



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ruapehu District Council**

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#### **OLD AND NEW SYSTEMS TO RUN IN PARALLEL AT TAUMARUNUI TRANSFER STATION FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER WEIGHBRIDGE GO-LIVE**

For a period of around six months after the 'go-live' of the new weighbridge at the Taumarunui Transfer Station users will continue to have their loads measured for volume as at present as well as being weighed.

This will provide Council with more information about the waste stream and its composition.

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) Waste Minimisation Coordinator, Annie Petersen, said that running the old and new systems in parallel for a period is also necessary to help set the correct pricing for the weighbridge.

"We are moving from pricing based on volume (per cubic metre) to pricing based on weight (per kilogram) for weights over 400kg," she said.

"Once fully implemented the weighbridge will significantly improve the accuracy of the data Council captures about what's coming into the Transfer Station and Landfill which will improve our ability to manage our various waste streams."

"Without accurate data about specific waste streams we cannot reliably determine where to focus our waste minimisation efforts or costs."

Mrs Petersen stated that the improved weighbridge data will help identify gaps in Council's knowledge about the different waste streams coming into the Transfer Station and Landfill and assist in filling in these gaps.

"Having an accurate understanding of the composition and quantities of the different waste streams is the first necessary step in being able to make good decisions about how to manage the Districts waste and recycling efforts."

She added that another area the new weighbridge will make a significant difference is in decreasing compliance costs.

"All councils pay the Ministry for Environment (MFE) a levy of \$10.00 per tonne for waste disposed of into landfill and from January 2013 will also need to pay an estimated \$15.00 to \$20.00 per tonne under the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)."

"Currently the 10.00 per tonne Landfill charge data is captured manually at each Transfer Station where we measure the waste per cubic metre and then calculate this into a tonnage rate."

“The weighbridge will provide an accurate measurement for both the MFE and ETS data and the associated charges payable by Council.”

Mrs Petersen said that the Ruapehu District was continuing to make good inroads into reducing its waste footprint with refuse entering the Landfill at the lowest level since records started in 2002-03.

“Without a weighbridge the volume of refuse going into the landfill has been measured by surveying the change in the size of the compacted tip area.”

“With the weighbridge we can now get more accurate data on refuse volumes going to landfill however it is essential that we get a very accurate conversion from the old survey measurement method to the new.”

“More accurate data provided by the weighbridge on levels of recycling and waste, and for calculating our MFE waste levy and ETS charges, will help Council develop programmes and community information for reducing the District’s waste footprint even further.”

**DAVID HAMMOND**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CJH : PRW



EnviroWaste kerbside collection truck on new weighbridge at the Taumarunui Transfer Station.