect air quality.
2. The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors) Regulations 2021; this NES provides nationally consistent rules for the responsible storage of tyres.

The implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management⁹⁴ is expected to reduce the application rates of some organic wastes to land, which has historically been a low-cost management option for wastes such as effluent. This may increase the quantities of these organic materials that will be available for processing, which would then impact on the types of materials

⁹⁴ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/national-policy-statement-for-freshwater-management-2020/>

requiring processing, the technologies best suited to these material mixes, and the markets for the end product.

A.3.8 New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 and associated regulations is currently the Government's principal response to manage climate change. A key mechanism for this is the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS). The NZ ETS puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions, providing an incentive for people to reduce emissions and plant forests to absorb carbon dioxide. Certain sectors are required to acquire and surrender emission units to account for their direct greenhouse gas emissions or the emissions associated with their products. Landfills that are subject to the waste disposal levy are required to surrender emission units to cover methane emissions generated from landfill. These disposal facilities are required to report the tonnages landfilled annually to calculate emissions (this is separately to the tonnages required to be reported for the landfill levy, through the OWLS).

The NZ ETS was introduced in 2010 and, from 2013, landfills have been required to surrender 'New Zealand emissions units' or NZUs for each tonne of CO₂ (equivalent) that they produce. Until around 2017, however, the impact of the NZETS on disposal prices was limited. There were a number of reasons for this:

- The global price of carbon crashed during the GFC in 2007-8 and was slow to recover in the following years. Prior to the crash it was trading at around \$20 per tonne. The price had been as low as \$2, although in June 2015, the Government moved to no longer accept international units in NZETS and the NZU price increased markedly. NZUs⁹⁵ currently change hands for between \$70 and \$85, with prices at \$74.40 at the time of writing⁹⁶.

- The transitional provisions of the Climate Change Response Act, which were extended in 2013 but have now been reviewed, meant that landfills only had to surrender half the number of units they would be required to otherwise. These transitional provisions were removed in January 2017, effectively and immediately doubling the price per tonne impact of the ETS.

- Landfills are allowed to apply for 'a methane capture and destruction unique emissions factor (UEF)'. This means that if landfills have a gas collection system in place and flare or otherwise use the gas (and turn it from methane, CH₄ into carbon dioxide, CO₂) they can reduce their liabilities in proportion to how much gas they capture. Up to 90% capture and destruction is allowed to be claimed under the regulations, with large facilities applying for UEF's at the upper end of the range.

Taken together (a low price of carbon, only two-for-one surrender required, and methane destruction of 80-90%) the actual cost of compliance with the NZETS had been small for most landfills – particularly those that were able to claim high rates of gas capture. Disposal facilities typically imposed charges (in the order of \$5 per tonne) to their customers, but these charges mostly reflected the costs of scheme administration, compliance, and hedging against risk rather than the actual cost of carbon.

The way the scheme has been structured has also resulted in some inconsistencies in the way it is applied – for example class 2-5 landfills and closed landfills do not have any liabilities under the scheme. Further, the default waste composition (rather than a SWAP) can be used to calculate the theoretical gas production, which means landfill owners have an incentive to import biodegradable waste, which then increases gas production and which can then be captured and offset against ETS liabilities.

Recently, however the scheme has had a greater impact on the cost of landfilling, and this is expected to continue in the medium term. Many small landfills which do not capture and destroy methane are now beginning to pay a more substantial cost of compliance. The ability of landfills with high rates of gas

⁹⁵ NZUs are carbon credits that are officially accepted to offset liabilities under the NZETS

⁹⁶ According to carbon prices on www.carbonforestservices.co.nz and <https://www.carbonmatch.co.nz/>

capture and destruction to buffer the impact of the ETS will mean a widening cost advantage for them relative to those without such ability. This appears to be putting further pressure on small (predominantly Council-owned) facilities and will drive further tonnage towards the large regional facilities (predominantly privately owned).

For example, with a price of carbon at \$75 per tonne, the liability for a landfill without gas capture will be \$68.25 (based on a DEF of 0.91 tonnes of CO₂e per tonne of waste), whereas for a landfill claiming 90% gas capture (the maximum allowed under the scheme), the liability will be only \$6.83. This type of price differential will mean it will become increasingly cost competitive to transport waste larger distances to the large regional landfills.

More information is available at www.climatechange.govt.nz/emissions-trading-scheme.

A.3.9 Litter Act 1979

The Litter Act is current under review, alongside the Waste Minimisation Act. The summary below is based on the current Act, as it is not known what changes are intended through the current review.

