
To	Strategy & Finance Committee
Report title	Approval for consultation on Raglan Food Waste Collection

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To seek approval to consult on the proposed targeted rate for the Raglan Food Waste collection service from 1 July 2022.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

Raglan kerbside food waste has been running for five years. Council undertook a consultation with the Raglan community in 2019 and made the final decision not to rate the community for the service.

In early 2021, the Raglan Community Board asked Council to reconsult with the community.

A Council resolution (INF2105/15 - May 2021) was adopted to fund the service for the 2021/22 financial year and to carry out consultation with the community for the introduction of a targeted rate from July 2022.

Following workshops with Council, staff are now seeking approval to consult on the Raglan Food Waste collection service at a targeted rate.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Strategy & Finance Committee:

- 1. receive the report “Approval for consultation on Raglan Food Waste Collection”, and;**
- 2. approve the proposed targeted rate for the Raglan Food Waste collection service for consultation under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.**

4. Background Koorero whaimaarama

In August 2017, the Raglan kerbside food waste service was rolled out and was funded by Council until June 2019.

In April 2019 Council consulted with the Raglan community. Following the consultation, Council made the decision to not continue the service as a Council rate-funded collection.

Following this decision, Xtreme Zero Waste continued to run the service, through a combination of fundraising via Give a Little, donations, and funding applications to cover the operational cost.

Following this period, Xtreme Zero Waste were unable to continue to fund the collection after June 2021, due to having exhausted funding avenues and goodwill.

In early 2021, the Raglan Community Board approached Council requesting the Raglan community be reconsulted with on a targeted rate to continue the service from July 2021. As the Raglan community were consulted with only two years prior, the decision was made to not consult through the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP), however, a resolution (INF2105/15 - 17 May 2021) was made for the Council to fund the service for the 2021/22 financial year via its Waste Minimisation Fund and carry out consultation with the community in preparation for a decision for the 2022/23 financial year.

Two Council workshops were held in December 2021 and February 2022 to seek guidance on the appetite for consultation and possible options for part-funding the service and to discuss the consultation questions, the targeted rate amount that will be consulted on and key communications messaging.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

- NZ Government has committed to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030 and net emissions 50% by 2030.
- Organic waste to landfill produces methane gas, a far stronger greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.
- WDC's Climate Action Plan aligns with delivery on these targets.
- LGNZ Local Government Position Statement on Climate Change- Actions to reduce emissions (mitigation): Planning and actions at the national and local level to support public safety and effective adaptation; and limiting or removing pressure on systems affected by climate change. WDC has signed this.

5.1 Options

Ngaa koowhiringa

Staff have assessed that there are two reasonable and viable options for the Committee to consider.

Option 1 – Approve the Raglan Food Waste collection proposal for consultation.

Option 2 – Decline the proposed Raglan Food Waste collection for consultation.

Staff recommend option 1 to support the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Climate Action Plan.

5.2 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

Service (if introduced) to be funded by a targeted rate of \$72.90 PA.

This does not include the purchase and supply of caddies and kerbside bins for new users. Council will give consideration to the use of the Waste Minimisation Reserve Fund for this purpose depending on the outcome of the consultation.

5.3 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that the staff recommendation/the preferred option complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements. Strategy and policy considerations
The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

5.4 Maaori and cultural considerations Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

Consistent with the objectives of Para Kore to take a leading role in working towards zero waste.

5.5 Climate response and resilience considerations Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

The decisions sought by, and matters covered in, this report are consistent with the Council's [Climate Action Plan](#). This project and consultations falls under action reference #2080 under the Climate Action Plan.

5.6 Risks Tuuraru

The community does not support the targeted rate and the current service will discontinue from July 2022.

6. Significance and engagement assessment Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of moderate significance, in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#).

- There is a legal requirement to engage with the community.
- The degree to which the issue has a financial impact on Council or the rating levels (both targeted and general) of its communities.
- The proposal or decision will affect a large portion of the community. The Raglan township residents that receive kerbside waste and recycling collections
- The likely impact on present and future interests of the community, recognising Maaori Tikanga (culture values) and their relationship to land and water.
- The proposal affects the level of service of a significant activity.
- The community interest is likely to be high.
- The likely consequences are controversial.

