



Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) will be held in the Gore District Council, 29 Bowler Ave, Gore on Monday 17 August 2026, at 10.00 am.

Elected member representatives

Southland District Council

Cr C Menzies (Chair)

Mayor Mr R Scott

Gore District Council

Cr N Phillips

Cr T Smith

Invercargill City Council

Cr A H Crackett (Deputy Chair)

Cr A L de Vries

Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) - Public

17 August 2026 10:00 AM

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Public Excluded Session

Moved , seconded that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on 8 June 2026
- b) WasteNet Health and Safety and Risk Update
- c) WasteNet Risk Update
- d) Waste Service Contracts Procurement Update

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on 8 June 2026	Section 7(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
b) WasteNet Health and Safety and Risk Update	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
c) WasteNet Risk Update	Section 7(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section

available of the
information would be
unlikely unreasonably to
prejudice the commercial
position of the person who
supplier or who is the
subject of the information

- d) Waste Service
Contracts
Procurement Update

Section 7(2)(b)(ii)

Protect the information
where the making
available of the
information would be
unlikely unreasonably to
prejudice the commercial
position of the person who
supplier or who is the
subject of the information

Section 48(1)(a)

That the public conduct
of this item would be likely
to result in the disclosure
of information for which
good reason for
withholding would exist
under Section



**MINUTES OF WASTE ADVISORY GROUP, HELD IN THE TÔTARA MEETING ROOM,
ICL, LEVEL 1, 39 ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2026 AT 9.00 AM**

Present:

Cr C Menzies – Southland District Council (Chair)
Cr A H Crackett – Invercargill City Council
Cr A L de Vries – Invercargill City Council
Mayor B Bell – Gore District Council
Cr N Phillips – Gore District Council
Mayor R Scott – Southland District Council

In Attendance:

Mrs F Walker – WasteNet Director
Mr P Mooney – WasteNet Director
Mr J Shaw – Invercargill City Council
Mr J Domigan – Gore District Council
Mr C Sinclair – Gore District Council
Ms F Mikulicic – Southland District Council
Mr K Johnson – Southland District Council
Mr R Hutton – Invercargill City Council, Manager – Information Systems
Mr G O'Connor – Invercargill City Council, Consultant
Mr A Eng – Invercargill City Council, Team Leader - Communications
Ms M Broad – Invercargill City Council, Executive Support

1. Apologies

Mayor Ben Bell and Cr Alex Crackett for lateness.

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr de Vries and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

**3. Minutes of the Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on 13 April 2026
(A6405734)**

A correction was requested to page 7, request of costs of diverted contaminated waste should be provided alongside tonnage not instead of.

Moved Cr de Vries, seconded Mayor Scott and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Waste Advisory Group meeting held on 13 April 2026 be confirmed.

Cr Menzies noted previous recommendation on delegations requested that at the next meeting an update was provided by staff on the status of the matter.

4. WasteNet Strategic Plan Execution and Activity Update

(A6466885, A6466866)

Ms Fiona Walker spoke to the report. Noted progress with recruitment following appointment of Mr Mooney as Director, other WasteNet roles had been put out to market. The organics community programme had progressed well and was outlined further in the Community and Education paper later in the agenda.

Procurement was labelled as overdue. This significant item was addressed later in the agenda. Legislation reforms and update still labelled as on hold in Table 1, noted request had been put through to MfE for further information. It was noted delays were indicated by the Minister at the WasteMINZ conference due to the number of policies before Government, acknowledging no order for policies was given, concern that waste legislation may not be addressed this term.

WasteNet positions and recruitment outlined, the Community Engagement role closed and four interviews would be held this week. The Project Management role would close on Friday and Contract Management was likely to be advertised this week via Decipher Group.

Note: Cr Crackett joined the meeting at 9.08 am.

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr de Vries and **RESOLVED** that the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Strategic Plan Execution and Activity Update".

5. WasteNet Education and Engagement Activity Update

(A6468968)

Ms Fiona Walker spoke to the report. Noted progress over the reporting term, including education in partnership with EnviroSchools which had been delivered to a number of students while the WasteNet Engagement role was vacant.

In response to a query on measuring longitudinal outcomes of the programme, and how this was carried through to see return on investment and creating change, it was indicated this was in mind when the yearly programme was developed. Each school undertook a waste audit separating out types, weighing waste and recording, some schools were undertaking this mid-year to adjust their programme if required. Noted that this information could be looked at in 5 years time to see improvements. It was noted not many Invercargill schools involved and wanting to ensure that habits and behaviours could be changed over time, it was indicated a steer on which specific schools were involved in the WasteNet programme was taken from EnviroSchools, with consideration of staff and resources available to support the programme.

It was indicated KPIs for the WasteNet Engagement Officer had been discussed and were looking to work with Council representatives to develop these to ensure meeting expectations of engagement with the community.

