Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Rārangi take Komiti Ratonga

Waste Services Joint Committee Agenda

Monday 9 November 2026, 10.30 am

Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera



Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Purongo Whaitikanga
Governance Information

Ngā Mema o te Komiti / Committee Members

Mayor Phil Nixon
Councillor Diana Reid

Stratford District Council
Mayor Neil Volzke
Councillor Ellen Hall

New Plymouth District Council
Mayor Max Brough
Councillor Murray Chong

He Karere Haumaru / Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of Council staff.
If there is an earthquake - drop, cover and hold where possible. Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.

He Pānga Whakararu / Conflicts of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as en elected member and any private or other external interest they might have.

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Rārangi Agenda

Waste Services Joint Committee

Monday 9 November 2026 at 10.30 am

1. **Karakia**

2. **Matakore / Apologies**

3. **Whakatūranga o te Timana Tuarua / Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair**

4. **Whakatūranga iwi / Iwi Appointment**

5. **Tauākī Whakarika / Declarations of Interest**

6. **Whakatakoto Kaupapa Whānui, Whakaaturanga hoki / Open Forum and Presentations**

7. **Pūrongo / Report**

7.1 Taranaki Organics Processing Project ..... Page 10

8. **Pūrongo-Whakamārama / Information Report**

8.1 Central Landfill Update ..... Page 19
8.2 Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Progress Report ..... Page 25

9. **Karakia**

Next Meeting Date: TBC
Elected Members' Deadline: TBC

Karakia

1. Karakia

Ruruku Timata – Opening Prayer

Whaia, whaia, whaia te urutapunui a Tāne.
Tāne te waiora, Tāne te pūkenga, Tāne te wānanga
Tāne te whakaputa nei I te whaiao, I te ao mārama
Tīhei mauri ora

Let us follow in the footsteps of Tāne (The god who gave us knowledge)
Tāne the lifesource, Tāne the skilful, Tāne the knowledgeable
Tāne who brought light to the world
So give us life.

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Matakore
Apologies

2. Matakore / Apologies

Leave of Absence: *The Committee may grant a member leave of absence following an application from that member. Leave of absences will be held in the Public Excluded section of the meeting.*

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Whakatūranga o te Tiamana Tuarua
Appointment of Deputy Chairperson

3. Whakatūranga o te Tiamana Tuarua / Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chairperson

Leave of Absence: *The Board may grant a member leave of absence following an application from that member. Leave of absences will be held in the Public Excluded section of the meeting.*

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Whakatakoto Kaupapa Whānui, Whakaaturanga hoki

Open Forum and Presentations

4. Whakatūranga iwi / Iwi Appointment

Officers will issue an invitation to all iwi seeking nominations for appointment to the Committee. A report will subsequently be presented to the Committee for approval of the appointment.

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each Council, Committee and Community Board meeting (up to 10 minutes per person/organisation) when these meetings are open to the public. Permission of the Mayor or Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak at the public forum.

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Ngā Whakaputanga
Declarations of Interest

5. Tauākī Whakarika / Declarations of Interest

Notification from elected members of:

a) Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and

b) Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

Declarations of Interest: *Notification from elected members of: Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968*

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Whakatakoto Kaupapa Whānui, Whakaaturanga hoki

Open Forum and Presentations

6. Whakatakoto Kaupapa Whānui, Whakaaturanga hoki / Open Forum and Presentations

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each Council, Committee and Community Board meeting (up to 10 minutes per person/organisation) when these meetings are open to the public. Permission of the Mayor or Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak at the public forum.

Pūrongo
Report

7.1

To	Waste Services Joint Committee
From	Kaihautū Toitū te Taiao / Environment and Sustainability Manager, Cindy Koen
Date	9 November 2026
Subject	**Taranaki Organics Processing Project**

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

Whakarāpopoto Kāhui Kahika / Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek a recommendation from the Waste Services Joint Committee (the Committee) on the best way forward to address the organic waste stream on a regional scale.

2. Detailed investigation of an organic waste solution commenced in 2021, with a feasibility study commissioned by the three district councils alongside private sector partners with significant organic waste streams. The study identified potential pathways for regional organics processing. In August 2022, the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) endorsed a regional "Commercial and Community Network of Facilities" approach and directed officers to undertake market engagement and procurement, reporting back if the process was unsuccessful.

3. The subsequent procurement process provided valuable information and market insights but did not identify a solution that met the collective requirements of all project partners. This report brings the available options to the Committee to develop one recommendation for consideration by all three councils.

4. The Committee is asked to evaluate the four options proposed in this report. The recommended pathway from STDC is Option One: undertake a second Request for Proposal (RFP) process with all interested partners, with a scope that includes all regional organic waste streams currently transported outside Taranaki for processing, alongside organic material currently sent to landfill. A single recommendation would give each council a common regional basis for its decision, avoiding separate district approaches that may not meet councils' and industry's collective needs.

