



**Submission
of the
Victoria University of Wellington Students'
Association
on the
Proposed Solid Waste Management and
Minimisation Bylaw 2020**

Prepared by
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VUWSA also wishes to present an oral submission.

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Overview

Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) advocate for and represent the 22,000 students of Te Herenga Waka– Victoria University. Students, many of whom fall under 35-year old age group, comprise a large portion of the Wellington Central population. VUWSA want these bylaws to work effectively for students: those who live in Halls of Residence, those who are flatting, and those in apartment blocks and multi-use dwellings. We strongly encourage the bylaws to have greater alignment and focus on Te Atakura, and the crucial role waste minimisation can have on lowering carbon emissions. We note this should be reflected in the messaging and language of the bylaw.

VUWSA welcomes the regional coordination of this Bylaw and supports the encouragement of consistency across Wellington.

VUWSA is disappointed the proposed bylaw do not mandate the separation and separation collection of recyclables for all premises, and urge the Council to go further in addressing organic waste. Organic waste constitutes the single biggest proportion of the average Wellingtonian's household rubbish bin, and students especially lack access to home composting solutions.

We query the effectiveness of the enforcement provisions within the Bylaw and the criteria against which waste management and minimisation plans will be assessed and approved.

Response to Questions:

Multi-unit Dwellings

SOMEWHAT AGREE

- We strongly support the requirement for multi-use developments to make adequate provision for managing all waste, recycling and organic waste generated within the premises.
- We note that many students live in central city apartment blocks and other urban multi-unit dwellings which do not mandate separating of recyclables and rubbish. This causes distress for students who are concerned about their waste, and we do not accept the bylaw goes far enough in addressing the need for best practice waste minimisation and separation in multi-unit dwellings.
- We support the requirement for planned developments to submit a waste management plan prior to construction.

Event Waste Management

SOMEWHAT AGREE

- We strongly support the requirement for event managers to produce waste management plans for large outdoor events and would emphasise the importance of a post-event waste analysis report.
- We recommend greater consistency with event waste reduction and minimisation. We would extend the requirement for submission of a plan to smaller events (between 100 – 1000 attendees), and reject the exclusion of indoor events from regulation.
- We know that students make up a significant portion of attendees of these events. Students are motivated to engage in waste reduction behaviour but are limited by the lack of structured waste minimisation facilities at these events.
- We would underline the importance of providing an ambitious message from Council to encourage waste prevention and reduction. We recommend greater emphasis on establishing and prioritising reusable systems and composting facilities at these events.

- We question the enforcement of this provision and would welcome further clarify from the Council on criteria for approval and assessment.

Construction and Demolition Waste Management

DEFINITELY AGREE

Restricting unaddressed and advertising mail

DEFINITELY AGREE

Waste Operator Licensing

DEFINITELY AGREE

- We support the cohesion across Wellington by ensuring collectors and operators adhere to high standards, and giving the Council greater oversight over waste collection.
- We support the threshold of 20 tonnes of waste a year and emphasise the need for flexibility regarding community-based waste organisations and smaller providers.

Proposed Bylaw Controls

SOMEWHAT AGREE

- We are disappointed in the decision to limit Council-provided collection services for new multi-unit developments.
- We urge greater discussion of food and organic waste in the controls and suggest greater support should be given to localised composting solutions.
- We support controls to require a separation of waste types, but believe this can go further to require premises, including commercial sites, to sort their waste for recycling.