In response to a query on focussing engagement on industry and commercial businesses to increase gains in waste reduction, it was noted workshops with individual councils would be to look at areas of focus such as this, acknowledging current commitment to education and engagement programme as well as available budget.

In response to whether fridge magnets would be advanced under general media, staff confirmed this had not yet been initiated projects and recommendation that this item would be held until contracts and services were clarified.

Social / digital media noted in programme. Social media posts by Kate Meads noted and queried whether it was possible to share those posts or if that was the style being considered. It was clarified external resourcing had been budgeted for however not yet engaged so what was proposed for coming financial year could be adjusted. Current proposal was more general, what happens with waste rather than short educational items as done by Ms Meads but could be reviewed.

Moved Cr Phillips, seconded Cr de Vries and **RESOLVED** that the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives and notes the report WasteNet Education and Engagement Activity Update".

6. WasteNet Bi-Monthly Financial Update FY2025-26

(A6466800)

Ms Fiona Walker spoke to the report, highlighted deficit for the year to date which was forecast, although lower than anticipated. Position driven by staff vacancies and income associated with closed landfills. Further details within the report had been provided following feedback from the previous meeting.

It was confirmed the incident line was related to the incident in Te Anau. In response to query on lack on commentary for admin line items to compare year to year, it was noted a further breakdown would be required and would be brought back for clarification to the WAG.

Difference in grant expenses queried, clarified amount was increased for 2026 from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It was queried why on page 24 the incident response amount and amount in the commentary were different, staff confirmed these were to be the same and it would be clarified which was correct and brought back to the WAG.

Moved Cr Crackett, seconded Mayor Scott and **RESOLVED** that the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Bi-Monthly Financial Update FY2025/26".

7. Approval of WasteNet FY2026/27 Strategic Plan and WasteNet FY2026/27 Education and Engagement Plan

(A6468322, A6468342, A6468509)

Ms Fiona Walker spoke to the report. Mirrors the drafts presented in April and ties in with later budget item. Highlighted FY2026/27 Strategic Plan focussed on core functions, deliverables and recognising contract renewals would take a large amount of resources.

Acknowledged difficulty of moving some items forward even with resourcing in place and effect of external influences such as MfE requirements.

Discussion on the Bylaw, including provisions for fly-tipping response, noted currently only held by Gore District Council. Noted there would be the opportunity to standardise across the region. This was on hold pending legislation reform/direction. Gore staff noted the Bylaw was currently not widely used but value in having a Bylaw that worked across the councils in future. Noted had not been used in prosecution to date, constrained by lack of evidence to prove who had dumped the rubbish, a name on items was not sufficient. Noted the new Act was intended to make it easier to go through a prosecution. Fly-tipping data was collated from each council roading team, it had not been within WasteNet scope previously.

In response to a query on refreshing the governance framework and how discussion on amalgamation may influence that, it was noted decision to proceed with first phase of administrative updates given based on known deficiencies. Noted framework of delegations and information on possible amalgamation coming through which may inform subsequent workstreams on this matter.

Discussion on motions, acknowledged that the Education and Engagement Plan was very school focussed and raised whether there was value at including resources for industry / commercial waste reduction engagement. Suggested this could be included under business education engagement activities which currently only had op shops and agriwaste. Suggested investing more in that stream. Table on page 28 noted and suggestion to include a row to explore further opportunities for reduction across industry and commercial, explores all opportunities for waste minimisation options. Staff confirmed this could be addressed via existing resourcing, without a need to modify the draft budget.

Discussion on data that was being collected and reported back, whether this needed to be included in the Plan and whether the data being collected was sufficient. It was indicated EnviroSchools was about changing behaviours and assisting students to continue to take those behaviours home and making change in that way, acknowledging the difficulty of putting either a financial figure on this or measuring outcomes. Figures on the number of schools and individuals participating in the programme could be provided however difficult to measure behaviour change. Noted measures taken at the start of the programme and these could be undertaken in 5 years time and look at whether schools were fitting the programme into the curriculum, acknowledged not just looking for change but looking to do things right.

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr Crackett and **RESOLVED** that the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "Approval of WasteNet FY2026/27 Strategic Plan and WasteNet FY2026/27 Education and Engagement Plan".
2. Confirm any amendments required to the draft WasteNet FY2026/27 Strategic Plan.
3. Confirm any amendments required to the draft WasteNet FY2026/27 Education and Engagement Plan. **Noted row to be added to table on page 28, explores opportunities for commercial and industrial waste minimisation options.**
4. Approve implementation of the WasteNet FY2026/27 Strategic Plan and the WasteNet FY2026/27 Education and Engagement Plan.

8. Proposed WasteNet FY2026/27 Key Performance Indicators

(A6473928)

Ms Fiona Walker spoke to the report. Noted existing KPIs based on the current WMMP and rationale of reviewing those metrics. Acknowledged discussion at the WAG meeting in April and report presented proposed KPI alternatives; rationale provided for the proposed KPIs including a focus on WasteNet's core function and deliverables.