5. The decision before the Committee is which single pathway to recommend to all three councils. Officers recommend Option One, which would enable the three councils to proceed through the same second RFP process, subject to approval by each council. The Committee's recommendation does not commit any council to a facility, supplier, ownership model or

capital investment, with each council retaining authority over its own subsequent procurement and investment decisions.

6. Following the Committee's consideration, the same recommendation will be presented to the New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils (the Councils) for their respective decisions. Subject to approval by all three Councils, officers will progress a coordinated second RFP with interested partners, using common objectives and a scope encompassing all regional organic waste streams currently transported out of the region. Procurement outcomes and any proposed implementation commitments will be reported back through the Committee to the councils for subsequent decisions.

Taunakitanga / Recommendation(s)

THAT the Waste Services Joint Committee recommends that New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils;

a) Adopts Option One as the single regional pathway for the Taranaki Organics Processing Project;

b) Approves participation in a coordinated second Request for Proposal process with all interested partners.

c) Notes that the RFP scope is to include all organic waste streams currently transported out of Taranaki for processing, including council and industrial streams, alongside organic material currently sent to landfill.

d) Notes that the second RFP stage will be undertaken within the councils' existing respective project budgets and will not require additional council funding for that stage.

Kupu Whakamārama / Background

7. Taranaki generates approximately 200,000 tonnes of organic waste material annually, creating a significant challenge. Much of this material is currently transported outside the region for processing, resulting in high transport cost and increased emissions. In addition, around 15,000 tonnes of organic material continue to be landfilled each year.

8. The Councils, in collaboration with industry partners, commissioned a feasibility study in 2021. The study explored the regional organic waste management options and identified five potential pathways:

    a) Do nothing.
    b) Centralised composting facility.
    c) Centralised anaerobic digestion.
    d) Commercial network of facilities.

e) Commercial and community network of facilities.

9. The feasibility study confirmed that no existing facility in Taranaki is currently equipped to manage the region's diverse and substantial organic waste. Alongside the feasibility study, an iwi engagement project was undertaken to gain clarity on iwi aspirations in terms of organic waste management. The findings of this work indicated that iwi aspirations included ensuring that organic waste stays within the region.

10. In August 2022, STDC endorsed a commercial and community network of facilities as its preferred approach for regional organics material recovery and sought market-led solutions for combined organic waste management through an RFP. Its resolution required officers to report back if the process did not deliver the intended outcomes. As the procurement process has not delivered a solution meeting all partners' collective requirements, the project now requires a coordinated regional direction. The Committee is asked to recommend the same next step to all three participating councils.

11. The initial Expression of Interest (EOI) and subsequent RFP process provided valuable insights into the technology available and the project requirements. The project initially had several key strategic objectives that would address the environmental, economic and cultural priorities in the region, as outlined below:

    a) Localised treatment of organic waste – Diverting organic waste from transporting out of region or landfill optimise the reuse value.
    b) Council Need – Align with National standards at the time and support the development of the circular economy within the Region.
    c) Industry Need – Deliver reliable, cost-effective solutions that also provide measurable environmental benefits for private sector partners.
    d) Iwi perspective – Ensuring the regional process of organic waste with strong environmental accountability and alignment with iwi values and aspirations.
    e) Collaborative Partnership Model – Demonstrate a public-private-Iwi partnership framework to ensure shared accountability, responsibility, and benefit.
    f) Reduce Emissions – Target reduction in both landfill-based emissions and emissions associated with the transportation of waste out of the region.
    g) Indirect Benefits – Economic efficiency would be achieved through reducing transportation-related costs and disposal fees.

12. As the project progressed, additional objectives emerged that reflected a broader understanding of the benefits and impact that this project may have for the region:

    a) Providing additional economic opportunities from the by-products and local solutions.
    b) Bringing additional skills and job opportunities to the region.

13. The EOI process attracted over 20 submissions from commercial entities. Four were shortlisted and invited to provide more substantive information. None were able to meet the collective requirements of all project partners. Key challenges identified included:

- Inability to provide an immediate in region solution.
- Limited capability to process some waste streams.
- Insufficient economic benefit for participating partners.
- Uncertainty regarding the variable stocks and seasonal availability.

14. The project now has greater interest and support from key stakeholders, including:

- Bioenergy Association – Who can provide strategic guidance to decision makers.
- Venture Taranaki (VT) – Who are actively engaged with regional and national stakeholders, industry players, and value chains. VT is well-placed to support innovators and assess the broader economic and regional development opportunities tied to this emerging sector.

15. Evaluation of the procurement process identified opportunities to improve the next market engagement phase by providing clearer information on partnership arrangements, processing requirements, feedstock availability and desired outcomes.

16. With the insights gained, it is clear the key objectives need to be simplified and used as a guide to the next procurement and market engagement process, including the following:

a) Maximise organic waste recovery – Maximise diversion of organic waste from landfill.
b) Reduce emissions – Reduce transport and landfill emissions.
c) Embed iwi and community values – Support iwi and partner alignment.
d) Support economic and industry needs – Improve regional economic value.
e) Enable a circular economy – Enable viable regional processing.

