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Committee Environment Committee
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Deployment strategy for the Hazmobile

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about how we intend to manage the deployment of the Hazmobile in the Greater Wellington Region.

2. Background

At the last Committee meeting, Cr Turver asked for a report about how we intend to deploy the Hazmobile. Prior to considering this matter it is worth reflecting on the history of our involvement in hazardous waste management in our Region.

In 1998 the Wellington Regional Council, with the territorial authorities in the Region, commissioned consultants, Montgomery Watson, to investigate hazardous waste management issues in our Region. The Montgomery Watson report identified unwanted agrichemicals as the wastes having the highest risk to the environment or human health.

In subsequent discussions, the territorial authority officers made it clear that they thought that the responsibility for collecting agrichemical waste lay with the Regional Council. This position was largely based on knowledge that other regional councils in New Zealand had taken this type of initiative. The territorial authority officers indicated that if the regional council took the lead in addressing the agrichemical waste stream, they would take the lead in addressing household hazardous wastes.

On this basis the WRC made provision in its budgets for 2001/02 and 2002/03 to undertake an unwanted agrichemical collection in the Wellington Region. Collections were undertaken during these two years.

3. The origins of the Hazmobile

On 1 May 2003, the Environment Committee recommended that some of the surplus from the unwanted agrichemical collection project be used to develop a mobile hazardous waste collection facility (a Hazmobile) for use in the greater Wellington Region. This step was seen as a means by which Greater

Wellington could assist and encourage territorial authorities in the Region to undertake household hazardous waste collections.

4. Hazmobile deployment

Our Hazmobile will be used for the first time over the weekend of 30 & 31 August 2003 by the Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council when they conduct household hazardous waste collections in their cities.

From then on the Hazmobile will be available to any of the Region's territorial authorities when they decide to undertake similar collections.

If Greater Wellington chose to undertake further unwanted agricultural chemical collections in the future, then the Hazmobile will be used as a temporary storage and handling facility.

The Hazmobile is also available for use by emergency agencies if a major hazardous substances spill occurs in our Region.

It is possible that our neighbouring regional councils or territorial authorities may wish to hire our Hazmobile if they decide to undertake this type of project. Many councils undertaking household hazardous waste collections to date have hired Auckland's Hazmobile for this purpose.

5. Other considerations

In her Divisional Manager's Report to the Environment Committee on 19 June 2003, Jane Bradbury indicated that one of the tasks needing to be done in the coming year was for Greater Wellington to clarify its role in waste management in the Region. This issue had arisen as a result of the relatively high number of submissions received about waste when *Take 10 - Quality for Life* was released for public consultation. The clarification of our role may have a bearing on how directly we are involved in the operation of the Hazmobile and hence its future deployment.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has signalled its commitment to promoting the safe collection and disposal of unwanted hazardous chemicals in New Zealand. MfE has indicated that it would like to support regional council lead programmes that:

- collect unwanted hazardous chemicals, especially those in rural areas; and
- facilitate the establishment of effective, long-term collection systems in their regions.

To this end MfE invited regional councils to submit proposals to them on how councils and MfE might work collaboratively on a collection programme.

Our proposal identified that, given the state of play in our Region, the most effective support would be to contribute to the costs of disposing of any hazardous waste either from Hazmobile collections run by the territorial authorities or by future unwanted agrichemical collections run by Greater Wellington.

Unless Greater Wellington decides to become more actively involved in the collection of household hazardous wastes, the future deployment of the Hazmobile will largely depend upon territorial authorities willingness to participate in this type of activity. Our decision to provide a Hazmobile for the Region, and the nature of our proposal to MfE, indicates our desire to encourage and support territorial authorities within our Region to undertake household hazardous waste collections.

6. Communication

A presentation was made to the Wellington Regional Environment Agency (WREA) on 1 August 2003 advising the territorial authority representatives:

1. that the Hazmobile was now available for them to use for household hazardous waste collections;
2. how we intended to manage its deployment; and
3. what Greater Wellington can currently contribute to household hazardous waste collections.

The Hazmobile collections run by Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council were promoted by these authorities within their cities.

Together with the mayor of Hutt City, the Chairperson of Greater Wellington invited the mayors of territorial authorities in our Region, and any interested councillors and staff, to see the Hazmobile in operation on Saturday 30 August 2003.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***receive the report; and***
2. ***note the contents.***

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