



PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

**AGENDA
EXTRAORDINARY
COUNCIL
ADDITIONAL ITEM**

9AM, WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH



MEMBERSHIP

Grant Smith (Mayor)

Tangi Utikere (Deputy Mayor)

Brent Barrett

Susan Baty

Rachel Bowen

Adrian Broad

Gabrielle Bundy-Cooke

Vaughan Dennison

Lew Findlay QSM

Leonie Hapeta

Jim Jefferies

Lorna Johnson

Duncan McCann

Karen Naylor

Bruno Petrenas

Aleisha Rutherford

Agenda items, if not attached, can be viewed at:

**pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library**

David Wright

Acting Chief Executive, Palmerston North City Council

Palmerston North City Council

W pncc.govt.nz | E info@pncc.govt.nz | P 356 8199

Private Bag 11034, 32 The Square, Palmerston North



EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

7 June 2017

ADDITIONAL ITEM

Please note this item was received after the agenda was printed. The item is additional information and is therefore not subject to the urgent item clause.

3. **Supplementary Item to Proposed LGNZ Remits - Christchurch City Council – refer to item 3 on the agenda.**

Page 5

PRESENTATION

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 7 June 2017

TITLE: Supplementary Item to Proposed LGNZ Remits - Christchurch City Council

SUMMARY

The supplementary item relates to the remit regarding “Single use plastic bags”, which is item 3 on the Agenda.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Single Use Plastic Bag remit [↓](#) 

Attachment A: Draft remit on renewable electricity procurement

Council Proposing Remit:	Christchurch City Council
Contact Name:	Lianne Dalziel, Mayor
Phone:	
Email:	Lianne.Dalziel@ccc.govt.nz
Remit passed by: (zone/sector meeting and/or list five councils as per policy)	<i>TBC</i>
Remit:	
That LGNZ supports the increased procurement of electricity from renewable sources by:	
Requiring member Councils to prioritise the procurement of electricity from renewable and/or sustainable sources over the next ten years.	
Advocating to central government to prioritise the procurement of electricity from renewable and/or sustainable sources for its All of Government contracts over the next ten years.	
Advocating to central government to limit the generation of electricity from non-renewable and/or sustainable sources over the next ten years.	
That member councils reiterate their commitment to the 2015 Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration	

Background Information

City councils, as significant users of electricity, are in a position to push for change in the way New Zealand generates, purchases and consumes electricity. However, as much of their purchasing power is channelled through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's All of Government Electricity Agreement, financial drivers sometimes take precedence over renewable and/or sustainable electricity considerations.

The Christchurch City Council accepts that, at present, there is a lack of entirely renewable electricity providers in New Zealand. However, it anticipates that, with the planned closure of Huntly Power Station in December 2022, there will be more options available. A commitment from LGNZ now will help to emphasise the collective purchasing power of local authorities, which may lessen the likelihood of a further extension to Huntly Power Station's operation and increase investment in new renewable and/or sustainable power schemes.

The Christchurch City Council has resolved to make a remit to LGNZ's 2017 AGM to support the increased procurement of electricity from renewable and/or sustainable sources by:

- Requiring member Councils to prioritise the procurement of electricity from renewable and/or sources over the next ten years.
- Advocating to central government to prioritise the procurement of electricity from renewable and/or sustainable sources for its All of Government contracts over the next ten years.
- Advocating to central government to limit the generation of electricity from non-renewable sources over the next ten years.

The Christchurch City Council also asks that member Councils reconfirm their commitment to the [2015 Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration](#), which committed members to supporting the use of renewable energy and uptake of electric vehicles.

Attachment B: Draft remit on single-use plastic bags

Council Proposing Remit:	Christchurch City Council
Contact Name:	Lianne Dalziel, Mayor
Phone:	
Email:	Lianne.Dalziel@ccc.govt.nz
Remit passed by: (zone/sector meeting and/or list five councils as per policy)	<i>TBC</i>
Remit:	
That member councils seek to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags in their districts by:	
Taking a leadership role by reducing the use of single-use plastic bags at Council-run events and libraries	
Expanding community education on alternative options and responsible disposal of plastics through marketing and communication material	
Working proactively with supermarkets and retailers in their districts	
Incorporating environmental considerations into their procurement policies.	
That LGNZ asks central government to name single-use plastic bags as a priority product for a product stewardship scheme under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.	

Background information

It is estimated that New Zealanders use 1 billion single-use plastic bags each year. The majority of these bags are disposed of appropriately and make up two percent of all waste going to landfill, or 10 percent of all plastic waste.

The environmental impact of plastic bags has been well-traversed – many studies and media reports have documented the risk to birds, sea-life and the proliferation of plastic-derived toxins and microparticles in the seas, lakes and rivers from plastic bags that have been improperly disposed of.

The extent of the issues posed by single-use plastic bags is such that a multi-pronged approach is required from central government, local councils, and citizens and should focus on limiting their use and promoting responsible recycling.

Central Government action

Previous remits to LGNZ (2015) have suggested a levy be charged on plastic bags at the point of sale by retailers. This was intended to deter people from using single-use plastic bags, and was intended

to, in time, reduce the number of bags that needed to be produced. We note the Green Party also launched its Waste Minimisation (Single-use Plastic Bag) Amendment Bill in October 2016 to reduce the number of plastic bags in circulation.