Under the Litter Act⁹⁷ it is an offence for any person or body corporate to deposit or leave litter:

- in or on any public place; or
- in or on any private land without the consent of its occupier.

The Act enables Council to appoint Litter Officers with powers to enforce the provisions of the legislation.

The legislative definition of the term "litter" is wide and includes 'refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, garbage, debris, dirt, filth, rubble, ballast, stones, earth, waste matter or other thing of a like nature'.

Any person who commits an offence under the Act is liable to:

- An instant fine of \$400 imposed by the issue of an infringement notice; or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 in the case of an individual or \$20,000 for a body corporate upon conviction in a District Court.
- A term of imprisonment where the litter is of a nature that it may endanger, cause physical injury, disease or infection to any person coming into contact with it.

Under the Litter Act 1979 it is an offence for any person to deposit litter of any kind in a public place, or onto private land without the approval of the owner.

The Litter Act is enforced by territorial authorities, who have the responsibility to monitor litter dumping, act on complaints, and deal with those responsible for litter dumping. Councils reserve the right to prosecute offenders via fines and infringement notices administered by a litter control warden or officer. The maximum fines for littering are \$5,000 for a person and \$20,000 for a corporation.

Council powers under the Litter Act could be used to address illegal dumping issues that may be included in the scope of a council's waste management and minimisation plan.

⁹⁷ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1979/0041/latest/DLM33082.html>

A.3.10 Health Act 1956

The Health Act 1956 places obligations on TAs to provide sanitary works for the collection and disposal of refuse, for the purpose of public health protection (Part 2 – powers and duties of local authorities, section 25). Where the Ministry of Health considers that a local authority is not taking the necessary action to meet these obligations and protect public health, it can require a local authority to do so.

It specifically identifies certain waste management practices as nuisances (S 29) and offensive trades (Third Schedule) and section 23 directs every local authority to improve, promote, and protect public health by inspecting its district regularly to identify any nuisance or condition likely to be offensive or harm human health. If any issues are noted, the local authority should take steps to rectify the situation. Improperly managed waste would be considered a nuisance. Section 34 enables councils to abate nuisances without notice and recover costs.

Section 54 places restrictions on carrying out an offensive trade and requires that the local authority and medical officer of health must give written consent and can impose conditions on the operation. The local authority's responsibilities under section 54 only applies where resource consent has not been granted under the RMA (i.e., no need to give written consent twice). Local authorities should seek to coordinate with their local public health unit where offensive trades are being established, such as refuse collection and other waste treatment practices.

The Health Act enables TAs to raise loans for certain sanitary works and/or to receive government grants and subsidies, where available.⁹⁸ It also means that where TAs incur costs in meeting their responsibilities to abate nuisances by (for example) removing refuse that is likely to harm public health, the TA can seek payment of these costs.

Health Act provisions to remove refuse by local authorities have been repealed.

A.3.11 Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act)

The HSNO Act addresses the management of substances (including their disposal) that pose a significant risk to the environment and/or human health. The Act relates to waste management primarily through controls on the import or manufacture of new hazardous materials and the handling and disposal of hazardous substances.

Depending on the amount of a hazardous substance on site, the HSNO Act sets out requirements for material storage, staff training and certification. These requirements would need to be addressed within operational and health and safety plans for waste facilities. Hazardous substances commonly managed by councils include used oil, household chemicals, asbestos, agrichemicals, LPG and batteries.

The HSNO Act provides minimum national standards that may apply to the disposal of a hazardous substance. However, under the RMA a regional council or TA may set more stringent controls relating to the use of land for storing, using, disposing of or transporting hazardous substances.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ From: MfE 2009: Waste Management and Minimisation Planning, Guidance for Territorial Authorities.

⁹⁹ From: the Ministry 2009: Waste Management and Minimisation Planning, Guidance for Territorial Authorities.

A.3.12 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015¹⁰⁰

The new Health and Safety at Work Act, passed in September 2015 replaces the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. The bulk of the Act came into force from 4 April 2016.

The Health and Safety at Work Act introduces the concept of a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking, known as a PCBU. The Council will have a role to play as a PCBU for waste services and facilities.

The primary duty of care requires all PCBUs to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

the health and safety of workers employed or engaged or caused to be employed or engaged, by the PCBU or those workers who are influenced or directed by the PCBU (for example workers and contractors)

that the health and safety of other people is not put at risk from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking (for example visitors and customers).

The PCBU's specific obligations, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- providing and maintaining a work environment, plant and systems of work that are without risks to health and safety
- ensuring the safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances
- providing adequate facilities at work for the welfare of workers, including ensuring access to those facilities
- providing information, training, instruction or supervision necessary to protect workers and others from risks to their health and safety
- monitoring the health of workers and the conditions at the workplace for the purpose of preventing illness or injury.

