

## SOLID WASTE

### Description of Services Provided

Both the Council and various private and community organisations provide a range of waste management and minimisation services to residents and businesses throughout the Waitakere district which relate to waste collection, handling, recycling, reuse, composting and education. These services are described in more detail in the following sections.

The Council owns and operates one solid waste transfer station in the district. It is located at 50 The Concourse in Henderson and is open to the general public seven days a week.

Weekly household refuse and recycling collections, daily commercial collections and yearly inorganic collections to residential properties are contracted out by the Council. Council also fund and provide for a range of waste minimisation initiatives and litter collection services. Further, the Council manages 64 of the 143 closed landfill sites in the city. Table 1 summarises the extent of solid waste services in Waitakere City that are controlled by the Council.

**Table 14: Council Waste Services**

WCC Solid Waste Services	WCC Role
• Weekly Domestic Refuse Collection	Service Provider
• Weekly Commercial 'Household' Refuse Collection	Service Provider
• Weekly Domestic / Commercial Recycling Collection	Service Provider
• Yearly Domestic Inorganic Collection	Service Provider
• Litter Management	Service Provider
• Abandoned Vehicle Collection & Management	Service Provider
• Illegal Dumping Collection & Management	Service Provider
• Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off at RTS	Service Provider
• Refuse Recycling Transfer Station at The Concourse (WCC RTS)	Service Provider
• Waste Minimisation Learning Centre at WCC RTS	Service Provider
• Closed Landfill Management	Service Provider
• Cleaner Production Programmes	Advocate/Facilitator
• In-vessel Vertical Composting Units (VCU) at WCC RTS	Advocate/Facilitator + Service Funder

### Assessment of Risks to the Community

An assessment has been carried out of solid waste collection, recycling and disposal services as well as closed landfill sites.

No risks have been identified with regard to any of these services.

### Assessment of Quality, Quantity and Adequacy of Services Provided

Council keeps records of any complaints registered against the Refuse Transfer Station at The Concourse. Since 1998, 5 air discharge complaints have been recorded and 10 complaints regarding noise concerns (less than 1 per year and 1.5 per year, respectively). These frequencies of complaints are not considered to present a significant public health threat. Air quality discharge issues have also been dealt with by ARC since 2000 and the ARC Air Quality department confirmed there had been no verified complaints regarding air discharge issues over the period from 2000 to current (2004).

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The total amount of waste generated in Waitakere City during 2004 was 136,172 tonne. The composition of the waste streams is as shown in the table below.

**Table 15: Waste Streams Handled by WCC Transfer Station**

No.	Waste Streams	Description of Waste/Material	% of 2004 Category 1 Waste Stream
1	Kerbside Recycling Collection (excl. paper)	Recyclable materials from 60L kerbside recycling bins	8
2	Household Refuse Collection	Refuse from bag collection service to domestic properties	24
3	Green Waste	Accepted green waste material is composted on-site in the Vertical Composting Units (VCU).	9
4	Council Commercial Collection	Refuse from bag collection service to commercial properties	1.5
5	Organic Waste Kerbside Collection	Kerbside food waste collection; to begin 2006	N/A
6	Inorganic Kerbside Collection	Inorganic materials collected from residential kerbside once per year	6
7	Illegal Dumping (SWBU)	Dumped materials collected by SWBU	0
8	Illegal Dumping in Parks, Beaches (Techscape)	Dumped materials collected by Techscape	1
9	Litter Collection	Refuse collected from litter bins - Council Contracted Service	0
10	Car Bodies	Abandoned vehicles - Council Contracted Service	0.5
11	Domestic vehicles waste (Waitakere only)	Refuse taken to RTS by domestic vehicles	9
12	Industrial / commercial waste (Waitakere city only)	Refuse taken to RTS by industrial vehicles	41

Notes: 1. Waste streams with the largest proportions are shaded.

2. Percentages are based on 2004 waste quantity data provided by B. Somaratne (2004). Refer Appendix C for detailed calculations.

The latest Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Council Services Survey (undertaken in 2003) included two 'Zero Waste' KPIs. These provide a basic indication of the community's impression as to the level of service provided by Council with respect to solid waste services. 88% of residents who responded to the survey were satisfied with the weekly domestic refuse collection service, and 65% are satisfied with Council's dealings with litter (WCC, August 2004). Both these results meet or exceed Council's Zero Waste KPI targets of 85% and 65%, respectively.

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### Statement of Current and Estimated Future Demands for Services

The range and extent of solid waste services that will be required in the future will be influenced by various factors including:

- Population and industry growth / trends;
- National and regional influences;
- Zero Waste vision; and
- Regional landfill capacity.