Ngā Kōwhiringa / Options – Identification and analysis

17. The Committee is asked to consider the following four options and recommend one common pathway to the Councils.

Options

18. **Option One (recommended):** Undertake a coordinated second RFP with all interested partners. The scope will include all organic waste streams currently transported out of Taranaki for processing, including council and industrial streams such as wastewater sludge, alongside organic material currently sent to landfill. This option seeks an integrated regional solution without prematurely restricting the technologies or network of facilities that may be proposed. It offers the greatest potential benefit across all three councils and industry through reduced transport, emissions and handling, greater resource recovery and retention of economic value within the region. It also carries the highest complexity and coordination requirements. Processing capability for all streams, facility location, governance, ownership, feedstock commitments and cost allocation will need to be tested and resolved through the procurement process.

19. **Option Two:** Allow private industry to lead discussions and offer solutions that participating councils could join. Several developments in the region are already investigating the feasibility of organics processing. This option supports regional socio-economic growth and may reduce direct council delivery risk. However, council waste streams may not be included, and councils would have limited influence over scope, priorities and delivery timeframes. An industry-led solution may therefore not be available when councils need it or meet their processing requirements. Council participation would require clear criteria, safeguards for public and iwi outcomes, and alignment with regional waste, emissions and circular economy objectives.

20. **Option Three:** Continue with a councils-only project prioritising composting. This option may reduce participating councils' transport, emissions and material-handling costs. However, it may not accommodate all organic waste streams, including wastewater sludge, and would therefore have a more limited regional effect. Excluding private-sector streams would leave a substantial opportunity for regional organic waste recovery and associated benefits unrealised, with material continuing to be processed outside Taranaki. A composting-focused approach would also offer less flexibility to accommodate future organic waste streams than Option One.

21. **Option Four:** Do nothing further (status quo). The participating councils would withdraw from the joint project, existing out-of-region processing arrangements would continue, and no additional regional solution would be developed for other organic waste streams. This option would not provide the project's intended opportunities to reduce transport and handling costs, retain resource value within Taranaki or maximise landfill diversion. It has limited wider stakeholder support and does not address the long-term regional organics challenge.

22. Option One is recommended as the preferred regional pathway, as it provides the greatest opportunity to maximise environmental, economic, and community benefits by seeking a coordinated solution for all organic waste streams currently being transported out of Taranaki. Subject to approval by all three Councils, officers will work with industry and iwi partners to undertake a second RFP within existing project budgets, with outcomes, costs, risks and proposed delivery arrangements reported back through the Committee for council consideration. Adoption of Option One approves the procurement pathway only and does not commit councils to specific facility, delivery models, or future expenditure, all of which remain subject to separate council decisions.

Risks

23. The Committee's recommendation does not itself commit any council to procurement, a delivery model or expenditure. A key risk is that the three councils may not adopt the same pathway, delaying progress or fragmenting the regional approach. A second RFP may also fail to identify a viable solution for all waste streams. Common requirements, clear feedstock information and coordinated partner engagement will help address these risks. Facility location, technology suitability, governance, ownership, feedstock commitments and cost allocation remain unresolved and will require assessment through the RFP. Any proposed implementation commitments will be reported back for separate council decisions.

Whaiwhakaaro me ngā aromatawai / Considerations and Assessments

Local Government Purpose

The purpose of local government is to:
(a) enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
(b) meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local—
(i) infrastructure; and
(ii) public services; and
(iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
(c) support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

24. The recommended regional pathway is consistent with the purpose of local government and supports the delivery of core services. Waste management and minimisation are specifically identified as core services that local authorities must have particular regard to. A coordinated regional approach provides an opportunity for the three councils to consider a cost-effective approach to managing organic waste, while maintaining each council's decision-making responsibilities.

Assessment of Significance and Engagement

25. The level of significance of this matter has been determined by considering the following criteria and levels of engagement:

Criteria	Measure	Assessment
Degree	The number of residents and ratepayers affected and the degree to which they are affected by the decision or proposal.	Low - The Committee's recommendation identifies a common regional pathway and does not itself change services or directly commit residents or ratepayers to implementation costs.
LOS	The achievement of, or ability to achieve, the stated levels of service set out in the Long Term Plan.	Low - Recommending a second regional RFP does not itself change the participating councils' levels of service.
Decision	Whether this type of decision, proposal or issue has generated wide public interest in South Taranaki.	Medium - Iwi, private industry, and public have high interest in this topic. Iwi and private partners are consulted through the project.
Financial	The impact of the decision or proposal on the Council's overall	Low - The recommended second RFP stage will not require additional

Criteria	Measure	Assessment
	budget or its inclusion in an approved Long Term Plan and the ability to carry out existing or proposed functions and activities now and in the future.	funding from any council beyond its existing respective project budget. Implementation costs would require separate consideration and approvals.
Reversible	The degree to which the decision or proposal is reversible.	Low - The Committee's recommendation does not bind any council. Each council retains authority to decide whether to adopt the common pathway and to consider any subsequent implementation proposal.
Environment	The degree of impact the decision will have on the environment.	Low - Recommending a second RFP has no direct physical environmental impact. Potential processing, transport and landfill effects will be assessed through procurement and subsequent implementation decisions.