Clerical correction for Kerbside Waste Collection Services Performance KPI, missed pickup rate average of not more than 50 missed collections.

In response to who it was intended that would be the audience and understand the KPIs, it was indicated these were for both the public and governance. Concern noted relating to complexity of the recycling KPI and suggested rewording of 85% aim of successful recycling. Discussion on wording and unintended consequences, agreement that footnote for calculation could be included.

Acknowledged looking to have KPIs that WasteNet could influence rather than external influences, as was the current situation. Query why metric on diversion from landfill was not retained as a proposed KPI. Value in tracking materials discarded and diversion rate as well as recycling contamination and recycling tonnage. Query if needed to be a KPI, acknowledged that recording weight per person would continue regardless, this had not changed over time. It was noted having KPIs that were achievable, 15% contamination rate was a good standard to achieve. Indication that did not want to lose landfill per capita figure and looking at what could be done to reduce this and what strategy could be done to do this, noting the intent of WasteNet was to drive waste minimisation.

Acknowledged these KPIs were for FY2026/27 only and that once WMMP hearings were complete and Long-term Plan process complete, could then reassess KPIs for 2027/28 onwards.

Moved Cr Phillips, seconded Cr De Vries and **RESOLVED** that the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "Proposed WasteNet FY2026/27 Key Performance Indicators".

2. Confirm any amendments required to the proposed WasteNet FY2026/27 Key Performance Indicators.
3. Approve implementation of the updated WasteNet Key Performance Indicators for the 2026/27 Financial Year.

9. Public Excluded Session

Moved Mayor Scott, seconded Cr de Vries and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Waste Advisory Group Meeting Held on 13 April 2026
- b) WasteNet Website Services
- c) WasteNet Proposed FY2026/27 Budget for Approval
- d) WasteNet Risk Update
- e) WasteNet Health and Safety and Risk Update
- f) Waste Service Contracts Procurement Update

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
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b) WasteNet Services	Website	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
c) WasteNet Proposed FY2026/27 Budget for Approval		Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section
d) WasteNet Risk Update		Section 7(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section
e) WasteNet Health and Safety and Risk Update		Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section

- f) Waste Service
Contracts
Procurement Update

Section 7(2)(b)(ii)

Protect the information where the making available of the information would be unlikely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplier or who is the subject of the information

Section 48(1)(a)

That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 10.00 am.

RECYCLING BIN INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME REINTRODUCTION UPDATE

To:	Waste Advisory Group
Meeting Date:	Monday 17 August 2026
From:	WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Waste Advisory Group (WAG) with an update on the reintroduction of recycling bin inspections and the supporting enforcement programme. Relevant statistics are also presented for the 2026 calendar year as at 19 July 2026.

Bin inspections are intended to encourage positive behaviour change and minimise contamination in the recycling bins, thereby improving environmental outcomes and minimising costs incurred with disposing of contaminated recyclables.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report “Recycling Bin Inspections and Enforcement Programme Reintroduction Update”.

Background

Between FY2019/20 and FY2022/23, the annual contamination rate in recycling material processed by Recycle South was 19-20%. During the 2023/24 year, 5,494 tonnes of product was collected via the kerbside recycling service and the public drop-off facilities. Of this, 17% was contaminated, resulting in 944 tonnes of product being redirected to the landfill. At the FY2023/24 Invercargill City Council Transfer Station general waste fee of \$359.75 per tonne, this equated to a cost of \$339,604.

There are also the non-monetary implications of having contaminated recycling, including making sorting and processing recycling more difficult and at times unpleasant or hazardous.

Upon endorsement from the Waste Advisory Group, WasteNet took a staged approach to reintroducing bin inspections for Southland District and Invercargill City Councils, being:

- Stage I: Communication and Education - January - February 2025
- Stage II: Pilot Phase of Bin Inspections and Education - 10 February – 31 March 2025
- Stage III: Implementation of the Three-Strike System - 31 March 2025 onwards

The final stage of the reintroduction programme came into effect from 31 March 2025. During this phase, a property which receives three red tags will have their recycling bin removed and

the service will be suspended until the resident signs and returns a Reinstatement Agreement Form to reactivate the service.

A similar staged approach is being taken for Gore District Council (GDC), being:

- Stage I: Communication and Education – October – November 2025
- Stage II: Pilot Phase of Bin Inspections and Education - 17 November 2025 – 8 February 2026
- Stage III: Implementation of the Three-Strike System – 9 February 2026 onwards

Bin Inspections Programme Monitoring Data

Number of Inspections Completed

For the 2026 calendar year-to-date, as at 19 July 2026, 22,213 yellow-lidded recycling bins have been inspected across the combined GDC, ICC and SDC areas.