High, medium and low population growth projections have been produced for Waitakere City Council by the Auckland Regional Council for the planning horizon from 2006 to 2046 using data from Statistics NZ (refer Appendix A). The average growth rate for the Medium projection is 1.2% per year up until 2046. The population is therefore projected to increase from a Usually Resident Population of 176,220 in 2001 to approximately 300,000 in 2046. This is a total increase of approximately 70%.

The New Zealand Waste Strategy: Towards Zero Waste and a Sustainable New Zealand (MfE, 2002) is a joint waste minimisation initiative between the Ministry for the Environment and Local Government New Zealand.

The Waitakere City Council Waste Management Plan, which was adopted in June 2003, acknowledges the NZ Waste Strategy and the various targets it proposes.

The Waste Management Plan states that its purpose is the following:

*"a short-term operational guideline of how the Council intends to manage the waste it generates, collects and receives at its Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station over the next three to five years. However, a more comprehensive review is anticipated before the end of 2005 to fully review pricing and other tools to take the city towards **zero waste to landfill**".*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between Waitakere City Council, North Shore City Council and Rodney District Council with the purpose of pursuing a cooperative approach towards waste policy work, specifically in relation to waste management plans, waste bylaws and regulatory functions.

One of WCC's nine strategic platforms (or community outcomes) as outlined in WCC's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP 2003 – 2013) is *Zero Waste*. The 2020 Vision statement for this platform is that *"Waitakere will be a clean and attractive City that turns all its waste into resources"*. Council believes Zero Waste does not necessarily mean no rubbish will be produced but rather to deal with it in such a way that, to the greatest possible extent, it is turned back into useful resources and not produced in the first place.

The influence that this vision will have on the types of services provided by the Council and the community in Waitakere over the next few decades will be significant. The existing plan has a considerable focus on waste minimisation actions and initiatives. For example, the existing plan intends to implement a food waste kerbside collection to residents in 2005 which provide additional organic materials for the Vertical Composting Units at the RTS. The Cleaner Production Unit will continue to promote resource efficiency, waste minimisation and pollution prevention in specific industries (e.g. boat-building, cafes and restaurants). Other initiatives included in the existing plan are undertaking construction and demolition recycling site trials, establishment of a Resource Recovery Centre at the RTS, license all refuse and recycling collectors operating in Waitakere City.

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Future demand forecasting for waste collection, re-use, recycling and disposal services will be influenced by all of the factors discussed in the sections above. For the purpose of this assessment, four scenarios have been developed, each representing the same medium-level population growth projections (approximately 1.6% per year until 2020) but each with differing degrees to which the Zero Waste Vision will be achieved. The four scenarios are illustrated in Table 16.

**Table 16: Future Solid Waste Scenarios**

<b>Scenario 1</b>	Medium-Level Population Growth; Recovery rates remain at 2004 rates
<b>Scenario 2</b>	Medium-Level Population Growth; Increased Recovery Rates to Achieve <i>Low Level Zero Waste Vision</i> by 2020
<b>Scenario 3</b>	Medium-Level Population Growth; Increased Recovery Rates to Achieve <i>Medium Level Zero Waste Vision</i> by 2020
<b>Scenario 4</b>	Medium-Level Population Growth; Increased Recovery Rates to Achieve <i>Zero Waste Vision</i> by 2020

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**Table 17: Summary of Solid Waste Demand Forecast (2021)**

Summary	2004 (EXISTING)	2021 (SCENARIO 2)	2021 (SCENARIO 2)	2021 (SCENARIO 3)	2021 (SCENARIO 4)
Total Waste Generated in Waitakere City (Category 1 + 2, t)	136,172	178,871	178,871	178,871	178,871
Total Waste Generated Handled by WCC RTS (Category 1 + 3, t)	146,340	193,108	193,108	193,108	193,108
Category 1: Waste from Waitakere City to WCC RTS (t)	87,463	110,666	110,666	110,666	110,666
Category 2: Waste from Waitakere City to Other RTS/landfills (estimate, t)	48,709	68,204	68,204	68,204	68,204
Category 3: Non-Waitakere waste handled WCC RTS (estimate, t)	58,877	82,442	82,442	82,442	82,442
Total Recycled/Recovered Materials from WCC (Category 1 + 2, t)	20,883	26,423	26,423	26,423	26,423
Total Recycled/Recovered Materials at WCC RTS (Category 1 + 3, t)	20,883	26,423	26,423	26,423	26,423
Category 1: Waitakere Waste Recovered at WCC RTS (t)	20,883	26,423	26,423	26,423	26,423
Category 2: Waitakere Waste Recovered at Other RTS (t)	0	0	0	0	0
Category 3: Non-Waitakere Waste Recovered at WCC RTS (estimate, t)	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage Recovered Materials from WCC's Waste (Category 1 and 2, %)	15%	15%	32%	42%	84%
Percentage Recovered Materials from WCC RTS Waste (Category 1 and 3, %)	14%	14%	29%	39%	84%
Category 1: Percentage Waste Recovered	24%	24%	51%	68%	81%
Category 2: Percentage Waste Recovered	0%	0%	0%	0%	87%
Category 3: Percentage Waste Recovered	0%	0%	0%	0%	87%
Total Waste to Landfill from Waitakere City only (excl. outside Waitakere) (t)	115,289	152,447	122,182	103,194	29,360

