



Stephen Frank

Business group unhappy with waste plans

By SCOTT MORGAN

Plans to revamp Auckland's waste management system are full of holes, one industry group says.

The Waste and Recycling Council is concerned the public haven't been given enough information about the proposed "disposer pays" system.

And it wants the Auckland Council to reopen the submissions process and tell people about the actual costs involved.

The organisation represents large manufacturers like Fonterra and Carter Holt Harvey, along with some waste management companies including Greenfingers Garden Bags and the Pink Bin Company.

About 55 percent of Aucklanders pay for rubbish collection in their general rates.

But Waste and Recycling Council spokesman

Stephen Franks says it's unclear how charging for each rubbish bin collected will change the situation.

"People can't work out whether it's good or bad. There's a whole lot of questions but the information is not there."

The only figure available from the council is that a minimum \$2.50 collection charge for an 80-litre rubbish bin would be implemented.

There would be no direct charge for collection of recycling and compost bins.

It's not known how much collecting a 140-litre or 240-litre bin would cost, Mr Franks says.

"They've talked about what the cost would be for the smallest bin but there's no information on what the average family uses."

Estimates by the council show each Aucklander produces 800kg of waste each year.

But Mr Franks says that doesn't tell the public much when putting together a submission on the issue.

The council should also make it clear whether rates would decrease to compensate for user charges, he says.

The organisation is calling on the council to re-open submissions but this time with more information about the actual costs.

"We think the information is missing, not because they couldn't produce it but simply because they didn't like the answers."

A council spokeswoman says 1700 submissions were received

on the waste management plan. The council focused on the 80-litre example for simplicity's sake and since the changes won't occur until 2015, any costs provided now would only be indicative, she says.

And because households come in many different shapes and sizes "it would be difficult to arrive at a figure for the average family".

The 10-week consultation and public information campaign was highly effective, she says.