Areas which have been inspected, either entirely or partially, include those listed below and shown in Figure 1:

Southland District Council	Invercargill City Council	Gore District Council
- Wyndham - Edendale - Riverton/Aparima - Waikaia - Winton - Dipton - Drummond - Tuatapere - Manapouri - Lumsden	- Kingswell - Rosedale - Waikiwi - Grasmere - Windsor - Clifton - Georgetown - Bluff - Ascot Heights - Glengarry	- Maitava - North Gore - West Gore

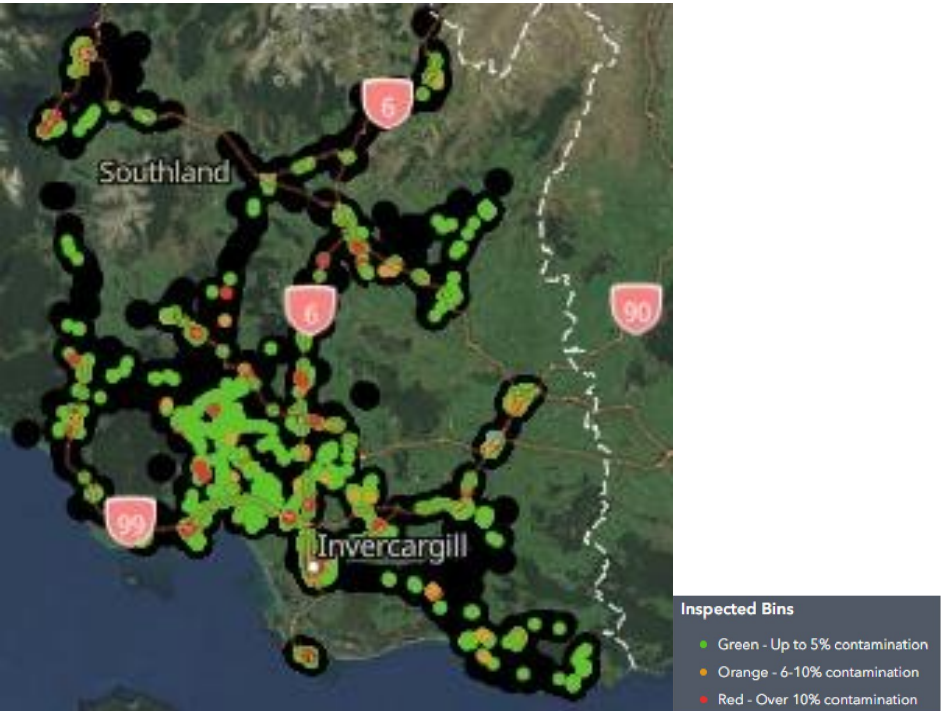


Figure 1 - Inspected Locations Map (1 January 2026 – 19 July 2026)

Monitoring Data on Category of Tags Issued

Table 1 - Bin Inspection Monitoring Data: 1 January to 19 July 2026

	Gore District Council Data	Invercargill City Council Data	Southland District Council Data	Combined Total
Green Tags Issued	1,404 (90%)	12,888 (86%)	4,916 (86%)	19,208 (86%)
Orange Tags Issued	80 (5%)	796 (5%)	425 (7%)	1,301 (23%)
Red Tags Issued	74 (5%)	1,284 (9%)	346 (6%)	1,704 (30%)
Total Inspected	1,558	14,968	5687	22,213

Between the period of 1 January to 19 July 2026, 7,847 properties received more than one inspection, with re-inspections specifically aimed at properties which have received initial red tags where practicable. The following table summarises the relevant data collected during this period. Data collected to-date reinforces the need to have a programme which is based on both education (via printed material delivered for each inspection) and enforcement, noting that some residents are not motivated by education alone as demonstrated by repeat red tags being received in a relatively short time period.

Table 2 - Bin Inspection Multiple Inspections Monitoring Data Summary: 1 January to 19 July 2026

	Inspection One	Inspection Two	Inspection Three +
Green Tag Issued	2,832 (79%)	3,087 (85%)	488 (78%)
Orange Tag Issued	247 (7%)	226 (6%)	45 (7%)
Red Tags Issued	525 (15%)	308 (9%)	89 (14%)
Total Bins Inspected	3,604	3,621	622

Bin Removals

A property which receives three red tags will have their recycling bin removed and the service will be suspended until the resident signs and returns a Reinstatement Agreement Form to reactivate the service. As at 1 July 2026, 29 properties have triggered the threshold to have their bin service suspended during the 2026 calendar year. Of these, only nine properties have applied to have their bin reinstated.

Following the February 2025 Waste Advisory Group meeting, WasteNet staff are in the process of actioning change of the three strike system being based on three red tags in a calendar year to three red tags in two consecutive calendar years.

Contamination Types

In terms of the nature of contamination, monitoring data demonstrates that the most common types of contamination are:

- Soft plastics;
- Organic waste;
- General refuse/dirty items;
- 'Other' (including metal, electronics, wood).

Contamination Weights

As previously detailed, between FY2019/20 and FY2022/23, the annual contamination rate in recycling material processed by Recycle South was 19-20%. During the 2023/24 year, 5,494 tonnes of product was collected via the kerbside recycling service and the public drop-off facilities. Of this, 17% was contaminated, resulting in 944 tonnes of product being redirected to the landfill, an average of 79 tonnes per month.