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### Statement of Options Available to Meet Current and Future Demands

A basic analysis of Auckland Region's waste disposal landfill capacity suggests there is sufficient capacity to continue to handle reuse from the Waitakere City Council's Refuse Transfer Station for at least the 10-year planning horizon of this assessment and beyond.

Based on an analysis of landfill capacity it is estimated that the four landfills that serve the Auckland Region: Redvale in Silverdale; Greenmount in Whitford; Tirohia near Paeroa and Hampton Downs in the Waikato, will have an annual combined landfill capacity of approximately 1,300,000 tonnes per annum.

The estimated annual waste sent to landfill from the Auckland Region (including Rodney, North Shore, Auckland, Waitakere, Manukau, Papakura and Franklin) is approximately 800,000 t.p.a (115,000 tonnes of which is from Waitakere City). Even accounting for future population growth, these figures suggests sufficient future landfill capacity beyond the 10-year planning horizon.

However, Council is concerned that this is a very short timeframe for the planning horizon and it is essential that zero waste programmes are accelerated to avoid a future shortage of landfill space with consequent significant price increases due to reduced capacity.

Council considers that current demand is adequately catered for, but the best option to meet future demand is to aggressively pursue a zero waste strategy.

### Statement of Council's Intended Role

Waitakere City Council currently takes on various roles with respect to existing solid waste services ranging from a 'Service Provider' (e.g. weekly domestic recycling collection) through to Advocate/Facilitator (e.g. promoting home composting). The future actions proposed in the existing Waste Management Plan (excluding those which involve the continuation of existing services) and the roles that Council intend to take for each are presented in table 17 below.

**Table 18: Council's Intended Roles**

Proposals	Advocate/ Facilitator or Regulator	Service Funder	Service Provider
Waste demonstration project	✓	✓	
Waste Communication Plan	✓	✓	✓
EnviroSchools & Sustainable Households	✓	✓	
License refuse and recycling collectors	✓		
LGNZ working party	✓		
Secure more recyclable markets	✓		
Establish a Resource Recovery Centre	✓	✓	✓
Additional resource recovery bays	✓	✓	✓
Establish a kerbside food waste collection	✓	✓	✓
Continue Cleaner Production Programme	✓	✓	
C&D waste recycling trial sites	✓	✓	
Corporate Sustainability Strategy	✓	✓	

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### **Statement of Councils Proposals for Meeting Current and Future Demand**

Council will continue to provide solid waste services at the current level of service and in the short term promote new initiatives to optimise recycling, such as the new kerbside recycling wheelie bins. Within the next 10 years solid waste will continue to be disposed of at landfills, but as space will eventually run out it is essential that progress toward Zero Waste is accelerated.

In order to achieve the Zero Waste vision, there will be numerous initiatives and services which will begin to be introduced and implemented over the next 10-years to help work towards the vision. This will require significant investment and participation from all sectors of the community.

In order to achieve the recovery rates necessary to reduce total waste to landfill (assuming no reduce in waste generation occurs over the coming decades), it has been assumed that a range of initiatives are implemented.

The options that will help to work towards the Future Forecast Scenarios 1 to 4 (i.e. low to high achievement of the Zero Waste Vision) are based on those initiatives listed in 2003 Waste Management Plan, including the implementation of the following new initiatives:

- Provide a demonstration project in a new subdivision for good waste management practice
- Develop a Waste Communication Plan
- Extend EnviroSchools and Sustainable Household education programmes
- License refuse and recycling collectors operating in Waitakere City
- Set up a working party in LGNZ to support NZ Waste Strategy
- Liaise with community, businesses and other councils to secure recyclable markets
- Establish a Resource Recovery Centre
- Develop additional bays for resource recovery at the transfer station
- Establish a kerbside food waste collection
- Continue Cleaner Production Programme
- Trial construction and demolition waste recycling at own development sites
- Prepare a Corporate Sustainability Strategy to address corporate waste management at Council and include clauses relating to waste minimisation in contracts for new Council buildings.

