



Toi Te Ora Public Health
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Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw
Tauranga City Council
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Submission to Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2022 Draft

Introduction

Toi Te Ora Public Health (Toi Te Ora) is the public health unit funded by the Ministry of Health, for the Bay of Plenty and Lakes Districts. Toi Te Ora's purpose is to improve and protect the health of the population in the Lakes and Bay of Plenty health districts, with a focus on reducing inequalities in health.

Public health is about promoting wellbeing and preventing ill health.

Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to improving, promoting, and protecting the health of people and communities are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. For this reason, Toi Te Ora is committed to working collaboratively with Tauranga City Council and welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft waste management and minimisation (WMWM) plan.

Waste management is important for the health of the public. If not disposed of properly, waste can present a health hazard through physical injury, chemical poisoning, exposure to infectious material and encouraging pests such as rodents, flies and mosquitoes.

Do you agree with the proposed changes to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2022?

Toi Te Ora supports the proposed changes to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2022. The proposed change to the bylaw allows Council to enforce improvements to the current waste situation in Tauranga. Regulating waste plans and their management will ensure a shift in behaviour, resulting in sustainable long-term improvements. It also provides Council with the tools to determine whether the key performance targets have been achieved.

The promotion and delivery of effective and efficient waste management and minimisation are key measures which protect public health.

To ensure it covers all waste the definition of "domestic waste" should clearly include normal domestic type waste from any commercial enterprise. It would be helpful to also provide visual education when defining "garden waste."

Please note that there is an updated Hazardous Substances Classification. This can be found at [Hazardous Substances \(Hazard Classification\) Notice 2020 - 2020-au4842 - New Zealand Gazette](#). The 2017 notice is no longer in use.

“Pest insects” should be inserted under 10.2 of the proposed bylaw rather than just flies.

Toi Te Ora supports the proposal for Council to require waste management plans for events. Ensuring these plans are signed off by Council means that it will be done in a way that protects and minimises the risk of harm to the environment and community.

It is good to see that Council has improved waste operator licencing provisions to allow for improved data collection and alignment with legislative changes. This will enable Council to monitor and evaluate the waste services.

Construction and demolition site waste management plan - Do you agree with the proposed change to give Council the power to do this?

Toi Te Ora supports the proposal for Council to ensure there are waste management plans for construction and demolition sites.

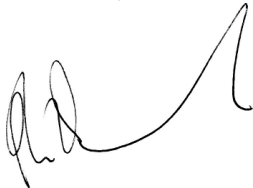
As mentioned within the WMWM plan, there is a significant amount of waste going into landfills that is comprised of construction and demolition waste. The proposed change will require contractors to be transparent and committed to dealing with their waste.

Waste management plans and requirement for bin storage areas for Multi-Unit Developments - Do you agree with the proposed change to give Council the power to do this?

Toi Te Ora supports the waste management plans and requirement for bin storage areas in multi-unit developments. Requiring bin storage areas will make a significant difference in protecting public health.

It is encouraging that Council has included measures to prevent harm and to protect public health in this draft bylaw. The requirement for methods to be used to safely manage waste and minimise odour protects the area from vermin and other infestations that could be harmful to public health.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Phil Shoemack
Medical Officer of Health