For the FY2025/26 year, the contamination rate was 13%. 811 tonnes of material were directed to landfill, equating to an average of 68 tonnes per month. This is a reduction of 11 tonnes of contamination being sent to landfill per month on average. The graph below illustrates the

positive impact of the bin inspection programme in terms of tonnes of material avoiding landfill each month. It is of note that the FY2023/24 season was based on data for SDC and ICC only as GDC had a glass-only kerbside recycling service at that time. In mid-November 2025, GDC reintroduced kerbside commingled recycling services, with contamination included in the FY2025/26 figures below from that point onwards. This is a step-change from historic data.

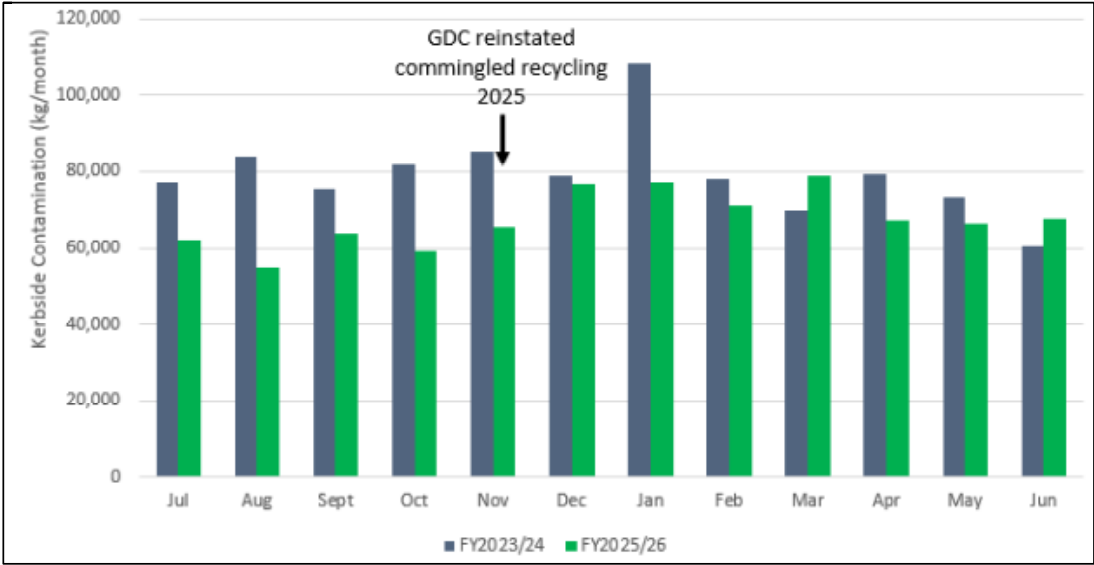


Figure 2 – Kerbside Contamination Weights per Month (FY2023/24 vs FY2025/26)

Contamination Direct Cost

Prior to implementing the current bin inspection programme, the average annual contamination rate was 17% (FY2023/24), resulting in 811 tonnes of material being directed to landfill. For the FY2025/26 year, the contamination rate was 13%, resulting in 811 tonnes of material being directed to landfill.

Using the FY2025/26 Invercargill City Council Transfer Station general waste fee of \$381.80 per tonne for comparison purposes, the FY2023/24 contamination volume would have had a disposal cost equivalent of \$360,419, whilst the FY2025/26 contamination volume would have had a disposal cost equivalent of \$309,639.

Next Steps

In accordance with the endorsed WasteNet FY2026/27 budget, WasteNet will:

- 1. Continue to implement bin inspection programme and the supporting three strikes system. This includes updating systems and processes to align with the three strike system being based on three red tags in a two consecutive calendar years rather than the current one calendar year.
- 2. Launch two awareness and education campaigns to raise understanding of kerbside recycling processes and the implications of having contamination in the system. These campaigns are intended to support outcomes of the bin inspection programme at a household level while strengthening community understanding of the systems that manage waste across the region.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 17 August 2026

From: WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report summarises the delivery of the WasteNet 2025/26 Engagement and Education Plan for the 2025/26 financial year (FY2025/26).

The purpose of the education and engagement activities is to deliver a collaborative education programme across the Southland region to support behaviour change, minimise waste and increase awareness.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report “WasteNet Education and Engagement Activity Update”.

Background

The 2025/26 WasteNet Education and Engagement Programme overviews the direct education and engagement activities to target groups, being identified as schools, residential and businesses. The aim is that all residents, schools and businesses in the Southland region will have a better understanding of waste minimisation, take voluntary actions to minimise waste and progressively transition to a circular economy.

As presented in the WasteNet 2025/26 budget, there was a revised approach for funding education and engagement activities in FY2025/26 compared to previous years. This included redistribution of funding between schools and businesses. The overall intent of the revised approach was to focus on and encourage sustained behaviour change.

