

AK Have Your Say

Proposed improvements to council's waste bylaw

Council makes waste rules about waste storage, kerbside and private property collection services, use of public waste bins, and licencing of waste collectors and facilities. These rules help to address waste-related problems such as bins blocking footpaths, contamination of waste in recycling bins and enable council to obtain data to inform council's 2024 Waste Plan goals.

The existing rules are in the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2019 (2019 Bylaw), the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw (Collections) Control 2023 (2023 Control) and the Containers for Kerbside Collection Control 2013 (2013 Control).

These rules are part of a wider legislative and strategic framework about waste minimisation and management activities, services and issues. For example:

- the Waste Management and Minimisation Act 2008 promotes waste reduction, levies waste to landfill and sets a framework for product stewardship
- Auckland's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2024 sets actions to achieve zero-waste such as improving council collection services, partnerships and education
- the Litter Act 1979 provides for infringement fines for illegal dumping and littering
- the Auckland Unitary Plan regulates waste burning, composting, burial and landfills.

Proposal to improve council's approach

We recently checked how the Bylaw and Controls are working and identified improvements. Most proposed changes will have limited noticeable impact on people's day-to-day waste activities while other changes only impact waste collectors and facilities.

The proposal is to replace the 2019 Bylaw and 2023 Control, amend the Public Trading, Events and Filming Bylaw 2022 and Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 and revoke the 2013 Control.

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 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
- 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.

Other key aspects of the current bylaw and controls are proposed to be retained, including that people must continue to dispose of their waste according to the bylaw and control and that waste collectors and facilities must still obtain a licence from council to operate in Auckland.

The proposal does not include specific rules for construction and demolition waste. Council has decided to undertake further investigation before deciding whether or not to propose new rules.

We want to know what you think

From 20 January 2026 through to 22 February 2026, we want you to tell us what you think about the proposal to improve our waste-related bylaws and controls.
Visit akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ for more information and to find out how to give your feedback in writing, in-person or by phone. Free internet access is available at our libraries.