



Tauākī Tūtohu | Statement of Proposal: Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2027

Consultation: 2 September 2026 – 2 October 2026

Background

Matamata-Piako District Council is required to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) under section 44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and review it every six years.

This draft WMMP covers the period 2027-2033 and provides the strategic direction for how waste will be managed and minimised across the district. The WMMP supports practical waste management services, resource recovery initiatives and landfill diversion activities while aligning with the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the national waste hierarchy.

Waste management issues often extend beyond district boundaries. Council will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils, central government, Iwi, community organisations, the commercial waste sector and regional partners where a coordinated approach can improve outcomes, reduce duplication and provide more cost-effective solutions for the community.

This statement of proposal includes a summary of the proposed changes, the draft WMMP, the reasons for it, reasonably practicable policy options and information about how you can have your say. Consultation is being undertaken with the public so we can assess public support for the WMMP and can consider alterations to the WMMP as a result of the public feedback we receive.

Council currently provides rates-funded kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps collections, which commenced in September 2023. The proposed WMMP builds on these services and identifies opportunities to further reduce waste disposal, improve resource recovery and future-proof waste infrastructure across the district.

We invite feedback from anyone who has an interest in these issues before final decisions are made on what will and will not be included in the WMMP.

Reasons for the proposal

The draft WMMP sets out what we intend to do over the next six years to make sure we manage our waste as best we can for the benefit of our community, our local economy, and our environment and Council would like your feedback .

The Waste Assessment

The Waste Assessment is a technical document. The key purpose of the Assessment is to present a clear picture of what happens with waste in the Matamata-Piako District area, what forces are driving current behaviours and outcomes, and to highlight the key issues and the basic options for addressing those issues. The Waste Assessment is appended to the draft WMMP.

Issues

The Waste Assessment and supporting information identified several challenges and opportunities that have informed the draft WMMP. These include:

- A significant proportion of waste sent to landfill is still potentially recoverable.
- Organic waste remains the largest single component of landfill disposal.
- Approximately 53% of the waste stream could potentially be diverted through composting, recycling or recovery activities.
- Many households continue to use private waste collection services, limiting Council's visibility of the complete waste stream.
- There is limited data available on non-Council waste activities.
- Additional opportunities exist to recover construction and demolition materials, organics, textiles and other products.
- Community awareness and behaviour change remain important to improving waste outcomes.
- Existing transfer station infrastructure needs to be maintained and progressively adapted to support greater resource recovery.

The draft WMMP proposes a range of actions that respond to these issues through regulation, monitoring, education, service improvements, infrastructure development and leadership initiatives.

How the goals of the WMMP will be delivered

- Undertake regular waste composition audits.
- Continue monitoring council and non-council waste streams.
- Improve understanding of waste flows across the district.
- Deliver community-wide waste minimisation education.

- Promote participation in food scraps services.
- Undertake targeted behavioural change programmes.
- Continue and optimise existing kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps collections.
- Work with commercial operators to improve waste diversion opportunities.
- Upgrade and maintain the existing transfer station network.
- Investigate resource recovery and regional infrastructure opportunities.
- Develop additional organic waste processing capability.
- Support product stewardship collection infrastructure.
- Continue funding waste minimisation projects.
- Support innovation and community initiatives.
- Advocate for product stewardship and national policy improvements.
- Collaborate with mana whenua, industry and neighbouring councils

Main changes to the WMMP

The draft WMMP updates Council's strategic direction to reflect:

- Current waste data and trends.
- Updated national policy direction.
- Greater emphasis on resource recovery, data collection and organics diversion.
- Future infrastructure planning and preparation for long-term landfill challenges.

Analysis of reasonably practicable options

Matamata-Piako District Council has considered a range of options for addressing the key issues identified through the Waste Assessment and the development of the draft WMMP. These options generally fall into three categories:

- Influence – encouraging behaviour change through education, engagement, partnerships and community-led initiatives.
- Regulate – improving waste data, monitoring and compliance through bylaw provisions and reporting requirements.
- Provide Services and Infrastructure – maintaining and improving waste collection services, resource recovery facilities and diversion opportunities.