A key feature of the new legislation is that cost should no longer be a major consideration in determining the safest course of action that must be taken.

WorkSafe NZ is New Zealand's workplace health and safety regulator. WorkSafe NZ will provide further guidance on the new Act after it is passed.

A.3.13 Other legislation

Other legislation that relates to waste management and/or reduction of harm, or improved resource efficiency from waste products includes:

- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Radiation Protection Act 1965
- Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996
- Agricultural Chemicals and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.

For full text copies of the legislation listed above see www.legislation.govt.nz.

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0070/latest/DLM5976660.html#DLM6564701>

A.3.14 International commitments

New Zealand is party to international agreements that have an influence on the requirements of our domestic legislation for waste minimisation and disposal. Some key agreements are the:

- Montreal Protocol
- Basel Convention
- Stockholm Convention
- Waigani Convention
- Minamata Convention
- Paris Agreement.

More information on these international agreements can be found on the Ministry's website at www.mfe.govt.nz/more/international-environmental-agreements.

A.4.0 Waste Facilities

A.4.1 Class 2-5 fills in the Waikato Region

Table 9-2 Class 2-5 fills in the Waikato Region

Facility Name	Facility Type
• Enviro NZ C&D Class 2 Landfill - Hampton Downs • GRP C&D Landfill	Class 2
• 121 Ngatira Road - Lichfield - Downer NZ • Bedford Road • Gleeson Managed Fill Limited • Hyndmans Quarries Ltd • John Roberts Contracting Ltd Airport Rd - Class 3 & 4 • Miranda Rd - Managed Fill • Rangiatea Cleanfill - Class 3 & 4 • Ridge Road Quarry Managed Fill • Smythes Quarries Ltd Maramarua 2 • Tamahere Quarry • Taotaoroa Quarry	Class 3 & 4

Facility Name	Facility Type
- Wilson Sand Mixed Fill - Tuakau Sand Cleanfill	
1118 Kopuku Rd, Maramarua - W116591 235 Whangarata Road Fill Site - Bedford Road Class 5 - Byfords - Te Rangiita Quarry - Coombes Sand Supplies Kakaramea Road - Coombes Sand Supplies Pirongia Road - ESL Cleanfill - GRP – Cleanfill - Hikuai Settlement Road - Class 5 - Hinemoa Cleanfill - James Drainage Ltd Cleanfill - JDC QUARRY WAITETUNA - John Roberts Contracting Ltd Airport Rd - Class 5 - McPherson Contractors Limited Sandpit - Miranda Rd – Cleanfill - Rangiatea Cleanfill - Class 5 - ResourceCo Cleanfill - Shaw's Quarry - Kaipaki Road - Smythes Quarries Ltd Maramarua 1 - Tuakau Sand Cleanfill Site B - Waiau Pa Bulk Haulage Limited - Cleanfill Paparimu - Wilson Sand Cleanfill	Class 5
- Envirofert Tuakau - Graymont Oparure - TSF1A – Waihi - Wawa Landfill	Industrial monofill

Facility Name	Facility Type
Wawa Sludge Landfill	

A.5.0 Full List of 2021 WMMP Actions

Table 9-3 Actions as Per 2021 WMMP provides descriptions, determines whether the action is new or existing, the timeframe, and how it is funded, as well as the objective.

Table 9-3 Actions as Per 2021 WMMP

Ref.	Description	New/Existing	Timeframe and Funding Options	Objective
Te Hauūtanga me te Whakahaeretanga - Leadership and Management				
1	Advocate to central government for more extended producer responsibility; addressing problem waste streams at the source for difficult waste streams such as e-waste, packaging and rural waste.	Existing	Ongoing Staff time	More government action centrally will support many initiatives at regional and local levels and help Council provide management options for waste streams.
2	Work closely with mana whenua, community groups, and the private sector to progress opportunities for increased waste diversion.	Existing	Ongoing Waste levy Staff time	Seek opportunities for collaboration by working with business and the community to develop local initiatives; i.e. AgRecovery, Transition Matamata, Para Kore
3	We will adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content, where possible, to avoid emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and to support the circular economy.	New	Ongoing Staff time	We will lead by example and encourage the use of recycled products by others through leading by example, lowering our own carbon footprint at the same time.

