

31 August 2021

**Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 2122-48**

I refer to your information request we received on 14 August 2021 for the following:

***Congratulations for adopting a Climate Emergency Action Framework. Please apply this to waste management. One aspect of reducing emissions is to have less waste go to the landfill. Food waste and green waste decompose anaerobically when buried, releasing methane. To reduce this KCDC needs to provide accessible recycling and greenwaste facilities in each of Kapiti's townships.***

**1. Why has the one in Waikanae been closed?**

Council proposed to close the recycling centre as part of the Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-41 consultation document to ensure that equitable levels of service are provided across the district. Other suburbs and areas of Kāpiti are paying for the Waikanae Recycling Centre through their rates, but not benefiting from the service due to its location.

The distance that Waikanae residents will now have to travel to the Otaihanga recycling drop off are comparable to distances that residents from Paekākāriki, Raumati or the rural fringe of Waikanae have to travel to Otaihanga (11-15 mins on average).

What was also considered were the results of a recent survey of people using the centre, which found that a majority already have kerbside recycling bins and could use this option most of the time, with their overflow or bulk recycling being taken to the Otaihanga recycling drop off as they see fit.

**2. Are there plans to provide another?**

For the above-mentioned reasons provision of a recycling drop off in Waikanae is not currently being considered.

***Waikanae is a big gardening area, more subdivisions are happening and many elderly residents don't drive on the old State Highway. The provision of a facility also means reduced CO2 by reducing travel to Otaihanga. For example a round trip from Waikanae beach to Otaihanga is about 20km.***

***Another aspect of reducing waste and methane is to discourage the use of multi-purpose wheelie bins. These make it oh so easy to dispose of everything to the landfill. Please take Climate Emergency Action into account when the contracts expire.***

***3. Lastly, when does KCDC intend to keep waste disposal within our district?***

There is no open landfill in the Kāpiti district since the Otaihanga landfill closed for domestic waste in 2008. Council is not considering the option to build a new landfill in the district for the following reasons:

- It's highly unlikely that Council could obtain resource consent for the construction of a new local landfill;
- The cost of constructing a new landfill is very high and deemed unaffordable for our district, and
- To operate a landfill that only receives the district's waste would not be economically viable.

***4. And when will an inorganic waste collection be re-instated?***

Council hasn't provided inorganic waste collections for a significant number of years and currently has no plans to start providing a rates funded collection service for inorganic waste.

***Recycling and greenwaste facilities should be provided in Raumati and Paekakariki too if Council is serious about climate emergency action. And please don't tell me cost is the issue when I see Council spending up big on other things. Climate Emergency Action requires action on all these matters even if it means increased expenditure. Otherwise its just hot air.***

For the closure of the Waikanae recycling drop off, significant cost increases in the past few years were a consideration. As part of any decision making, Council has to consider how to best spend budgets wisely in relation to provide the necessary levels of service. There are no current plans to provide recycling and greenwaste drop off facilities in Raumati or Paekakariki.

Yours sincerely



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