Table 1 presents the activities which form the 2025/26 WasteNet Education and Engagement Programme, as well as the status of each activity as at 1 April 2026.

The FY2026/27 WasteNet Education and Engagement Programme applies for the period of 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. Future WasteNet Education and Engagement Activity Update reports will present updates on that FY2026/27 Programme specifically.

Figure 1 – 2025/26 Education and Engagement Programme and Status Overview

Status	School Education Activities	Residential and Community Education and Engagement Activities	Business Education and Engagement Activities
Underway / On-going	Direct Funding for waste reduction initiatives / projects at EnviroSchools (target of 5 schools)	Advertising via Radio, Social Media and Digital	-
	School Composting Workshops / Support	Bin Inspection and Education Programme	
Not Yet Initiated	-	General Media: Fridge magnets	Agri-waste drop-off scheme: Targeted engagement
		Plastic Free July Campaign	Engage with Industry Groups / Direct to Businesses
			Trade Shows / Events
Complete	EnviroSchools Waste Education Workshops (March 2026)	Support for GDC reintroduction of comingled recycling and bin inspection programme	-
		Field Days 2026	
		Bin Clips – Further distribution	
	Community Waste Minimisation Fund		
	Engagement and consultation regarding Waste Minimisation and Management Plan review		

2025/26 Programme Delivery Summary

School Waste Education Activities Update

School Education Activities

Scope: WasteNet provides education opportunities to school-aged children to improve awareness around waste minimisation, environmental effects and to highlight actions families can take to minimise waste and recycle correctly. The FY2025/26 budget includes funding to support schools with progressing waste minimisation activities and equipment, such as composting facilities, as well as delivering the annual EnviroSchools Waste Education Workshops and in-school composting education and support.

Activity Status: The scheduled school education activities have been delivered as scheduled for FY2025/26. Further detail is provided via a separate agenda item, "EnviroSchools Presentation to WasteNet 2026".

Residential Education and Community Engagement Update

Overview

Scope: WasteNet seek to engage with the community and raise awareness around waste minimisation by having a physical presence at community events and by coordinating specific waste-focused events. These events are an opportunity to provide education material and answer specific questions from members of the community.

Activity Status: The scheduled residential and community education activities have largely been delivered as scheduled for FY2025/26, this includes delivery of:

- Advertising via radio, social media and digital.
- Bin Inspection and Education Programme.
- Support for GDC reintroduction of comingled recycling and bin inspection programme.
- Field Days 2026.
- Bin Clips – Further distribution.
- Public engagement and consultation regarding the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan review.
- Community Waste Minimisation Fund.

Two items were not advanced, being distribution of educational/calendar fridge magnets to households and a Plastic Free July Campaign. The former was not advanced due to potential changes in kerbside services resulting from solid waste contract renewals and the latter due to resourcing availability.

Where relevant, additional detail is provided below for items of the Residential and Community Education and Engagement Activities.

Advertising: Radio, Social Media and Digital Media

Scope: Radio partners have been engaged to support with community education and engagement by delivering messaging relating to waste issues and opportunities. Our advertising partners run the WasteNet advertisements. Social media is used in conjunction with radio to reinforce messaging and broaden the target audience.

Activity Status: WasteNet have utilised radio and digital media to highlight key issues and opportunities relating to waste management and minimisation. This has been actioned by coordinating radio advertisements on stations covering the Southland region. Monthly topics for 2026 to-date were:

January 2026	Advising batteries should not be put into the red bin and should be taken to designated collection points.
February 2026	3 strikes campaign for Gore and Maitua (Hokonui) as well as batteries campaign for SDC and ICC.
March 2026	Advertising WasteNet website as an information source.
April 2026	Announcing WMMP consultation and encouraging submissions.
May 2026	Highlighting soft plastic recycling scheme relaunch in Southland.
June 2026	Highlighting kerbside bin inspection programme.

As demonstrated by the above, this element of the FY2025/26 Education and Engagement Activity Programme has been delivered as scheduled for this financial year.

Website Engagement

Scope: The WasteNet website has the purpose of providing information to the public on bin collection services, recycling guidelines and standards, and general information on waste minimisation.

Activity Status: As requested during the April 2026 WAG meeting, the below table summarises traffic to the WasteNet website for the period of 1 January to 23 July 2026. The peaks in traffic in April reflect additional website associated with use of the Find My Bin Day tool as a result of the public holidays occurring during that month.