To achieve the Zero Waste Vision it is recognised that further funding and initiatives will be required to address those waste categories that get transported to locations outside Waitakere City as well as waste that comes from outside Waitakere City but handled at the transfer station (i.e. Waste Categories 2 and 3). Such initiatives are represented by the recovery rates proposed in Scenario 4. Further detailed decision-making and strategic planning and cost analysis will be undertaken as part of the WCC Waste Plan review in 2005 and 2006.

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## **CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA**

### **Description of Services Provided**

The Waikumete Cemetery was officially opened in the 1886 to serve the burial needs of Auckland City. Since then it has been developed through new roads, footpaths, plantings, burial areas, new buildings and has been reduced in size with small areas taken out for purposes of road widening, the establishment of recreation reserves and the recent Sunhill Park subdivision.

It has considerable cultural heritage and contains the graves of many notable people. It also provides for a wide range of denominational and cultural groups and contains memorials to significant world events and national tragedies. It is the largest public open space within the urban area of Waitakere City and is the largest cemetery on the Auckland Isthmus.

Auckland City retained vested control of the cemetery until 1989 when it was transferred to the then Waitemata City Council and subsequently the Waitakere City Council. The underlying ownership is with the Crown and the land vested in trust with Council. A detailed history of the Waikumete forms part of the Waikumete Cemetery Conservation and Reserve Management Plan.

Council owns the buildings at Waikumete and the land at Swanson. Council's Parks Assets section maintains the grounds in line with Council's Parks Strategy. The cremators and associated equipment are also owned by Council. The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks, situated in the Cemetery grounds, is also owned by Council, but is leased to the Chapel Restoration Trust, who use the Chapel for a variety of uses including weddings and funerals.

The chapel of Waikumete Cemetery provides facilities for upwards of 300 services per year.

Waikumete Cemetery, and the smaller Swanson Cemetery in O'Neill's Road, provide burial services not just for residents of Waitakere City, but also service the wider Auckland community. Approximately 550 burials are carried out annually.

Waikumete is the only cemetery in Auckland providing burial facilities for those of the Jewish faith and is one of only two providing for Muslim burials.

The Urupa provides burial plots for urban Maori who do not wish to be, or are not, affiliated with any particular marae.

The Returned Service persons section of Waikumete Cemetery is the largest such area in New Zealand, and is the last resting place for some 10,000 members of the armed forces, who have died after returning from such service.

A recent addition to burial options available at Waikumete has been the provision of an Eco Burial area. This area provides for remains to be interred in a grave that is unmarked apart from the planting of a native tree. Caskets must be of a biodegradable nature and embalming of the body is not allowed.

With the current interest in genealogy, searches of burial records are becoming more frequent. Staff at Waikumete handle around 5000 to 6000 enquiries annually.

The purpose built crematorium (erected in 1952) services approximately 600 cremations annually. A new "state of the art" computer controlled cremator, which will meet all current and expected emission to air regulations is being installed. The cremated remains of some 300 persons are interred within the cemetery ground each year, in identified plots in a garden setting and marked by bronze or granite plaques.

The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks is a heritage building erected in 1886, which is located in the grounds of Waikumete and is the scene of many weddings or other solemn occasions. It is also used for numerous film location shoots. The Chapel, which is leased from Council, is administered by the Chapel Restoration Trust.

**Assessment of Risks to the Community**

There are no known risks to the community from the provision of cemetery and crematorium services.

The installation of a new cremator during 2005 will achieve compliance with the Auckland Regional Council's air discharge standards.

**Assessment of Quality, Quantity and Adequacy of Services Provided**

There has been a historical backlog of maintenance and renewals at the Waikumete Cemetery and Crematorium, but in 2001 Council commenced a 10-year upgrading programme to improve roads, weed management, the cremator and all other facilities.

At present the capacity of the Cemetery and the Cremator is adequate to meet current needs.

As well as the work undertaken in performing cremations and burials, programmes of work for Waikumete include the maintenance of the grounds, upgrading of the roads in the cemetery, extensive remedial tree work and the eradication of invasive weeds. Consideration is also being given to the provision of a receptions lounge and the upgrading of the chapels and office complex. In conjunction with the installation of new cremating equipment, the cremator room is being upgraded and the provision to enable family to watch the initial placing of the casket in the cremator is being provided.

Under stage two of the Waikumete Cemetery Conservation and Reserve Management Plan, the following activities will be actioned:

- Development of heritage design guidelines for the site.
- Development of heritage and ecological interpretation sign.
- Further work on heritage trees.
- Continuation of weed control in the old cemetery heritage areas.