26. For the purpose of this report, the Committee's recommendation is assessed as being of low significance because it does not itself approve a facility, final delivery model or expenditure beyond existing budgets. Each council will assess its own decision under its respective Significance and Engagement Policy. Given the stakeholder interest, collaboration with industry, iwi and regional project partners will continue as the next stage develops, with further engagement requirements considered before implementation decisions.

Legislative Considerations

27. This work will complement the activities highlighted in each of the Councils' respective Waste Management and Minimisation plans that are legislative requirements set out in Part four of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. It will further support the delivery of councils' requirements to minimise emissions as per the Climate Change Response Act 2002, by reducing biogenic methane emissions through removing organic waste from landfills.

Financial/Budget Considerations

28. It recommended Option One is approved, the second RFP stage will be undertaken within the funding already included in the Councils' respective project budgets and will not require additional funding from any of the three councils for that stage. This does not constitute approval of future capital investment, project delivery or ongoing operating expenditure. Any such commitments, including proposed cost-sharing arrangements, will be reported through the Committee for separate consideration and approval by the participating councils.

Environmental Sustainability

29. The Committee's recommendation has no direct physical environmental effect. Option One seeks a regional solution covering all organic waste streams currently transported out of Taranaki, alongside material currently landfilled, to maximise recovery and reduce transport and landfill emissions. It also offers the opportunity to retain recovered resources within the regional economy. The actual environmental benefits and impacts of proposed technologies and facilities will be assessed through the RFP and subsequent decision-making.

Consistency with Plans/Policies

30. The recommended regional approach supports the waste diversion and resource recovery objectives of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plans of the Councils. The common RFP requirements and any subsequent implementation proposal will be assessed against all three councils' applicable plans and policies.

Consideration of Iwi/Māori

31. Iwi has been part of this project since its inception and their values and visions for the Taranaki Region are considered as part of the outcomes. Engagement with iwi partners will continue as they will be part of the evaluation panel and any other significant discussions concerning this project.

Affected Parties Consultation

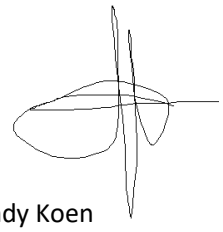
32. The Councils are collaborating with private industry and iwi partners on the regional project. Engagement will continue through the next phase to clarify waste stream requirements, feedstock availability, partnership arrangements and common procurement objectives. The Committee's single recommendation will provide a coordinated basis for each council's decision and, subject to approval by all three Councils, a unified way forward with affected partners.

Whakakapia / Conclusion

33. The initial procurement process confirmed both the complexity of the regional organics challenge and the significant opportunity that exists to develop a long term solution for Taranaki. While the process did not identify a proposal capable of meeting the requirements of all project partners, it generated valuable information that can inform the next stage of the project.

34. The Committee is asked to recommend Option One, a coordinated second RFP with all interested partners, as the single pathway for adoption by the Councils. Officers consider this option offers the greatest potential benefit across all three councils and industry because its scope includes all organic waste streams currently transported out of Taranaki, alongside

material currently landfilled. Presenting the same recommendation to each council will support a unified regional approach while preserving each council's decision-making authority. Subject to approval by all three Councils, the second RFP stage will proceed within existing respective project budgets, with any implementation commitments returning for separate approval.



Cindy Koen
Kaihautū Toitū te Taiao /
Environment and Sustainability Manager



[Seen by]
Liam Dagg
Kaiarataki Taiao /
Group Manager Environmental Services

Pūrongo
Information Report

To	Waste Services Joint Committee
From	Kaihautū Toitū te Taiao / Environment and Sustainability Manager, Cindy Koen
Date	9 November 2026
Subject	**Central Landfill update**

8.1

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

Whakarāpopoto Kāhui Kahika / Executive Summary

1. The Central Landfill project was developed over more than 25 years as Taranaki's intended long-term regional residual waste disposal facility. Significant investment was made in land acquisition, resource consenting, environmental investigations, engineering design, governance arrangements and enabling works.

2. By 2018, the project had largely completed its planning and development phase and was approaching construction. During this period, an alternative proposal was received from Midwest Disposal Limited to dispose of regional waste at Bonny Glen Landfill.

3. Following assessment of disposal options, the Councils (New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford District Councils) determined that continued disposal at Bonny Glen provided a lower-cost and lower-risk option than constructing and operating a new regional landfill. Development of the Central Landfill was subsequently suspended while retaining the ability to reactivate the site in future if required.

4. A review completed in 2021 and reported to the Councils in 2022 confirmed that Bonny Glen remained the most economically advantageous disposal option available to the region.

5. Although the landfill has never become operational, the site remains a strategic regional asset. The property remains owned by South Taranaki District Council, supported by environmental baseline data, monitoring infrastructure and resource consents extending to 2034.