	1 - 31 Jan. 2026	1 – 28 Feb. 2026	1 – 31 Mar. 2026	1 – 12 Apr. 2026
Active users	3,627	1,861	1,645	2,458
Average users per day	117 (31 days)	66 (28 days)	53 (31 days)	204 (12 days)
Average session duration	1m 03s	1m 55s	2m 21s	2m 01s
Top three pages (excluding Homepage)	▪ What's my day? ▪ Recycling bin inspections ▪ Frequently Asked Questions	▪ What's my day? ▪ Southland District Council ▪ Frequently Asked Questions	▪ What's my day? ▪ Which bin does it go in? ▪ Southland District Council	▪ What's my day? ▪ Invercargill City Council ▪ Red bin collection
	1 – 30 Apr. 2026	1 – 31 May 2026	1 – 30 Jun. 2026	1 – 23 Jul. 2026
Active users	4336	1894	2072	1556
Average users per day	107 (30 days)	61 (31 days)	69 (30 days)	68 (23 days)
Average session duration	53s	47s	55s	46s
Top pages (excl. Home)	▪ What's my day? ▪ Which bin does it go in? ▪ Invercargill City Council	▪ What's my day? ▪ Which bin does it go in? ▪ Southland District Council	▪ What's my day? ▪ Which bin does it go in? ▪ King's Birthday holiday guide	▪ What's my day? ▪ Which bin does it go in? ▪ Southland District Council

Community Waste Minimisation Fund

Scope: The WasteNet Community Waste Minimisation Fund is advertised and distributed annually. The Fund is intended to support activities which achieve waste reduction and/or diversion. Further, the aim is to support initiatives that complement and enhance existing programmes, address gaps or create new opportunities. The total value of the contestable fund for FY2025/26 is \$100,000 per annum.

Activity Status: As previously reported via the *WasteNet Community Waste Minimisation Fund FY2025/26* report presented at the February 2026 Waste Advisory Group meeting, funding has been awarded. All successful applicants have now received allocated funds. The next stage of this process is to receive accountability reports in September 2026, which will be summarised and presented to the Waste Advisory Group in the latter part of 2026.

Bin Inspections Reintroduction Campaign

Scope: Bin inspections are intended to encourage positive behaviour change and minimise contamination in the recycling bins, thereby improving environmental outcomes and minimising costs incurred with disposing of contaminated recyclables. Reintroduction of bin inspections and a corresponding three-strike system was endorsed for FY2024/25. To ensure that reintroduction of bin inspections is effective and sustainable, a staged programme was developed to provide education initially prior to progressing to a three-strike system. Throughout, there is emphasis on communicating to residents information around what materials can and cannot be recycled so as to encourage correct recycling. Social media is the main platform that is used to inform residents on the amount of red and orange tags issued so WasteNet has approached Naked Creative to support an engagement programme.

Activity Status: The bin inspection programme continues to operate as previously reported. There have not been any notable alternations to the programme further to those reported to the WAG in April 2026.

Bin Clips – Further Distribution and Support for Gore District Council Reintroduction of Comingled Recycling

As reported to the December 2025 WAG meeting, these action items have been delivered and are considered to be complete for FY2025/26.

Business Waste Minimisation Education and Engagement Update

Waste Minimisation and Management Plan Review

Scope: In June 2025, the Waste Advisory Group resolved to revoke and substitute the Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2020-2026 (WMMP) in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Clauses 44 and 50(3)(a). In order to prepare a replacement WMMP, a range of engagement is required including key stakeholder and general community engagement to inform and refine the WMMP.

Activity Status: As previously reported, early stakeholder engagement was undertaken in November 2025 with a series of stakeholder workshops across the region. Focus sectors were primary industry, primary producers, construction and demolition, waste providers and community agencies. Iwi engagement was also undertaken as part of this early engagement phase. Submissions on the draft WMMP were received in March/April 2026. The Joint Hearing Panel received and considered submissions on 8 June 2026. From this, various amendments were made to the draft WMMP. The final proposed WMMP was presented to the individual WasteNet Councils in June 2026, with all Councils adopting the WMMP with changes as proposed by the Hearing Panel. This outcome met the FY2025/26 Strategic Plan target of having the replacement WMMP adopted by 1 July 2026, with implementation to commence from the FY2026/27 year.

The other items listed under the Business Education and Engagement section were not progressed in FY2025/26 due to resourcing constraints.

Attachments

None.

WASTE ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER DELEGATIONS UPDATE

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 17 August 2026

From: WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

Upon direction from the Waste Advisory Group at the April 2026 meeting, a paper has been presented to each individual WasteNet Council recommending and requesting that their Delegations Registers are amended in order to formalise Waste Advisory Group member delegations.

This paper summarises the feedback from each of the individual WasteNet Councils in relation to these received delegation papers.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receive the report 'Waste Advisory Group Member Delegations Update',
2. Note the variation in delegation decisions made by the individual WasteNet Councils, and
3. Direct staff to either:
 - (a) Present a further paper to Gore District Council and Southland District Council which includes the additional reporting requirements and delegation restrictions as approved by the Invercargill City Council on 27 July 2027,

OR

- (b) Present a further paper to Invercargill City Council which provides supplementary information and seeks alignment with the decisions made by Gore District Council and Southland District Council on 30 June and 24 June 2026 respectively and specifically on the delegation matters of:
 - Financial delegation to approve variations to the annual WasteNet Southland budget of up to \$200,000 excluding GST per annum,
 - Financial delegation to distribute WasteNet Southland Reserves of up to \$200,000 excluding GST to projects/activities not provided for by the WasteNet Southland annual budget,

- that the Business Plan may be approved by the Waste Advisory Group provided it meets all financial delegations.