6.2 Engagement Te Whakatuutakitaki

6.2.1 Communications

The tone of the communications material to go out to the public makes it clear that the Council has a supportive position on the Food Waste Collection Service in Raglan.

It does this for the following reasons:

- Food waste collection is a relatively easy and effective initiative that people can participate in for climate change action. Considering the fact that Council has formed a Climate Action Group and recently appointed a Climate Action Senior Advisor, it seemed prudent to make Council's position on this clear to support those initiatives.
- The recently consulted on NZI Waste Strategy and the Emissions Reduction Plan make it clear that the percentage of household diversion away from landfill will not happen without a food waste service.
- By taking more of a promotional and educational approach of focusing on the benefits of the service it is hoped that it will support people in submitting on the consultation and then use the service.
- Quality submissions from meaningful engagement will then support Council in making their decision.
- The communications need to balance the benefits of the service against the cost to the ratepayer. This will be the key messaging across the communications collateral.

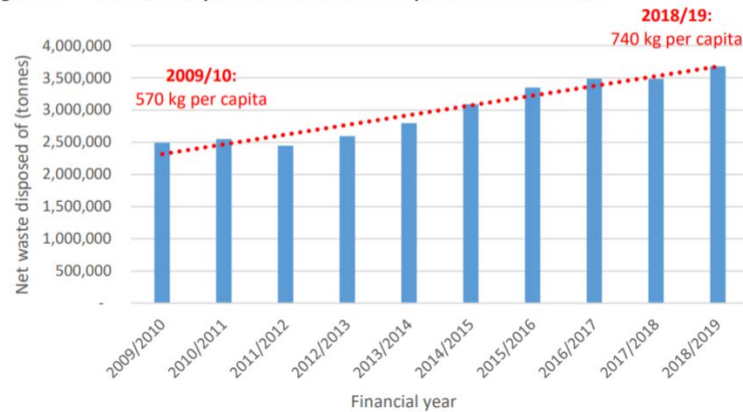
Key messages

Below are the key messages staff and stakeholders will use for consultation and communications:

- For the food waste collection to continue in Raglan, a targeted rate is required to fund the service.
 - The continuation of the food waste collection service needs to be consulted on as it is proposing an introduction of a new targeted rate to the Raglan community.
 - This service was consulted on previously only three years ago (March 2019). After 60% of respondents indicated they were not willing to pay a targeted rate of \$79, Council decided to stop supporting the service.
 - As well as the fact that the service will not be able to continue without a targeted rate, Council is going out to consult again for the following reasons:
 - The Raglan Community Board requested we do so.
 - A lot has changed in the waste industry since then, including a national standardisation of kerbside waste collection being worked on by the Government which is scheduled to include food waste.
 - Costs of sending rubbish to landfill have risen considerably and will continue to do so, increasing benefits of landfill diversion.
 - In Waikato District Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, food waste collections are identified to ensure waste diversion targets are reached. This plan is a formal document that was consulted on and supported by the community.
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- The Raglan community will be presented with the key question – ‘do you support this weekly food waste service to continue at a yearly cost of \$72.90 as a targeted rate?’ Each submitter will have the option to answer yes or no.
- Waste to landfill continues to increase putting New Zealand in the top ten worst per capita for waste generation.

Figure 1: Trends in disposal of waste at municipal landfills since 2009



- Food waste collection services are recognised as part of the nationally standardised kerbside waste collection in New Zealand that is being worked on by the government and an increasing number of city and district councils around the country have already implemented kerbside food waste collections.
- The government have confirmed a sixfold increase in the waste levy (for Landfills) over the next four years until 2026, when it will be reviewed and is likely to increase in line with other countries. This, combined with increasing transport costs, means the cost of sending waste to landfill will continue to rise each year.
- The new strategy developed by the government proposes a 60-70% reduction of household waste to landfill.