Taunakitanga / Recommendation(s)

THAT the Waste Services Joint Committee:

a) Receives the update on the Central Landfill project's history, current status and future considerations.

Kupu Whakamārama / Background

6. Initial investigations into a landfill began in 1992 in response to concerns about the remaining capacity of South Taranaki's existing landfills. At the time, a number of smaller district landfills was close to or had reached capacity and needed to be capped. As a result, the South Taranaki District Council acquired a piece of land near Eltham in 1995 and subsequently obtained resource consents to establish and operate a landfill for the district.

7. In 1998, a resource consent was granted for the site as a district disposal site, however, discussions among the other district councils (New Plymouth and Stratford) significantly changed the trajectory. During the 2000s, the proposal evolved from a district landfill into a regional facility intended to serve the whole of Taranaki. This coincided with developing the closure pathway of Colson Road Landfill in New Plymouth, that was regionally used at the time. Through this a Regional Waste Services Management Agreement was signed between the three Councils.

8. After signing the contract, a business case was developed in 2013, followed by the development of a regional governance structure, signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, establishment of the first Joint Committee and as a result, the project became a regionally significant project, with financial contributions coming from all three Councils towards the initial development of the resource consent requirements to establish the landfill. The landfill's estimated capacity was approximately 1.58 million tonnes.

Development work completed

9. All baseline groundwater monitoring has been completed, bore holes have been established, and a weather station has been installed. This will ensure that the facility's environmental monitoring systems are in place.

10. As part of the resource consent conditions, the SH3/Rotorkare Road intersection needed to be upgraded, of which all the work has been completed. Further detailed design work and construction planning has already been completed.

11. By 2018, significant preparations and investment had been completed, including land acquisition, obtaining and varying resource consents, establishment of environmental monitoring systems, intersection upgrades, engineering design work, governance arrangements, and commercial negotiations between the three Councils.

12. After the second offer was received a comprehensive cost benefit analysis was performed and summarised that the Bonny Glen opportunity presented was favourable in terms of long-term cost savings, reduction of operational cost, and lower environmental liability.

13. The Joint Committee subsequently recommended that the Councils enter a long-term disposal arrangement with Midwest Disposal, with formal review and renewal points every five years to confirm that the arrangement continued to represent the most cost-effective option available to the region.

Current situation

14. The scheduled 2021 business case review re-confirmed this position. Considerations included waste volumes, transportation costs, emission trading scheme costs, landfill levy changes, and future regulatory requirements.

15. Regional waste continues to go to Bonny Glen, with no operational need identified to reactivate the Central Landfill. The South Taranaki District Council retains ownership of the site and manages it in accordance with applicable resource consent and monitoring requirements. The property is used for farming in the interim.

16. There are currently five active resource consents from the Taranaki Regional Council on the site that authorises the landfill activity for the region, all the consents will remain valid until 2034. The South Taranaki District Plan did contain the designation for the landfill (Designation 116); however, this lapsed in December 2025 due to no landfill activities taking place after five years. The lapse of the designation does not affect ownership of the site or the validity of the existing resource consents. However, any future proposals to develop the landfill would likely require a new designation or alternative planning approvals to be obtained.

CONSENT	PURPOSE	EXPIRY
Landfill discharge consent	Land application and leachate management	2034
Air discharge consent	Landfill emissions	2034
Stormwater discharge consent	Water management	2034
Water diversion consent	Site drainage	2034
River structure consent	Watercourse structures	2034

Future considerations and the 2029 renewal

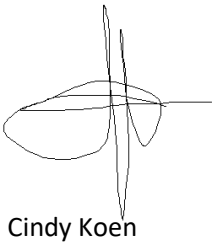
17. While there is no current need to develop the Central Landfill, the site remains a strategic regional asset, reflecting the significant historical investment in the project, established environmental baseline information and resource consents extending to 2034. Changes in waste volumes, disposal markets, transport costs, regulation or regional infrastructure needs could alter the role the site may play in Taranaki's waste management network in the future.

18. It is recommended that an economic feasibility review be undertaken ahead of the second Bonny Glen renewal in 2029 to assess whether the existing arrangement remains appropriate and cost-effective and whether there is a future role for the Central Landfill. The site's previous designation in the South Taranaki District Plan lapsed in December 2025, meaning any future proposal to develop the site as a landfill would also need to consider the appropriate planning and designation requirements.

Whakakapia / Conclusion

19. The Central Landfill progressed through extensive planning, consenting and development work as a long-term regional waste disposal solution. Economic assessments in 2018 and 2021 found that Bonny Glen Landfill offered the region the most cost-effective disposal option.

20. The region therefore continues to use Bonny Glen for residual waste disposal, while retaining the Central Landfill as an undeveloped but strategically important asset.