The preferred approach is a balanced combination of all three. The draft WMMP focuses on improving waste diversion and resource recovery through existing services, targeted

education, better data collection, and staged investment in infrastructure where practical and affordable. This approach allows Council to make meaningful progress towards reducing waste to landfill while managing costs and remaining flexible to future changes in legislation, technology and community need.

Option 1 – Adopt the WMMP as proposed

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
Will allow Council to make progress towards reducing waste to landfill, increasing resource recovery and achieving the vision and objectives of the WMMP while balancing affordability and practicality.	May require additional investment in waste minimisation initiatives and infrastructure over time and could result in increased compliance requirements for some waste operators.

Option 2 – Do less/status quo

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
This approach is familiar to the community and requires minimal changes to existing services and behaviours.	Council would be less likely to achieve waste minimisation objectives, improve diversion rates, or prepare for future waste disposal and infrastructure challenges.

Option 3 – Do more

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
Will enable faster progress towards reducing landfill disposal, improving resource recovery, and achieving environmental outcomes.	Would likely require higher levels of investment, greater changes to services and infrastructure, and more significant behaviour change from the community.

Waste Minimisation Act Statutory Considerations

44 Requirements when preparing, amending, or revoking plans

In preparing, amending, or revoking a waste management and minimisation plan, a territorial authority must—

(a) consider the following methods of waste management and minimisation (which are listed in descending order of importance):

- (i) reduction:
- (ii) reuse:
- (iii) recycling:

- (iv) recovery:
- (v) treatment:
- (vi) disposal; and

(b) ensure that the collection, transport, and disposal of waste does not, or is not likely to, cause a nuisance; and

(c) have regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy, or any government policy on waste management and minimisation that replaces the strategy; and

(d) have regard to the most recent assessment undertaken by the territorial authority under section 51; and

(e) use the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and, in doing so, the most recent assessment undertaken by the territorial authority under section 51 must be notified with the statement of proposal.

45 Joint plans

Two or more territorial authorities may jointly prepare and adopt a waste management and minimisation plan for the whole or parts of their districts, and sections 43 and 44 apply accordingly, with all necessary modifications.

46 Funding of plans

(1) A territorial authority is not limited to applying strict cost recovery or user pays principles for any particular service, facility, or activity provided by the territorial authority in accordance with its waste management and minimisation plan.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a territorial authority may charge fees for a particular service or facility provided by the territorial authority that is higher or lower than required to recover the costs of the service or facility, or provide a service or facility free of charge, if—

(a) it is satisfied that the charge or lack of charge will provide an incentive or disincentive that will promote the objectives of its waste management and minimisation plan; and

(b) the plan provides for charges to be set in this manner.

47 Grants

(1) If authorised to do so by its waste management and minimisation plan, a territorial authority may make grants or advances of money to any person, organisation, group, or body of persons for the purpose of promoting or achieving waste management and minimisation.

(2) A grant or advance of money may be made on any terms or conditions that the territorial

authority thinks fit, including that an advance of money is free of interest.

50 Review of waste management and minimisation plan

(1) A territorial authority must review its waste management and minimisation plan—

(a) not later than 1 July 2012; and

(b) then at intervals of not more than 6 years after the last review.

(2) Before conducting a review, the territorial authority must make an assessment under section 51.

(3) If, after the review, the territorial authority considers that the plan—

(a) should be amended or revoked and a new plan substituted, it must act under section 44:

(b) should continue without amendment, it must use the special consultative procedure

set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and, in doing so, notify the assessment with the statement of proposal.

51 Requirements for waste assessment

(1) A waste assessment must contain—

(a) a description of the collection, recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal services provided within the territorial authority's district (whether by the territorial authority or otherwise); and

(b) a forecast of future demands for collection, recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal services within the district; and

(c) a statement of options available to meet the forecast demands of the district with an assessment of the suitability of each option; and

(d) a statement of the territorial authority's intended role in meeting the forecast demands; and

(e) a statement of the territorial authority's proposals for meeting the forecast demands, including proposals for new or replacement infrastructure; and

(f) a statement about the extent to which the proposals will—

(i) ensure that public health is adequately protected:

(ii) promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

(2) An assessment is not required to contain any assessment in relation to individual properties.