Our targets for 2030



- The kerbside service has diverted 614 tonnes of food waste from households in Raglan in the first four years of operation.
- Food waste in landfill generates leachate which can pose an ongoing and long-term management issue in landfills as it is both toxic and can pollute groundwater and waterways.
- Landfills also produce greenhouse gas emissions, methane and carbon dioxide which contribute to global warming/climate change.

- Food waste collections are included in the Waikato District Council's Waste Minimisation Plan which is a formal, publicly consulted on Plan that guides Council's future waste minimisation.

Other benefits of a food waste collection service are numerous, and they include:

- The community has access to high quality, affordable, local compost all year round, which boosts people's ability to have vegetable gardens creating healthy food, reducing dependency on external supply chains, and creates more local food resilience.
 - It is complementary to those who compost at home. With the kerbside service being available to all households people can use the service for material they cannot put in their own composts or worm farms, when they have more food waste than they can handle or if other diversion stops e.g. feeding scraps to chickens.
 - The local kerbside collection diverts organic waste from landfill and out of rubbish bags, which enables households to fill their rubbish bags more efficiently and not have to put them out as often as the bags don't smell.
 - Circular economy: the food waste collection and local processing creates multiple benefits - local jobs and a great high-end quality compost local product which is currently all sold locally. 730 cubic metres of Superfood compost has been produced in the last 4 years and a further 200 cubes of Carbon Compost per year produced from Greenwaste processing enabled by this circular economy model. Another bonus of this model as it has enabled XZW to innovate and it is now able to compost about 90% of all noxious plants (including a large volume from WDC reserves) through the Organics Yard and turn it into useful, weed free compost.
 - Keeping food out of landfill helps us to mitigate the impacts of climate change; food waste decomposes without oxygen in landfill, producing greenhouse gases, mostly methane which contributes to climate change.
 - Those that use the food waste collection to its full extent are reducing the amount of waste in their rubbish bags by about 35%. Therefore, some of the cost of the proposed target rate can be offset by the fact that fewer rubbish bags need to be bought every year.
 - Using the kerbside food waste to its full extent will make it less expensive to dispose of waste as the levy on landfills increase and the cost of sending waste to landfill rise year on year. With the growth of Raglan due to increase by 500 plus houses over the next few years this service will enable the ongoing reduction and diversion of organic waste from the waste stream thus increasing savings.
 - Diverting food waste out of rubbish bags reduces animal strike at the kerbside and the need to dispose of a bag that isn't full as it does not smell.
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Tactics

Communication tactics that will be used during consultation include:

Web:

- Social media posts both raising awareness about consultation period and plugging benefits of food waste collection
- Full and clear details on the Shape Waikato website about the consultation
- Pointer/link from the rubbish and recycling web page to Shape Waikato website for consultation.

Print:

- Flyers to be dropped at households (reach residents (renters) and ratepayers)
- Letters to be posted out to ratepayers (reach ratepayers)
- Newspaper adverts in the Raglan Chronicle.
- Posters at library and key points around town raising awareness about consultation.

Radio and media:

- Media release to Raglan Chronicle, Raglan 23 and Raglan Radio
- Lisa Thomson and Gabrielle Parson to use Raglan Radio slots to push the benefits of food waste collection and raise awareness about the consultation period
- XZW to use their slot on Raglan Radio to push benefits of food waste collection.

Consultation period

The consultation period will be from Wednesday, 2 March to Friday, 1 April 2022.

Consultation Questions

The Raglan Food Waste collection consultation will ask the following questions:

1. Please indicate which best matches your residency in Raglan:
 - I am the owner and live at the property
 - I am a landlord of the property but don't live in Raglan
 - The property is my holiday home
 - I am a tenant
 - Business owner
 - Other (please specify)
 2. Please indicate how often you currently use the kerb-side food collection service:
 - Weekly
 - Fortnightly
 - Monthly
 - Less often
 - I do not use the service (please complete Q2.a.)
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2.a. If you do not use the service, please let us know how you dispose of your food waste.

3. Considering the benefits of the service to the environment, the local economy and the Raglan Community, do you support this weekly food waste service to continue at a yearly cost of \$72.90 as a targeted rate?

- Yes
- No.

6.2.2 Engagement

Impacted stakeholders in the Raglan will be communicated with via the following tactics:

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by providing a brief explanation of the tools which will be used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	Key stakeholders (as outlined below) will be consulted with on the proposal to continue the Raglan Food Waste collection at a targeted rate.				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Boards/Community Committees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi and hapuu
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affected Communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affected Businesses
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please Specify)

7. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

If Council approve the proposed Raglan Food Waste collection for consultation, the consultation period will commence on Wednesday, 2 March and close on Friday, 1 April 2022.

Submissions will then be presented to Council in April 2022 for consideration.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance

Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

As required by the Local Government Act 2002, staff confirm the following:

The report fits with Council's role and Committees' Reference and Delegations.	Confirmed
The report contains sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages (<i>Section 5.1</i>).	Confirmed
Staff assessment of the level of significance of the issues in the report after consideration of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy (<i>Section 6.1</i>).	Moderate
The report contains adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons taking account of any proposed or previous community engagement and assessed level of significance (<i>Section 6.2</i>).	Confirmed
The report considers impact on Maaori (<i>Section 5.5</i>)	Confirmed
The report and recommendations are consistent with Council's plans and policies (<i>Section 5.4</i>).	Confirmed WMMP 2018-2024
The report and recommendations comply with Council's legal duties and responsibilities (<i>Section 5.3</i>).	Confirmed

9. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Raglan Food Waste Collection Consultation Document

Attachment 2 – Letter to stakeholders

Date:	16 February 2022
Report Author:	Phillip Ellis Solid Waste Team Leader
Authorised by:	Roger MacCulloch General Manager Service Delivery

(This information is to go on to the Shape Waikato website, which is the online portal for people to submit feedback.)

Raglan Food Waste Collection 2022

Background

Raglan community has been diverting food waste away from landfill for almost five years and Xtreme Zero Waste has been processing it into high quality compost.

Three years ago, the Council consulted with the Raglan community on whether it was willing to pay a targeted rate for the food waste collection service to continue following a funded trial period. 60% of respondents indicated they were not willing to pay a targeted rate and subsequently Council decided to withdraw its funding of the service.

Since that time the service has continued thanks to Xtreme Zero Waste's self-funding of the service and a year-long funding grant from WDC.

But, for the service to continue beyond July 2022, a targeted rate is required to cover operational costs.

The rate would be \$72.90 per household. This includes a weekly collection of food scraps from the kerb and includes the caddy liners for the indoor kitchen caddy.

Why are we consulting again?

As well as a need for a targeted rate to ensure the continuation of the food waste collection service, Council is going out to consult again for the following reasons:

- The Raglan Community Board requested we do so.
- A lot has changed in the waste industry since then, including a national standardisation of kerbside waste collection being worked on by the Govt which will include food waste.
- Costs of sending rubbish to landfill have risen considerably and will continue to do so, increasing benefits of landfill diversion.
- In Waikato District Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), food waste collections are identified to ensure waste diversion targets are reached. The WMMP is a formal document that was consulted on and supported by the community.

Benefits of a food waste collection service

- Following a rubbish bag audit in 2018, the results showed that Raglan had an average of 35% food waste in their blue prepaid rubbish bag that goes to landfill
- Raglan's food waste collection service enables households to divert more waste from their prepaid rubbish bags.
- With a six-fold increase on the waste levy over the next four years, waste disposal to landfill will cost significantly more.
- The kerbside food waste collection offers an alternative for the community both in terms of environment and economy.

- The Government’s Emission Reduction Plan (ERP) has identified organics, including food waste, as a priority to divert from landfill.
- Food waste emits greenhouse gases; methane and carbon dioxide, in addition, as the resource value when converted to compost is lost when sent to landfill.
- Meeting national targets and international commitments are a priority to address climate impacts and the challenges of increasing waste to landfill.
- Removing food scraps from waste and diverting from landfill is valuable as it reduces public and environmental costs and keeps valuable resources in the community where it can be made into local products and create job opportunities.

Have your say

We would like to hear from you on whether you support the continuation of this service at a cost of \$72.90, collected as a targeted rate by Waikato District Council to fund the continuation of this important service.

Consultation and submissions

Anyone can make a submission for the Raglan Food Waste Collection 2022 consultation, and we encourage you to let us know your views. This feedback will be used during the decision-making process.

Submissions

Online: www.shapewaikato.govt.nz/raglan-food-waste-2022

Delivered to: Raglan Office and Library
7 Bow Street, Raglan 3225

Raglan Information Centre
13 Wainui Road, Raglan

Posted to: Waikato District Council
15 Galileo Street
Ngaruawahia 3742

Huntly Office
142 Main Street, Huntly 3700

Tuakau Office
2 Dominion Rd, Tuakau 2121

Te Kauwhata Office
1 Main Road, Te Kauwhata 3710

Emailed to: consult@waidc.govt.nz
Subject heading should read: “Raglan Food Waste 2022”

Privacy Act Information

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public.

Your contact details are collected:

- So that the Council can write and inform you of the decision(s) on your submission(s)
- To arrange a hearing date and time for you to speak (if you choose to).

Your name will be publicly available. If you would like your name to be kept confidential you need to inform us when you send in your submission.

You have the right to correct any errors in personal details contained in your submission. If you do not supply your name and address the Council will formally receive your submission but will not be able to inform you of the outcome.

Important dates to remember

Consultation opens – 2 March 2022

Consultation closes – 1 April 2022

What happens next?

The Council will acknowledge each submission received in writing, either by letter or email.

Following the closure of submissions on 1 April, all submissions will be reviewed will be formally considered at a meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee in May 2022. This meeting will be open to both submitters and the public to attend.

If you have any further queries, please contact Phillip Ellis via email at consult@waidc.govt.nz.

Other links

Waikato District Council Rubbish and Recycling <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rubbish-and-recycling>

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan>

Resources for Reducing Waste <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-education>

Date

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Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the Raglan Food Waste Collection Service

The Raglan community has been successful in diverting more than 614 tonnes of food waste from landfill over the past five years, via the kerbside food waste collection. Waikato District Council is proposing to introduce a targeted rate to enable this service to continue from 1 July 2022 and would like your feedback.

This service was consulted on previously three years ago. After 60% of respondents said they were not willing to pay a targeted rate, the Council decided to stop supporting the service. Since that time, the service has continued thanks to Xtreme Zero Waste's self-funding of the service and a year's funding from Council's Waste Minimisation Fund.

Council is consulting again for the following reasons:

- Without a targeted rate, the service will not be able to continue
- The Raglan Community Board requested we do so
- Waste industry changes now include a national standardisation of kerbside collection being worked on by Government, which will include food waste
- Costs of sending rubbish to landfill have risen considerably and will continue to do so, increasing benefits of landfill diversion.

The rate for the service would be \$72.90 per household. This includes a weekly collection of food scraps from the kerb and caddy liners for the indoor kitchen caddy.

This service diverts food waste (which contributes about 35% of Raglan household waste that goes to landfill) and helps with:

- Making use of a waste product by producing locally made high-end compost that benefits soil health, and contributes to a circular economy
- Retaining resources locally which means avoiding up to 88km of transportation to landfill
- Achieving goals to minimise waste and its effects on climate and the environment.

To find out more about the benefits of this service, please visit www.shapewaikato.govt.nz/raglan-food-waste-2022.

Submissions open on 2 March and will close on 1 April 2022. Due to current COVID-19 levels, we encourage online submissions via our website (above) or email consult@waidc.govt.nz (using the subject line "Raglan Food Waste 2022").

However, you can pick up a submission form from our Raglan or Ngaruawahia offices and post to **Waikato District Council, Attn: Corporate Planner, Private Bag 544, Ngaruawahia**, or drop off to our Raglan office and library at 7 Bow Street or the Information Centre at 13 Wainui Road.

For further information, please contact us on 0800 492 452 or email consult@waidc.govt.nz.

Regards,

Phillip Ellis
 Solid Waste Team Leader