**Statement of Current and Estimated Future Demands for Services**

Population and death rate projections for Waitakere City up to 2021 are based on the population forecast provided in this document. The population and death rates beyond 2021 has been assumed based on the growth rate up to 2021. A growth rate of 1.2% per annum has been projected out for the remaining 34 years to estimate the 50 year population in Waitakere City.

The actual number of burials at Waikumete Cemetery has been supplied and the percentage of burials to cremation and this information is as follows:

**Table 19: Future demand for burials and cremations**

	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
<b>Burials</b>	432 (37.18%)	492 (46.12%)	441 (45.18%)	463 (44.3%)
<b>Cremations</b>	730 (62.82%)	575 (53.88%)	535 (54.82%)	582 (55.7%)

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Based on the above actual burial figures and population and death rate projections for Waitakere City, it has been assumed that Waikumete Cemetery takes approximately 55% of the total deaths in Waitakere as burials. It has been assumed that the demand for burials as opposed to cremation will gradually decrease at a steady rate from 55% in 2006 to 25% in 2026 and should remain at 25% for each year after. This assumption has been used to estimate the 50 year demand of 24,900.

#### **Statement of Options Available to Meet Current and Future Demands**

The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 does not enable the reuse of space which has been used for burial purposes. New legislation would be required to enable the reuse of burial plots.

Assuming no ecological constraints there would be approximately 40.73 hectares remaining for burial purposes. Using the traditional burial method and assuming 1770 burials per hectare (a conservative assumption) there is room for approximately 72,092 traditional burials. This would mean there is sufficient land at Waikumete to meet the estimated 50 year demand.

Alternatively, if ecologically significant land cannot be used (as well as land subject to other constraints) then there is approximately 4.3 hectares of land remaining for general burial purposes (this estimate does not include exclusive Jewish Liberal, Muslim, Hebrew and Maori areas). Assuming 1770 burials per hectare there is sufficient room for approximately 7,611 traditional burials. Using Statistics New Zealand population projection figures there is enough room for the next 16 years to continue with traditional burials.

There is approximately 36.4 hectare differential between using and not using ecologically significant land. Assuming another 36.4 hectares would have to be purchased for burial purposes and a cost of \$151,000 per hectare (based on current investigations into land purchase) then the cost would be approximately \$5,500,930.

If Council decided to develop the parts of Waikumete that are considered ecologically significant then resource consents or a plan change would be required, because although the site is designated the Natural Area & Heritage Rules of the District Plan still apply. These rules would facilitate the need for resource consents to use these areas for burial purposes. Alternatively, a plan change could be promulgated so that the District Plan requirement for the designation to comply with the Natural Area & Heritage Rules could be changed.

If it were possible to introduce the modern (modular) burial system at Waikumete then burials could continue until 2038 (assuming protection of environmental values). However, further research would need to be undertaken on the ability to use the modern system on steeper gradients and on the 'up front' costs associated with establishing this system.

Consultation with recreational users of the Waikumete Cemetery was of limited success. Those people who were surveyed were evenly split with 50% of the people interviewed saying they would prefer the existing open space to remain "as is", with the remaining stating they were happy to see it used for cemetery purposes.

#### **Statement of Council's Intended Role**

The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 requires that:

"It shall be the duty of every local authority, where sufficient provision is not otherwise made for the burial of the bodies of persons dying within its district, to establish and maintain a suitable cemetery."

Thus it is not proposed to exit this service. Council will continue to provide and enhance burial and cremation services, as well as the recreational and cultural dimensions of Waikumete.

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Council will carry out detailed planning to ensure the provision of burial services beyond 2021 and will include detailed proposals in the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan for public consultation.

**Statement of Councils Proposals for Meeting Current and Future Demand**

This Assessment has identified that there is only sufficient capacity at the Waikumete Cemetery for the next 16 years and the Council will investigate a number of options for further consideration through the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, as follows:

- Closure of the Waikumete Cemetery when capacity runs out;
- Purchasing land now elsewhere in the city to secure future cemetery capacity, at an estimated cost of \$5.5m;
- A variation to the Waikumete Cemetery Management Plan and District Plan provisions to enable additional development on the site. This could provide capacity until 2055.
- Implementation of new burial technologies such as modular systems or the establishment of mausoleums. This could provide capacity until 2038 without variations to the currently approved plans; and
- Exiting the service, but this could not happen unless Council can provide alternative arrangements, such as private enterprise providing a suitable cemetery in the city.

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## **PUBLIC TOILETS**

### **Description of Services Provided**

Council provides a total of 79 public toilets and changing rooms throughout the city. These toilets are located in town centres, sports parks, neighbourhood parks, beaches and major city parks.