Ref.	Description	New/Existing	Timeframe and Funding Options	Objective
Ngā Kohikohinga - Collections				
4	Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers	Existing	2021-2023 Targeted rate	Reduce the quantity of waste sent to landfill and increase recycling
5	Continue to deliver and optimise household waste collection services to urban rate payers	Existing	2021-2023 User pays Targeted rate (new services)	Provide a safe and efficient service to ratepayers
6	Review waste collection services to rural communities, private roads and the business sector	New	2021-2022 Staff time	What services should be provided by council assessing the cost, suitability and liability
7	Implement new rubbish and recycling services when new contract commences and support this with a comprehensive education and information campaign before and after implementation	New and expanded services	2023 onwards General rates Targeted rate User pays	Ensure all ratepayers and residents are fully informed of new services and know how to participate.
8	Investigate the introduction of food waste collections services, kerbside collections vs services at Refuse Transfer Stations including the cost	New	2022-2023 General rates	Explore options to manage food waste to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including managing locally using new technology
9	Undertake a review of the existing waste team resources and capability to ensure there are adequate resources to both implement the new services and implement this plan	New	2022 -2023 General rates Waste levy	Ensure waste team have enough staff to deliver the new Plan and new services; 3:officer, contract manager and 'out reach' officer
Te Hanganga Pū - Infrastructure				

Ref.	Description	New/Existing	Timeframe and Funding Options	Objective
10	Prepare a plan for a new 'fit for purpose' Community Resource Recovery Centre that provides for an expanded range of waste recovery services	New	2021-2023 CAPEX General rates User pays	Develop a new site that provides for an increased range of waste minimisation services; e-waste, beverage containers, rural waste
11	Continue to enhance our Refuse Transfer Stations by upgrading each site	Existing	Ongoing General rates User pays	Improve site safety, equipment and signage to provide for a better and safer environment for site visitors
12	Develop a Business Plan to develop a 'green field' community resource recovery park to act as a hub for the District that provides indicative CAPEX and OPEX costs	New	2020-2021 Waste Levy	Understand the development and ongoing costs for a community based resource recovery centre to act as a 'hub'.
13	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery including with social enterprise to extract value from waste and to provide employment	New	Ongoing Staff time Waste levy	Continue to work with colleagues throughout the region including the Waikato Region Waste Liaison group and other NGO's.
Ngā tūhononga, ngā whakawhitiwhitinga, ngā whakaakoranga ki te hāpori - Community Engagement, Communication and Education				
14	Develop and deliver a comprehensive waste minimisation programme promoting the waste hierarchy and the circular economy	Existing	Ongoing General rates Staff time Waste levy	Ensure residents are actively informed regarding existing services and any new services that may be introduced.
15	Work collaboratively with central government, local government organisations and other key stakeholders to undertake research and actions to advance solutions to waste issues such as packaging, rural waste, e-waste and	Existing	Ongoing Staff time	Continue to monitor changes signalled by central government and implement any new initiatives that may be required

Ref.	Description	New/Existing	Timeframe and Funding Options	Objective
	advocate for increased or mandatory producer responsibility for problematic waste			
16	Support Iwi and marae to promote and undertake waste minimisation by the provision of (but not limited to) support for the Para Kore programme	Existing	Ongoing Waste levy	Actively consult with local Iwi and support programmes that assist in the recovery and management of wastes
17	Support education programmes that raise awareness and promote waste minimisation including targeted programmes	Existing	Ongoing	To actively engage the community by providing information and resources to support our community that include but are not limited to: EnviroSchools, Zero Waste Education, Para Kore, Paper4trees
18	Introduce a contestable community grant.	New	2021 ongoing Waste levy	Implement an annual contestable fund utilising waste levy funds for community and business to apply for waste minimisation grants to encourage local innovation
Ngā raraunga, ngā waeūre, me ngā pūrongo - Data, Regulation and Reporting				
19	Collect and manage data in accordance with the National Waste Data Framework	Existing	Ongoing General rates	To improve the collection of waste data locally, district wide and nationally and to meet reporting requirements of central government and improve the decision making process

Ref.	Description	New/Existing	Timeframe and Funding Options	Objective
20	Review and implement MPDC Solid Waste By Law that includes Waste Operator Licensing	Existing	Ongoing User pays Staff time	Implement our existing Solid Waste By Law in collaboration with other councils throughout the district to provide uniformity, clarity and certainty.
21	Actively enforce control and reduce Littering and illegal dumping	Existing	Ongoing Staff time General rates	Ensure systems and resource are in place to actively enforce, control and reduce littering and illegal dumping
22	New Developments and Multi-Development Units (MUDs)	Existing	Ongoing Staff time	Work with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure new multi-unit residential and commercial buildings allocate space for appropriate waste facilities and servicing.

