

8.3 Remit to Local Government New Zealand Conference on copper brake pads

Date of meeting	10 May2018
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Purpose

1. For Council to agree to sponsor a remit to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for central government to introduce legislation to limit or eliminate the copper content of vehicle brake pads.

Value proposition

2. LGNZ has invited member authorities wishing to submit proposed remits for consideration at the LGNZ AGM to be held on Sunday 15 July 2018 in Christchurch. Proposed remits must be received by 21 May 2018. LGNZ requires that remits have formal support from 5 Councils, or zone or sector group.

Recommendation

That the Council:

1. **Approves the remit to Local Government New Zealand calling for central government to introduce legislation to limit or eliminate the copper content of vehicle brake pads.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments where necessary before 21 May.**

Background

3. The Christchurch-West Melton Zone Committee, Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council are collaborating to improve water quality outcomes. Our organisations agree that 'end of pipe' stormwater treatment practices such as treatment basins, swales and filters will be insufficient to achieve the outcomes sought. With respect to copper, modelling and research from Christchurch and other urban areas indicates that vehicle brake pads are believed to be the dominant source of copper.
4. Wet weather data that is available - from limited monitoring that has occurred during wet weather and from research by NIWA, Canterbury University and in other centres indicates that copper concentrations in stormwater runoff are two to ten times the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan water quality standard. Research elsewhere suggests that this will be the case for most large urban centres.

5. Copper-free and low-copper brake pads are available for sale in New Zealand. Copper-free brake pads are available on the market however there appears to be no one source of information in New Zealand and there are varying prices and quality for all brake pads and unlike the U.S. and Europe there is no requirement for labelling.
6. In 2010, both the states of Washington and California passed legislation requiring brake pads sold or installed to have reduced levels of copper and other heavy metals. There is no such legislation in New Zealand.

Significance and engagement

7. If Council agrees to support this remit, we will request support from a number of regional councils and territorial authorities to meet LGNZ's requirements.

Next steps

8. With the required support, the remit will be submitted to LGNZ by 21 May.