The newest toilets within the city are in Glen Eden, Archibald Park and Brains Park. The new Glen Eden toilet has proven to be a success with the toilet averaging over 1000 visits per week since it was installed in July 2004.

Currently Council provides:

- Toilets and changing rooms for use on sports fields; and
- Toilet blocks that are located predominantly at beaches and in town centres.

At present, there are 33 parks with at least one toilet, and 27 with both toilets and changing rooms. In addition to this, there are two parks with club toilet/changing room facilities.

There are several issues associated with the current provision, including:

- Inadequate level of provision across the city;
- Poor condition of some facilities;
- Closed facilities;
- High vandalism;
- Lack of provision in some places (for example Royal Reserve in Massey, which has potential as a high use park); and
- Affordability.

Wastewater from public toilets is disposed to the wastewater network within the Inner Drainage Area and to on-site systems outside the Inner Drainage Area.

### **Assessment of Risks to the Community**

Wastewater systems for toilets in rural areas have been upgraded in recent years to comply with environmental and public health standards and the wastewater systems are well maintained. Thus there is only a minor public health risk from these systems from failure of the on-site wastewater systems due to occasional overloading or malfunction.

There are still two public toilets that have inadequate wastewater systems and have been identified for upgrading, including:

- Karekare toilets; and
- Bethells toilets

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There are also a number of public toilets provided by the Auckland Regional Council in Auckland Regional Park land and this Assessment does not cover any public health or environmental risks arising from the operation of these toilets. It is assumed that there are no public health risks associated with these toilets as the Auckland Regional Council is the organisation responsible for compliance with environmental standards.

The other risks for the community arise from improper use of public toilets and vandalism. Council has in place programmes to minimise the adverse effects of these activities, but the risks cannot be totally avoided.

**Assessment of Quality, Quantity and Adequacy of Services Provided**

A major replacement/upgrade programme commenced in 1995/96 following a substantial audit being undertaken which identified major deficiencies of the current service to meet the needs and goals of Council Strategies. Since this time the following works have been instigated in the provision of these facilities and provide quality and safe facilities for residents and visitors.

The priority of the replacement/upgrade programme is based on the annual condition audits and the strategic needs and direction.

Major or full replacement of toilets and changing rooms have been provided at:

• **Beaches**

- Piha Beach includes new sewage disposal system
- North Piha Strand includes new sewage disposal system
- Les Waygood includes new sewage disposal system
- Armour Bay existing sewage system no change
- Huia Domain includes new sewage disposal system

• **Sports Parks**

- Brains Park
- Archibald Park
- Starling Park
- Parris Park
- Moire Park
- Harold Moody Reserve
- Henderson Park

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• **Town Centres**

- Glen Eden town centre
- Te Atatu Peninsula - Jack Pringle Park
- Massey West – Triangle Park
- Te Atatu South – Lloyd Morgan Park
- Henderson town centre

Minor upgrades have been carried out at Bridge Ave Reserve (Boat Club and ramp area)

The current programme has several years to continue until all existing blocks that qualify for upgrade are completed. These include.

- Titirangi Town Centre
- Glendene Town Centre
- Chapman Strand - Boat club and ramps

It is also planned to construct new toilet blocks at the following locations:

- New Lynn Town Centre
- Swanson Town Centre

A summary of the annual condition rating of public toilets, with 1 being good condition and 5 being poor condition, is provided in table 20 below.

**Table 20: Toilet condition rating**

Condition	Toilets with Changing Rooms	Toilets	Totals
1	5	5	10
2	11	10	21
3	5	10	15
4	10	15	25
5	1	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>79</b>

There is a higherachy of service levels for the maintenance of toilets. Servicing of the toilets is undertaken on a frequency bases with high use and high profile sites having the highest frequency. These frequencies can vary due to seasonal demands on such areas as beaches.