We note Central Government's programme to enable the recycling of soft plastics, which began in September 2015. This programme is being delivered along with the retail sector, which is collecting soft plastics in purpose-built receptacles at certain large stores.

Councils' role

Councils also have a role to play in reducing the use of single use plastic bags through their waste management responsibilities and through their service provision responsibilities.

The Christchurch City Council has opted to take a non-regulatory approach to reducing the use of single-use plastic bags in Christchurch by:

- reducing the number of plastic bags it uses itself at Council-run events and at libraries;
- expanding its community education about waste minimisation;
- working proactively with retailers; and
- including more environmental considerations in its procurement policy.

It is suggested that LGNZ encourages other member Councils to adopt similar actions which are reasonably cost-effective to implement, and demonstrate a commitment to reducing single-use plastic bags.

Product stewardship

Under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, the Minister for the Environment can declare any product to be a priority product for product stewardship, which is the responsible management of the environmental impact of a product. Under a product stewardship scheme, any party involved in the life of a product (e.g. a producer, brand owner, importer, retailer or consumer) may accept responsibility for reducing the product's environmental impacts.

The criteria for priority products are:

1. The product will or may cause significant environmental harm when it becomes waste
2. There are significant benefits from reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, or treatment of the product, and
3. The product can be effectively managed under a product stewardship scheme.

Central government has so far encouraged voluntary product stewardship efforts as a first priority, which includes the current soft plastics recycling scheme that is being delivered along with retailers. However, Government intervention may be warranted to accelerate change in this area. In 2014, the Ministry for the Environment sought public feedback on four waste streams that could be considered for product stewardship (electric and electronic equipment; tyres; agrichemicals and farm plastics; and refrigerants and other synthetic greenhouse gases). Submitters were asked if other streams should be considered. Thirty-six percent of respondents (n=216) asked for packaging to be considered, and eight percent specifically asked for plastic bags to be considered.

Attachment C: Draft remit on a mandatory register of cooling towers

Council Proposing Remit:	Christchurch City Council
Contact Name:	Lianne Dalziel, Mayor
Phone:	
Email:	Lianne.Dalziel@ccc.govt.nz
Remit passed by: (zone/sector meeting and/or list five councils as per policy)	<i>TBC</i>
Remit:	
That LGNZ acknowledges the potentially fatal risks posed by legionella bacteria in industrial water cooling towers used for air conditioning and manufacturing	
That LGNZ asks central government to resume its work related to reducing the risks posed by legionella bacteria in industrial water cooling towers. This could include:	
Making amendments to the Building Act 2004 to collect information for a mandatory register of cooling towers and a mandatory testing and reporting regime. Providing enforcement powers to Councils to address the risks associated with cooling towers such as requiring regular testing, reporting and compliance with specified standards under Building Warrant of Fitness certification. Requiring medical professionals to report cases of legionellosis (Legionnaires Disease) to local District Health Boards' Medical Officers of Health (as is required with Campylobacter outbreaks).	

Background Information

Legionella bacteria from the wet surfaces of water cooling towers, evaporative condensers (cooling plant) and scrubbers can cause a pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease, which is often severe and can be fatal. Although this is a nationwide issue, this issue is of particular concern to Christchurch City Council after in 2005, an outbreak of 19 cases of Legionnaires' disease (legionellosis) led to the deaths of three Christchurch citizens. The subsequent coronial investigation into their deaths in 2007 recommended better regulation of industrial, water-based cooling towers, with monthly testing and a mandatory register of cooling towers' locations to help pin-point sources of legionella bacteria more readily. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment undertook to act on these recommendations at the time. However work to establish a testing regime and register seems to have been paused recently.

Outbreaks of legionellosis in New Zealand are sporadic but the disease's impact is often severe. Approximately 240 people contract legionellosis each year. This figure includes people who contract legionellosis from soil or potting mix, as well as those who contract the disease from water-based

sources. One-third of patients with legionellosis become unwell enough to warrant admission to intensive care units¹. The medical and social cost of the disease is consequently high.

Citizens are becoming increasingly aware of the risks posed by handling soil or potting mix after a number of well-publicised cases of legionellosis. However, the spread of the disease from water-based sources is more difficult to avoid or mitigate against, due to the comparatively 'invisible' nature. The spread of legionella from water-based sources is more insidious than cases caused by exposure to potting mix. This is because the source of the bacteria is not as readily identifiable by health professionals during a routine examination and patients can sometimes be misdiagnosed with other respiratory infections.

Regulatory action is required to help combat instances of legionellosis from water-based sources. Mandatory testing and reporting regimes will help building owners and authorities to ascertain the health of specific water cooling towers and will enable early intervention if unacceptable levels of legionella bacteria are found to be present. A mandatory register of water cooling towers' locations will help healthcare professionals to isolate sources of legionellosis outbreaks, and will aid them to reach potentially affected individuals and communities in a timely manner.

¹ <https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/in-print/2014/november-2014/5-november-2014/legionnaires%E2%80%99-disease-likely-not-just-a-canterbury-phenomenon.aspx>