

13 June 2018

Dear Mayors

I am writing to ask for your support for the Local Government Waste Manifesto remit at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting on 15 July 2018.

Territorial Authorities are responsible for waste minimisation under the Waste Minimisation Act (2008), yet the last decade has seen a steady and significant increase in waste to landfill – a 16.4% increase in the last three years alone. The Local Government Waste Manifesto proposes a suite of actions central government can take, that I believe would help Councils to improve New Zealand's poor performance in this area and make substantive change.

Specifically, the remit proposal calls for central government to:

1. Adopt a New Zealand-wide strategic approach to the collection and processing of recyclable materials within New Zealand (i.e. in response to the China National Sword issue).
2. Review the New Zealand Waste Strategy and align, where practicable, with the Local Government Waste Manifesto to set a clear programme for action.
3. Expand the Waste Disposal Levy and progressively raise the levy rate in order to reduce total waste to landfills (noting that based on the current levy allocation proportion, this has the potential to provide Councils with a substantial increase in levy funding).
4. Adopt the National Waste Data Framework and oversee its implementation to enable better planning and monitoring.
5. Establish a Container Deposit Scheme in consultation with local government in order to lift recycling rates.
6. Declare tyres, e-waste, agricultural chemicals and plastics as priority products under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to address these harmful and problem waste streams.

The Local Government Waste Manifesto remit contains two actions that have already secured an LGNZ remit, including a New Zealand Container Deposit Scheme, and a Product Stewardship scheme for e-waste. As neither has been actioned and both are integral to shifting the dial on waste in New Zealand, they have again been included as priorities in the Local Government Waste Manifesto.

This Waste Manifesto was originally developed by the Territorial Authorities Officers

Forum, a sector group of the Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ), which is made up of waste professionals from 64 city and district councils across New Zealand. If you'd like to know more about the issues and the Local Government Waste Manifesto, please talk to your Council's officers responsible for waste.

We thank you for your support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Justin Lester', written in a cursive style.

Justin Lester