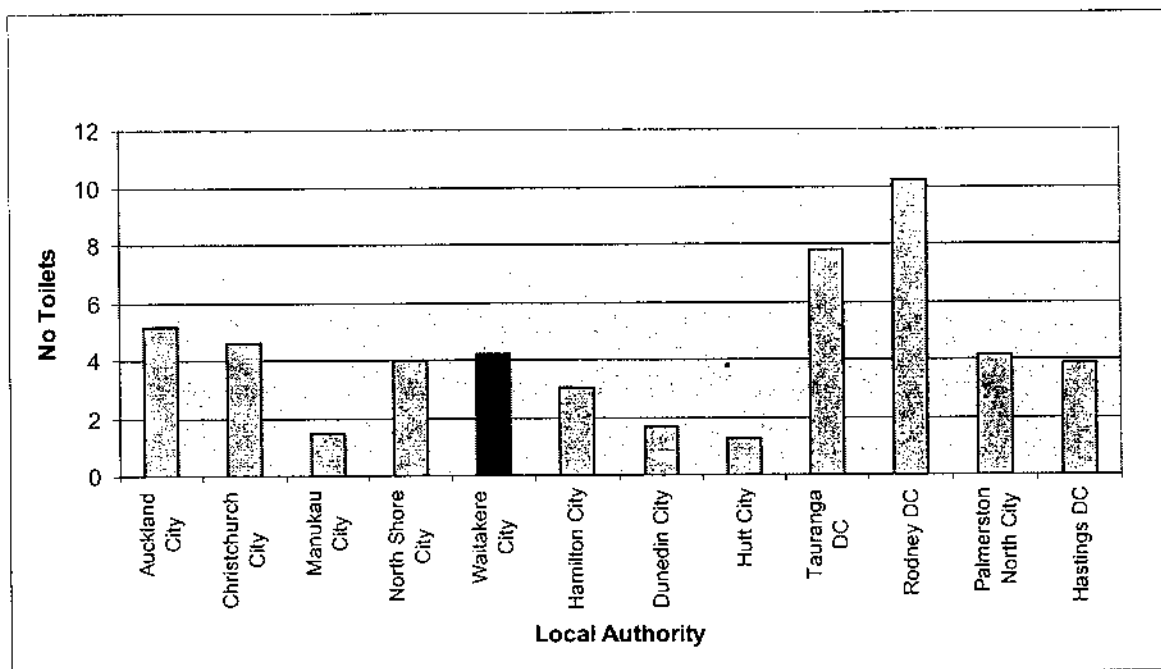
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The following is a guide for allocation of the service level that is applied to any toilet or changing rooms.

- High – Town Centres and high use parks, multi fields Sports Parks
- Med – Smaller town Centres and medium use parks – single or double field parks
- Low - Neighbourhood Parks
- Seasonal - Beaches

Council considers that it provides an adequate number of toilets as demonstrated in a summary of a national benchmarking survey, as showed below.

**Table 21: Number toilets per 10,000 capita for various councils**



In the past 3 years toilet blocks have been removed due to the poor sighting and improper use of the facility. The above facilities have been permanently locked for over 5 years and the response from the public for these toilets to be reopened monitored with no request being received.

**Statement of Current and Estimated Future Demands for Services**

The future provision of toilet and changing room facilities can be achieved by means of both new capital projects and the renewal of existing assets. In order to be able to determine when and to what extent they should be provided, criteria are required. These are outlined below, with toilets and changing rooms being dealt with separately.

Toilets are required where use is high and sustained, rather than just for short periods. Many parks, beaches and town centres fall into this category.

Location

Toilets should be provided on the following parks and reserves:

- City Wide Multi Use Parks.
- Main beach reserves and coastal reserves with a boat ramp.
- Sports Parks where there are no club facilities that cater adequately for public use.
- Local Multi Use Parks where there are no other facilities that provide that function.
- "Domains" in rural and bush villages.
- Town Centre Reserves.
- Neighbourhood parks which receive high usage.
- Where there are no existing facilities in the area.

They should also be provided in main town centres.

Level of Provision

For sports fields, as shown in table 22 below:

**Table 22: Provision of toilets for sports fields**

No. of Fields	Female Toilet	Male Toilet	Urinal
1	0	0	0
2	2	1	2
3	2	2	3
4		2	3

Passive areas:

- Eco Loo.

Town Centres:

- An Eco loo in smaller centres; 1 female toilet and 1 male toilet in larger centres.

Beaches:

- A survey of user numbers shall be undertaken in order to determine the numbers of pans that are required.

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Design

- All toilets should be sited so as to reduce their visual impact.
- Toilet buildings should be of a scale, style and colour scheme that is appropriate for the setting.
- Toilets should be designed in accordance with Council's Eco Design Guides.
- Security lighting should be provided where toilets are required to be open after dark.
- Toilets should comply with safety standards as outlined in the Code of Practice.
- Appropriate sign-posting should be provided.

**Changing Rooms**

Changing rooms are required where there is a sufficient demand, in terms of numbers of users and frequency of use, from organised outdoor activities, and from beach users.

Location

Changing room facilities should be provided:

- In association with toilets on City Wide Multi Use Parks.
- In association with toilets at main beaches.
- City Wide Sports Parks and Local Multi Use reserves where they are not adequately provided for by others.

Level of Provision

For sports fields, as shown in table 23 below.

**Table 23: Level of changing rooms provision for sports fields**

Number of Fields	Provision
1 Field only.	None.
2 Fields.	Council to provide up to two changing rooms – depending on usage and provision by others.
2 Fields used for regional games.	Where no club facilities, Council to provide four change rooms – subject to contributions from user groups.