(3) Information is required for an assessment to the extent that the territorial authority considers appropriate, having regard to—

- (a) the significance of the information; and
- (b) the costs of, and difficulty in, obtaining the information; and
- (c) the extent of the territorial authority's resources; and
- (d) the possibility that the territorial authority may be directed under the Health Act 1956 to provide the services referred to in that Act.

(4) However, an assessment must indicate whether and, if so, to what extent, the matters referred to in subsection (3)(b) and (c) have impacted materially on the completeness of the assessment.

(5) In making an assessment, the territorial authority must—

- (a) use its best endeavours to make a full and balanced assessment; and
- (b) consult the Medical Officer of Health.

Tukua mai ō whakaaro I Have Your Say

Council invites the community to provide feedback on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan to assist us in the decision-making process.

Me pēhea te tuku urupare | How to give you feedback

Online: To fill out the online form please go to mpdc.nz/wasteplan

Email: info@mpdc.govt.nz

In-person: Drop your feedback form into any of the Council offices or libraries

Speaking to your feedback

If you are wanting to speak to Elected Members and Council staff regarding the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, we are planning on attending multiple engagement sessions over September. Updates will be posted on Council Facebook pages and websites.

Feedback is public information

Please be aware your feedback is public information. Your feedback, including your name, will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Council which are publicly available, including to media.

Ngā Rā Matua I Key Dates

Process	Date
Council approve statement of proposal and draft WMMP for public consultation	26 August 2026
Community Feedback	2 September – 2 October 2026
Hearing & deliberations	28 October 2026
Adopt WMMP	28 October 2026
New WMMP applies	1 July 2027

Ētahi Atu Pārongo I More Information

You can call Council on 07 884 0060 and let our friendly Customer Services staff know you have a question about the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Puka whakahoki kōrero | Feedback form – draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Please provide your feedback by 2 October 2026

First name:* _____

Last name:* _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

For submissions on behalf of an organisation please include both your name and the full organisation name.

Email:* _____ **Phone:*** _____

Ward: ☐ Matamata ☐ Morrinsville ☐ Te Aroha ☐ Other (outside district): _____

Age: ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–24 ☐ 25–34 ☐ 35–44 ☐ 45–64 ☐ 65–75 ☐ 75+

Hearing information:

*A public hearing will be held on **Wednesday 28 October 2026** at the Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street Te Aroha.*

Do you wish to present your submission in person at the hearing?(*)

☐ Yes, I wish to present ☐ No, I do not wish to present

Privacy Statement:

Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public. You will be able to access a summary of submissions and deliberations to understand how feedback has been considered and how decisions were reached.

Note that individual submissions will be made publicly available in full (including your name and any organisation you represent), unless you request confidentiality and this may be able to be accommodated under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

For further information on how your information will be used please [view our privacy statement](#).

1) Of the key focus areas listed below, which do you feel are most important for Council to focus on over the next six years?

(please rank each area from 1 – 8, with 1 being the most important and 8 being the least important)

- ☐ Reducing waste sent to landfill
- ☐ Improving recycling and resource recovery
- ☐ Reducing food waste
- ☐ Improving transfer stations
- ☐ Education and behaviour change
- ☐ Better information about waste
- ☐ Supporting community initiatives
- ☐ Keeping costs affordable

Do you have any comments?

Please provide your feedback by 2 October 2026

**2) Have we identified the right waste issues and priorities for Matamata-Piako?
Is there anything you feel we have missed?**

- ☐ Yes. The right issues are identified
- ☐ Sort of. Some are right, but not others
- ☐ No. You've missed the mark

Do you have any comments?

3. Do you have any other feedback on the plan that you would like Council to consider before making a final decision?

Do you have any comments?

Please provide your feedback by 2 October 2026