Cindy Koen

Kaihautū Toitū te Taiao /

Environment and Sustainability Manager



[Seen by]
Liam Dagg

Kaiarataki Taiao /

Group Manager Environmental Services

Appendix A

30 September 1992	Ordinary Council meeting – with closure of Eltham, Kaponga and Otakeho landfills, the Hāwera site is rapidly filling and there is some urgency to engage consultants to investigate alternatives. To report back to Council.
1 December 1993	Solid Waste Project Team meeting – possible landfill locations identified.
17 February 1994	Solid Waste Working Group meeting – public consultation to be carried out for selection of landfill site as per Works Services Manager's report.
14 July 1995	Transfer of land from PL and JM Mann to the South Taranaki District Council – records of title B2/1286 and B2/1016
27 May 1998	Application to STDC for resource consent to establish (including construction), develop and operate a modern sanitary landfill facility for the disposal of waste (refuse), including the construction of an entrance road and access ways, and including the carrying out of all ancillary activities (excluding composting) associated with the landfill development and operation. The landfill will be developed and operated generally in accordance with a detailed Management Plan and generally in the manner described in the accompanying Assessment of Effects on the Environment documentation, together with all plans and maps lodged with the applications. Consent for the landfill is sought without term.
March 2000	Central landfill land use and environmental discharges and water diversion consented by TRC to be a landfill for Stratford and South Taranaki but not New Plymouth.
10 May 2002	Letter – consent granted to STDC (Engineering Services) on 20 March 2000 to establish landfill at Eltham must be given effect to within five years of the date the consent was granted.
10 March 2005	Neighbours agreed to sign consent variation application, planting plan made available.
July and December 2005	Consent variation applications to STDC and TRC to be a regional landfill – granted. TRC consent to lapse after 20 years.
July 2008	The three councils signed a combined Regional Waste Services Management Agreement to dispose of solid waste to Colson Road and then the central landfill at Eltham.
31 August 2015	Report – Council resolved in April 2014 That a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be sought with the New Plymouth District Council and the Stratford District Council that captures and reflects a will to work together to develop a new regional ownership and governance model for developing and operating the proposed Central Landfill. June 2019 is due date for opening, continue screen planting, upgrade SH3/Rotokare Road intersection, will continue to reach terms on MoU.
December 2016	MoU signed.
22 March 2017	Memo to Infrastructure Portfolio Group – the MoU proposes a joint committee for governance and oversight of the landfill – agreement being drafted, NPDC to be administering authority. Seeking expressions

	of interest for construction project design, will apply to TRC for a variation of consent once the design is finalised, and to transfer the consent ownership from STDC to NPDC.
10 April 2017	Report – realignment of State Highway 3 and Rotokare Road intersection requires purchase of small area of land and extra land to be declared surplus. Realignment was a condition of resource consent granted in 2000.
17 May 2017	Central Landfill Joint Committee meeting – design and construction of SH 3/Rotokare Road now completed.
19 May 2017	Central Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Bores Contract.
14 June 2017	Engineering Portfolio Group meeting – deal with NPDC to contribute $3.07 million to historical costs. Screen planting done, TRC water monitoring to establish baseline, Tonkin and Taylor commissioned to design project.
17 May 2018	Central Landfill Joint Committee meeting (public excluded) – following Bonny Glen proposal, instruct landfill administering authority to stop construction until disposal options can be considered, terminate Joint Agreement and disestablish Committee – to be released as public information once three Councils adopt the recommendation.
25 October 2018	Central Landfill Joint Committee meeting (public excluded) – recommend to each council that they sign the agreement with Midwest Disposal Limited, suspend construction of the Central Landfill, authorise the Administrating Authority to negotiate and conclude financial, legal and environmental compliance matters relating to the current commitments for the Central Landfill to enable reactivation at a future date, that the minutes be released following adoption of the recommendation by all Councils.
27 February 2019	Engineering Portfolio Group meeting – report was to be presented to Council in November regarding a proposal from Midwest Disposals Limited to dispose of waste at the Bonny Glen site located in the Rangitikei District. The Central Landfill Joint Committee has considered the offer and recommended that each Council sign an agreement with Midwest Disposals Limited; suspend construction of the Central Landfill and authorise the Administering Authority (New Plymouth District Council) to negotiate and conclude matters relating to the Central Landfill. The area already developed would be reinstated for farm use
5 January 2020	Report – NPDC, SDC and STDC officers met in 2002 to discuss regional landfill. Regional Solid Waste Working Party formed – elected members and officers.
27 April 2022	Report to Policy and Strategy meeting – Review of central landfill feasibility – recommended that Bonny Glen landfill remains the most cost-effective option, continued disposal of region's waste to Bonny Glen, review Joint Agreement, termination of Agreement will need approval by all three councils.
24 November 2023	Bonny Glen disposal option contract signed for an additional 5-years (term ending December 2029)

Pūrongo-Whakamārama

Information Report

8.2

To	Waste Services Joint Committee
From	Kaitātari Whakamīmiti Para-ā-Rohe / Regional Waste Minimisation Officer, Graceyn Cotter (New Plymouth District Council)
Date	9 November 2026
Subject	**Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Progress Report**

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

Whakarāpopoto Kāhui Kahika / Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to present an update of regional progress on the Taranaki District Councils' Waste Management and Minimisation Plans (WMMPs), adopted in 2023 under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

2. The update confirms that the New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District council (the Councils) are collectively tracking well against the Regional WMMPs at the mid-point of implementation. Most actions are progressing as planned and significant infrastructure investments have been delivered across the region. However, performance is mixed in a small number of priority areas, including recycling contamination, construction and demolitions waste diversion, and community participation, which will require increased focus through to 2028.

Taunakitanga / Recommendation

THAT the Waste Services Joint Committee receives the Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Progress Information Report.

Kupu Whakamārama / Background

3. The region's WMMPs were adopted by the respective Councils in late 2023 to meet statutory requirements under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. The WMMP is the guiding document for achieving effective and efficient waste management and minimisation across the region and must be reviewed every six years.

4. The region worked collaboratively in creating the WMMPs and were informed by community engagement and guided by Te Ao Māori principles.

5. Since adoption of the WMMPs. The national policy environment has changed significantly. While this has resulted in uncertainty around some anticipated product stewardship schemes and funding mechanisms, the councils have continued to progress actions within their control and remain committed to delivering the objectives of the WMMPs.

6. *Te Rautaki Para Aotearoa* was replaced by the *Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy* in March 2025. The new waste strategy removed the focus on circular economy, the Zero Waste 2050 vision, and the waste targets for Territorial Authorities (TA).

7. The government announced proposed changes to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA) at the end of 2025. The changes include the amalgamation of the WMA and Litter Act 1979, changes to how the waste levy is allocated to TAs, and how the waste levy can be spent. The final decision and confirmation of amendments has been placed on hold with a decision expected to be made following the election.

8. Despite the national strategy and legislative changes, the Councils have made significant progress towards their respective visions, targets, and action plans.

Whakawhiti Kōrero / Discussion

Current Performance Picture

9. At the mid-point of the plans, regional performance indicates that the WMMPs remain mostly achievable and broadly on track. Most actions are underway or completed, with particularly strong progress in infrastructure delivery, compliance, education and regional collaboration. However, some outcome measures are not improving at the desired rate and will require additional effort during the remaining implementation period. For a full review of progress against the action plans, please see Appendix 1.

Where performance is strong

10. The Councils have maintained 100% compliance across all solid waste facilities, demonstration strong operational performance and risk management. This has been supported by strong regional collaboration, infrastructure investments, education initiatives and ongoing engagement with iwi and community.

11. Significant infrastructure projects have been completed or are underway across the region. These investments increase resource recovery capacity, improve site accessibility and environmental performance, and provide a stronger platform for future waste diversion. Key projects include the Junctions permanent facility, The Sorting Depot, South Taranaki District Councils new Resource Recovery Centre, battery recycling expansion and landfill progress.

Where performance is mixed

12. Recycling contamination remains one of the region's key challenges. Material Recovery Facility (MRF) audit results show contamination levels increasing, while kerbside audit results indicate improved household recycling behaviour. This suggests education efforts are having a positive impact in households, but further work is needed at transfer stations and other public recycling locations to improve material quality.

What has changed since adoption

13. Improved data collection through the current kerbside contract has provided a more accurate understanding of waste composition, contamination trends and service performance. This has strengthened the evidence base for future decision-making and programme targeting.

14. Delays to national product stewardship schemes and continued policy changes have reduced some of the external support anticipated when the WMMPs were adopted, particularly for rural waste minimisation initiatives.

15. External pressures, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) preparedness requirements, increased operating costs and broader financial constraints, have required the Councils to reprioritise some planned programmes. While core activities continue to be delivered, expansion into rural waste minimisation, construction and demolition initiatives and circular economy programmes has progressed more slowly than originally anticipated.

Whakakapia / Conclusion

16. The mid-term review demonstrates that the Councils are making solid progress towards the objectives of their WMMPs and remain well positioned to deliver the plans by 2028. Significant achievements have been made in infrastructure development, compliance, education and regional collaboration, providing a strong foundation for continued progress.

17. To maximise delivery over remaining life of the plans, officers are prioritising the following four areas:

- Consolidating gains already achieved in waste reduction and landfill diversion;
- Improving the performance of areas that are currently under pressure, particularly recycling contamination at the MRF, construction and demolition waste, and community satisfaction;
- Strengthening the resilience of waste infrastructure in response to weather-related impacts; and
- Improving clarity and consistency in data, baselines, and performance measures to support transparent reporting and future reviews.



Graceyn Cotter
Regional Waste Minimisation Officer



[Seen by]
Liam Dagg
Kaiarataki Taiao /
Group Manager Environmental Services

APPENDIX 1: Action Plan Progress

Actions

Each Councils' action plan is slightly different, but a simplified and consistent approach has been taken to report and compare progress, focusing on specific actions that have occurred.

Many of these activities will remain in the making progress category, as they are ongoing activities and not necessarily once-off.

Strategic alignment to central government priorities and initiatives			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Implement and align with central government schemes as required to ensure national consistency	Progress made		
Partake in submission opportunities	Progress made		
The region has strongly aligned with central government initiatives through supporting the kerbside standardisation changes, submitting on legislation changes and feedback requests, and implementing collection locations for product stewardship schemes and alternative recycling.			
Iwi partnership and community collaboration			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Strengthen collaboration with iwi and support initiatives that enable them to be leaders in waste minimisation	Progress made		
Continue to offer the Zero Waste Fund to enable community initiatives	On track	N/A	No longer applicable
Establish a community-based composting network	Work required		
The STDC business waste minimisation officer has actively worked with iwi and hapu to better understand their individual waste minimisation needs and to establish how the Council can better enable them to progress. This is an ongoing deliverable. Through the Nga Kaitiaki platform, the STDC team has also had more engagements with local iwi and to gain their input on any waste minimisation activities that are happening. This platform also offers iwi the opportunity to express their needs and share ideas of how things may look. NPDC supported Rautāpatu Foundation through the Zero Waste Fund, to host a three-day tribal summit on circular economy from Te ao Māori perspective. NPDC continues to run the fund annually. SDC has previously offered community funding, but this ended in 2025.			
Data, research and insights			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Utilise the Zero Waste Taranaki website to share information and updates on initiatives with the community	On track		
Investigate the illegal dumping issue in the region	Progress made		
Monitor waste data, identify trends, and plan actions to address emerging and current issues	Progress made		
The Zero Waste Taranaki website has been kept up to date and discussions have been held about upgrading the website to improve user experience in the future.			

Contamination data is closely monitored and in many instances education campaigns have been run to support the decrease in contamination.
Since the change in kerbside collection, closer monitoring to illegal dumping has been taken.

Service improvement and infrastructure			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Continue improving kerbside collection services to support households in waste reduction	Progress made		
Support feasibility assessments for rural or mobile transfer station options and bulky item collection	Not started		Progress made
Conduct feasibility assessments for repair café or share-scheme initiatives.	Progress made		
Expand resource recovery infrastructure and accessibility across the region	On track		

STDC switched kerbside collection from weekly to fortnightly and introduced food scrap collection in 2024.
NPDC extended kerbside collection to business, marae, and community groups.
NPDC The Sorting Depot opened in 2023 to divert construction and demolition materials, but service currently paused.
STDC Resource Recovery Centre building is underway. The Junction Zero Waste Hub permanent build completed in 2025.
SDC is working on feasibility and options for mobile transfer station service in rural areas. The investigation into offering a bulky item collection service has not yet started.
NPDC ran first repair café in 2025. SDC has run several repair cafes and are now run through external community group.
Region introduced battery recycling infrastructure and further expansion planned.

Education, business support, and outreach			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Continue supporting schools, organisations, businesses, communities, and marae in waste minimisation	On track		
Build relationships with schools to support initiatives	On track		

Officers have run and facilitated a number of initiatives and partnerships, including:

- NPDC Tradie breakfast events to educate the construction and demolition sector about best practice waste management and minimisation on site
- Taranaki Milk Top challenge, working with schools to collect milk bottle tops to help reduce contamination in recycling bins and increase diversion. Significant regional project and runs annually
- Campaign on correct fireworks disposal (annual)
- Campaigns about correct use of kerbside services (keep it level)
- Supported and promoted LFHW campaigns about food waste

Regulatory and policy work			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Participate in updates and reviews of the solid waste bylaw and procurement policy to ensure alignment with minimisation goals	On track	Progress made	Not yet applicable

Ensure transfer stations and historic landfills meet consent and compliance requirements	On track
Participate in development or review of the Regional Emergency Management Plan to ensure waste management considerations are included	Not started
NPDC updated Solid Waste Bylaw in May 2026. STDC made minor changes to allow for the kerbside changes in 2024, with a full review due in November 2028. The Regional Emergency Management Plan has not yet started as there is uncertainty about ownership of this document and which party should lead its development. Further communication on this will be shared once information compilation is completed	

Regional and national collaboration			
Actions	**NPDC**	**STDC**	**SDC**
Actively subscribe to and participate in WasteMINZ and related sector activities	On track		
Collaborate and participate in regional waste minimisation activities and campaigns	On track		
Participate in Central North Island Waste Liaison Group initiatives	On track		
The councils actively subscribe and participate in WasteMINZ, including their annual conference, various working groups, and webinars that they offer. Additionally, officers also participate in the Central North Island and Northern Waste Liaison Groups to build social capital and networks amongst both solid waste and waste minimisation activities.			

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki District Council

Karakia

9. Karakia

Ruruku Whakakapi – Closing Prayer

Unuhia, unuhia	*Draw on, draw on,*
Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui	*Draw on the supreme sacredness*
Kia wātea, kia māmā te ngākau, te	*To clear, to free the heart, the body and the*
tinana, te wairua i te ara takatū	*spirit of mankind*
Kia wātea, ka wātea, āe rā, kua wātea	*To be clear, will be clear, yes is cleared.*
Rire rire hau pai marire!	*Deeply in peace!*