

## Central Hawke's Bay District Council – Report

**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Utilities Manager  
**DATE:** 24 June 2010  
**FILE REF:** SER 1 - 200  
**SUBJECT:** GREEN RUBBISH BAG COLLECTION

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### 1.0 SUMMARY

At the 3 December 2009 Council Meeting, Council made the following resolution: That Council restrict kerbside collection to yellow bags only, with effect from 1 July 2010 and adjust the targeted rate for next year to recover any shortfall between the cost of the service and income from bag sales.

After discussion at Committee level, Council has asked for the report on green rubbish bag collection to be re-presented at the 24 June 2010 Council Meeting.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

#### ***THAT***

That Council restricts kerbside collection to yellow bags only, with effect from 1 July 2010

#### **REASON**

The objective of the decision will contribute to the following community outcomes:

- *A life time of good health and wellbeing*
- *An environment that is appreciated, protected and sustained for future generations.*

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

Central Hawke's Bay District Council stopped the annual delivery of 52 official Council rubbish bags to every household serviced by the kerbside refuse collection service on 1 July 2009. Approximately 192,000 bags had previously been delivered to households annually.

The delivery of bags was "unscientific" – in that an equal number of bags were delivered to every household irrespective of the size of that household.

After consulting with the community during the 2009/2019 LTCCP process, Central Hawke's Bay District Council stopped the delivery of the 52 official Council rubbish bags to households.

Instead, from 1 July 2009, official Council rubbish bags were made available for sale at retail outlets throughout Central Hawke's Bay and the targeted refuse collection rate was reduced to \$3.22 from \$65.87 per year. This was considered to be a fairer system in that it gave households the choice in how they had their rubbish collected and therefore pay for the actual number of bags required.

Ten months into the new system, the revenue generated from bag sales is considerably less than forecast, because households continue to use stocks of unused bags distributed in earlier years or opt for other collection services. They are therefore in effect, not paying for the service provided in the current year.

Council provides kerbside refuse collection service to Waipukurau, Waipawa, Otane, Takapau, Tikokino, Ongaonga, Porangahau, Te Paerahi, Blackhead, Aramoana, Pourerere, Mangakuri and Kairakau. Only official Council rubbish bags are collected from the kerbside.

Rubbish collected from the kerbside collection May 2008 to June 2009 averaged 38.36 tonnes per month.

Rubbish collected since 1 July 2009 averages 32.34 tonnes per month.

Therefore 6.02 tonnes per month or 15.69% less rubbish is being collected from the kerbside, since the introduction of the user pays rubbish collection. This is a good outcome in line with Council's Zero Waste Strategy.

The budget had allowed for the decrease in rubbish bag sales which were projected to initially achieve sales volumes at 65% of current bag usage - decreasing to 55% of this number over three years.

#### Budgeted bag sale numbers

2009 / 2010	192,000	65%	=	124,800 bags
2010 / 2011	192,000	60%	=	115,200 bags
2011 / 2012	192,000	55%	=	105,600 bags

- While there are less people using the kerbside refuse collection service, the decrease in numbers of bags collected does not correspond with the bag sales figures.
- The number of rubbish bags collected is similar to the projected budget target.

The conclusions are:

1. That there is a decrease in the number of bags being collected, which is in line with projected budgets.
2. There appears to be more green and yellow Council rubbish bags stockpiled in the community from the annual household delivery than was anticipated. This has affected the income from the sale of official rubbish bags.

This can also be seen by the number of Council issued Paper and Green still being put

out for collection.

A contractor survey of rubbish bags put out for collection between the 15 and 17 June 2010 found that 24% of the bags collected were non yellow bags. The contractor felt this was higher than normal, because the expectation in the community is that the green bags would not be collected after 1 July 2010, households were using them up. The normal collection rate for non yellow bags is closer to 10%.

With 10% of non yellow rubbish bags being collected, those households could still potentially have 2 years or 38,000 yellow rubbish bags stored as well.

The next purchase of Council rubbish bags should be a different colour; this will give Council the flexibility to stop collecting yellow rubbish bags in the future if Council chooses to do so.

At the 3 December 2009 Council meeting Council resolved to restrict the kerbside rubbish collection to yellow bags only, effective 1 July 2010. After discussions during the 2010 / 2011 annual plan hearings staff were asked to bring a paper to Council meeting on the 24 June 2010 for Council to discuss the continuation of the kerbside rubbish collection of green rubbish bags after 1 July or continue with the earlier resolution of collecting yellow rubbish bags only.

#### **4.0 OPTIONS**

##### **Option 1**

That Council restricts kerbside collection to yellow bags only, with effect from 1 July 2010

##### **Option 2**

Continue to collect both green and yellow rubbish bags, knowing that the stockpile of green rubbish bags will eventually run out.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL**

Annual Plan 2010/11

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

##### **Internal**

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chairman  
Corporate Services Manager

#### **7.0 STRATEGIC LINKS**

- 2009/19 LTCCP

Brett Way  
**Utilities Manager**