

POLICY: **EXEMPTION FROM LANDFILL CHARGES**

GROUP RESPONSIBLE: Asset Management

DATE APPROVED: 28/10/99

DATE AMENDED:

FILE NO: 52/1/4/1, 400/70/91/2

POLICY DETAIL:

With the establishment of waste management as a District function, the flexibility to offset landfill charges at a local level has disappeared. Council has examined this option and has resolved that no exemptions to landfill charges be offered and that landfill charges for charitable and community services be fully funded either by Council, Community Boards, CDA Committees, Wards, other groups or any combination of these on a case by case basis.

When setting this resolution, Council requested a report be compiled to explain the procedures, which would need to be followed after this policy was put into practice. This is the objective of this report.

Typical requests for exemptions to landfill charges would be:

- Community groups tidying up their own grounds
- Community groups tidying up invalids' properties
- Community groups organising township clean-ups
- Fire Brigade requests to clean up after an event.

As the same services are not requested District-wide, it is better for the issues to be dealt with at a local level. Requests in the same area may also change year by year. There is a real cost to these exemptions and in the past they have not been clearly identified as they have been lost income rather than pointed expenditure. The effect on the ratepayer however is the same whether it is lost income or pointed expenditure, except that the funding source shifted when the District took over the waste management function.

As these exemptions are for local projects the funding should be raised at the local level.

Typical requests vary from \$10 to \$100 in value and are not very common. Their effect locally is minimal but the goodwill generated can be enormous. Large projects such as the Southland Clean-up Day can be estimated for at estimates time.

A lot of the requests are received at the last moment. Traditionally these have been approved predominantly by the Urban Engineers and it is recommended that this procedure continue because:

1. The amounts being discussed are minor locally.
2. Requests need to be dealt with in a timely manner.
3. The Urban Engineer will be able to place the cost against the appropriate code depending on who will benefit.

Typical funding accounts may be either township or ward rates, eg bulky clean-up (town), rural reserve clean-up (ward). There could also be some situations where it may be appropriate to split the source of funding.

Local community initiatives need to be encouraged both from a goodwill point of view and from the development of pride in the community. The approval of the recommendations attached will assume these initiatives can continue as appropriate to the local needs.

That no exemptions to landfill charges be offered and that landfill charges for charitable and community services be fully funded either by Council, Community Boards, Community Development Area Committees, Wards, other groups or any combination of these on a case by case basis.