A77

#### Beaches:

Provide one female changing room and one male changing room.

#### Design

- All changing rooms should be sited to reduce their visual impact.
- Changing room buildings should be of a scale, style and colour scheme that is appropriate for the setting.
- Changing rooms should be designed in accordance with Council's Eco Design Guides.
- Changing rooms should comply with safety standards as outlined in the Code of Practice.
- Appropriate sign posting should be provided.

#### Hours of Use

Currently, the hours of use of toilets/changing rooms fall into the following categories:

##### Toilets:

- Open full time – in town centres, and those on main roads and which get a lot of use, for example Waima Reserve.
- Open for fixed hours – where there are problems with vandalism and behaviour.

##### Changing Rooms:

- Open for games or events only.
- These arrangements are subject to review and will be reduced if vandalism or misuse becomes excessive.

#### Prioritising

Criteria are required in order to be able to prioritise both renewals and capital projects.

The Parks and Open Space Asset Management Plan includes a toilet renewal programme for completion by 2009/2010. This is based on major improvements in safety, health and reduced maintenance costs. For example:

- Making toilets more open and inviting.
- Reducing impact of graffiti.
- Use of tiling on internal walls and surfaces.
- Increased ventilation.

A78

The renewal and upgrading programmes includes sustainable building initiatives, for example the use of environmental-friendly paint, recycled water use, discharge of effluent, reuse of rainwater and solar lighting.

### **Statement of Options Available to Meet Current and Future Demands**

Council considers that it has provided sufficient toilets to meet current demand.

The criteria for providing toilets to meet futures demands is as follows:

- City wide multi use parks;
- Main beach reserves and coastal reserves with a boat ramp;
- Sports parks where there are no club facilities that cater adequately for public use;
- Local multi use parks where there are no other facilities that provide that function;
- "Domains" in rural and bush villages;
- Neighbourhood parks which receive high usage;
- Where there are no existing facilities in the area; and
- Main town centres.

Toilets and changing room facilities require funds for their maintenance and upgrading. Where the cost of this work exceeds the benefits, Council should investigate the issue of removal.

Therefore, toilets/changing rooms could be removed where they are:

- Located on neighbourhood parks;
- In need of upgrading and occur on Green Network parks and parks with only one sports field; and
- Where there are instances of low use and vandalism.

There are three (3) toilets which are located on neighbourhood parks and are locked permanently, due to low use and high vandalism. These blocks are located at Roberts Field, Te Atatu South park, Manuka Park and Riverpark and have been identified as surplus to current and future requirements based on the current policies and criteria. It is proposed that these blocks will be removed in 2005-2006.

Options for the future provision of toilets include the following:

- Encouraging businesses to provide and maintain facilities in town centres. This is currently being carried out by the large mall operators at Henderson and New Lynn.
- Requiring sports clubs to supply toilets and changing rooms at sports parks in exchange for Council providing other park facilities. This has been trialled with a soccer club where Council contributed to improving a training area and the club was to upgrade the toilets for public use. The success of this option is still unrealised as the club has yet to install new toilets whereas the Council completed its works in 2004.

A79

Currently at many of the sports grounds where there are club rooms the clubs toilets are often open for public use. This mainly occurs where clubs are based on grounds with less than 3 fields and Council does not provide toilet/changing room facilities.

The provision of portaloos has also been considered as an alternative to permanent facilities. This is currently used in several locations in the city during peak summer periods but accessibility, safety and child use is an issue with these facilities. The cost of using the standard portaloos against a single unit toilet has a 20 year break even point in favour of the portaloos and hence these are generally only used as back up or for short term use.

The new single and double unit toilets currently being provided are removable and can be relocated when required. This has occurred in Henderson when the two toilet blocks were removed, refurbished and placed in new locations.

The current upgrade programme has 5 years to continue until the goals of the present programme have been achieved. At this stage it is not planned to build any more new toilets beyond the 5 year period.

#### **Statement of Council's Intended Role**

With regard to public toilets, Council will continue to carry out planning, maintain and upgrade existing toilets.

Council will also complete the currently approved 5 year work programme (to 2010) for the provision of new toilets.

Council's intended role for the provision of toilets beyond 2010 will be determined through the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan. However, Council has a number of concerns with regard to the long term affordability of ongoing provision of public toilets and will actively pursue the provision of toilets by public and private entities to meet future demand.

#### **Statement of Councils Proposals for Meeting Current and Future Demand**

At this stage it is not proposed to provide any new toilets beyond the current work programme. The location of any other new toilets will be established through consultation as part of the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan.