

## Submission: Proposed Improvements to Council's Waste Bylaw and Controls

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## **Rosebank Business Association Submission on the Waste Bylaw and Controls**

### **Introduction**

The Rosebank Business Association (RBA) represents one of Auckland's most important industrial and manufacturing precincts, located on the Rosebank Peninsula in west Auckland. With over 520 businesses contributing significantly to Auckland's GDP and employing thousands of workers, Rosebank is a vital part of the city's economic infrastructure.

We welcome the opportunity to submit on the proposed Auckland Council proposed Waste Bylaw and Control.

Our Association represents a diverse mix of industrial and commercial businesses in the Rosebank Peninsula, many of whom encounter specific waste management challenges due to the nature of their industrial and commercial activities. This submission sets out our support for improvements to the waste bylaw framework, alongside recommendations to ensure the rules are practical, enforceable, and support better waste outcomes for businesses and the wider community.

### **Key findings from Auckland Council's review of the current Bylaw and Controls**

Auckland Council has undertaken a review of the current Bylaw and Controls and made key findings that; • improper storage and disposal of waste in Auckland continues to cause public nuisance, health and safety risks and waste to landfill (for example, bins block footpaths, 20 per cent of waste in recycling bins is non-recyclable and waste collection and facility data gaps hinder progress towards Zero Waste goals); the current 2019 Bylaw and Controls help address these problems; while a bylaw about waste is still required, it could be improved to better address problems, remove unused or duplicative provisions, and clarify ambiguities in the approval framework and related definitions.

### **Proposed Changes**

The proposed changes include to: • improve the Waste Bylaw by: - updating rules for waste collectors that require a licence from council by removing the current 20 tonne exemption, adding exemptions for incidental waste (for example waste from a landscape gardener) and simplifying and clarifying rules about the licensing framework; - expanding the waste facilities that require a licence from council to include additional facilities such as cleanfills, scrap metal dealers, e-waste facilities, and food and garden waste facilities, but at the same time limiting the focus of the licence to data collection; - expanding options for how people can dispose of waste (for example, soft plastics drop-offs at supermarkets); - adding rules to ensure waste is appropriately stored and contained onsite, and rules about waste collection from private properties; - removing rules that are unnecessary, unused or

duplicated (for example, using the Auckland Unitary Plan to address waste for multi-unit developments and composting); • better explain rules in the 2023 Collections Control about approved containers, waste deposited in different containers, types of prohibited, recyclable and food scrap waste, discarding waste in public waste bins, and adding rules about waste collection from private properties; and • simplify council's regulatory approach by transferring relevant rules from the Waste Bylaw to other bylaws, including rules for abandoned shopping trolleys, waste plans for events, donation collection bin approvals and placing flyers on vehicles.

### **Our General Support for Clear and Effective Waste Rules**

We support the Council's overall intent to update and clarify waste-related rules for Auckland, including: clarifying requirements for waste storage, collection, and use of public bins; updating licensing for waste collectors and facilities; and improving data collection to inform future waste planning.

These improvements have the potential to reduce nuisance issues such as bins blocking public footpaths, contamination of recycling streams, and unmanaged waste collections - issues that arise predominantly with residences but can negatively affect businesses and public amenity.

### **Specific Issues Affecting Rosebank Businesses**

While the proposals provide a clear framework for improving waste regulation, we note some areas where further clarification or tailored approaches would better support businesses in industrial/commercial precincts like Rosebank, as follows:

#### Licensing Thresholds and Practicalities

The proposal to remove the exemption for collectors of less than 20 tonnes a year and bring more waste facilities into licensing is understandable from a data and compliance perspective. However, many small operators serving industrial precincts undertake specialist collections (e.g., pallets, shrink wrap, industrial packaging). We suggest: considering exemptions for specialised collection services where risk of environmental harm is low, but administrative burden is high; and clear guidance to businesses about what documentation or systems are required to comply, particularly where waste types are unique to industrial precincts.

#### Waste Storage and Containment Rules

Rules requiring waste to be stored securely to prevent materials from escaping in residential areas are sensible in principle. However, Rosebank's industrial context means waste is often stored on-site in larger volumes and may include bulking areas for pallets, cardboard, and industrial by-products. We recommend: guidance that recognises the operational realities of industrial sites and offers practical standards for outdoor storage areas; and flexibility in compliance timeframes where businesses invest in upgraded storage infrastructure, but require time to implement changes.

#### Private Property Collections and Separation

The proposals include rules around private property waste collections and separation prior to collection. We support measures that improve recycling quality and reduce contamination. However: businesses need clear, practical separation guidelines that reflect the range of commercial waste streams (e.g., mixed industrial plastics, wood, metal); and transitional support or education to help businesses adjust to separation requirements without cost shock.

### Public Bin Use and Industrial Areas

Public bins are generally less relevant in industrial precincts, but misuse (e.g., dumping commercial waste in small public bins) can be a problem. We encourage: stronger enforcement and signage/education where public bins are present; and potential discussion on additional public bin capacity where pedestrian traffic (e.g., workers at break times) makes this necessary.

### Opportunities for Partnership and Support

The Rosebank Business Association notes that successful waste management outcomes often depend on collaboration. We encourage Auckland Council to: work with business associations to develop targeted waste education and minimisation programmes for commercial and industrial precincts; consider pilot projects in local business areas that trial advanced separation, reuse, or recycling systems; and provide accessible templates or toolkits for preparing waste management plans.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In conclusion, we support the objectives of the Waste Bylaw and Controls review to improve clarity, compliance, and waste outcomes across Tāmaki Makaurau. To ensure the bylaw works effectively for commercial and industrial sectors, such as those represented by our association, we recommend: clear, practical guidance for businesses on compliance - especially regarding licensing, storage, and separation requirements; consideration of tailored thresholds or exemptions where appropriate to reduce undue burden on specialist waste collectors; partnership approaches that involve business associations in education and implementation; and transitional support to help businesses adapt to new requirements.

We thank the Auckland Council for the opportunity to provide feedback and are happy to discuss these points further.

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