OR

(c) Report the delegation decisions and resulting variations back to the individual WasteNet Councils and provide detail on the mechanisms which will be implemented to manage variations. Report to seek decisions that:

- The reserves distribution line is removed from all Councils' delegations and this matter is addressed at a later date once the WasteNet Reserves Framework is fully developed and/or the Joint Agreement is updated, and
- The Business Plan is approved on 3-year cycle rather than annually.

Background

WasteNet is a Joint Committee of the Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council (the WasteNet Councils). Formed in the early 2000's, WasteNet operates as a shared business unit providing joint waste management and minimisation services to each Council under the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement (Joint Agreement) which was ratified in 2011.

The Joint Agreement provides the framework for collaboration, governance, service contract arrangements and management, financial management and support services.

The Joint Agreement stipulates that:

4.12 *The functions and responsibilities of the WAG are to:*

4.12.1 *be the high level decision making committee for the implementation and carrying out of the WasteNet Activities within the delegations from each of the WasteNet Councils;*

In February 2026, WasteNet staff contacted each individual WasteNet Council and it was confirmed that financial delegations were not documented. Rather, current Delegations Registers mirror the Joint Agreement, which does not include a value for financial delegations.

On this basis and as directed by the Waste Advisory Group in April 2026, a paper was prepared for Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council recommending that Delegations Registers (or equivalent) are updated to include financial delegations for their respective Waste Advisory Group (WAG) members. As per the Waste Advisory Group April 2026 direction, recommendations were to:

Delegate to the individual Council Waste Advisory Group representatives:

- Financial delegation to approve the WasteNet Southland annual budget, inclusive of up to \$2,000,000 excluding GST for the strategic, education and administrative expenditure components the WasteNet Southland annual budget,*
- Financial delegation to set the annual WasteNet administration fee,*
- Financial delegation to approve variations to the annual WasteNet Southland budget of up to \$200,000 excluding GST per annum, and*
- Financial delegation to distribute WasteNet Southland Reserves of up to \$200,000 excluding GST to projects/activities not provided for by the WasteNet Southland annual budget.*

Issues and Options

Delegations Decisions and Variations

The WasteNet Southland Joint Committee Delegations paper was received by SDC on 24 June 2026, GDC on 30 June 2026, and ICC on 27 July 2026.

Both Gore District Council and Southland District Council resolved to approve the delegations as provided by the Waste Advisory Group and as documented above.

Prior to presenting the paper, ICC staff reviewed the draft paper and the proposed delegations against their current risk matrix and wording of equivalent delegations, and as a result included amendments as recorded below. These amended delegations were approved at the Invercargill City Council meeting on 27 July 2026, being:

3. *Agrees to provide the Joint Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) with the following financial delegations which will be inserted at the end of section 5.5.1 of Invercargill City Council Delegations Register – Council and Finance:*

In relation to the above it is noted where reference is made to "in accordance with each WasteNet Council's delegations" that the following financial delegations have been approved by ICC.

Delegates to the Joint Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) the authority to:

1. *Agree an annual expenditure budget (excluding landfill and kerbside collection contract costs) that totals no more than \$2 million (excluding GST). Should the total expenditure exceed that amount the budget will need to be referred to ICC for approval.*
2. *Approve the reallocation of approved budget between budget lines to the maximum value of \$200,000 (excluding GST) per item.*
3. *Approve the annual WasteNet Administration Fee*
4. *Agree to use reserve funds to the maximum value of \$200,000 (excluding GST) per annum.*
4. *Must report to each member authority where approvals have been made under clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.*

It is noted that in exercising these delegations:

- *that transactions should not be split in order to come under the limits and all items should be incurred in the delivery of the WasteNet Southland Business Plan. It is still the expectation of ICC that the Business Plan is provided to ICC for approval.*
 - *Contracts can only be entered into for a maximum term of 36 months.*
4. *Notes that the delegations in recommendation 3 are more detailed than those considered by the other WasteNet councils but are broadly in alignment with the original request.*
 5. *Notes that the Joint Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) is seeking consistent delegations across the three Wastenets councils and should there not be agreement, the delegations proposed above may need to be revised.*

Delegation Variations and Joint Agreement Considerations

As outlined above, the Joint Agreement stipulates that:

4.12 *The functions and responsibilities of the WAG are to:*

4.12.1 *be the high level decision making committee for the implementation and carrying out of the WasteNet Activities within the delegations from each of the WasteNet Councils;*

The Joint Agreement does not specify financial delegations, but rather refers to delegations provided by each of the WasteNet Councils.

Internal advice has been received which confirms that the Waste Advisory Group can operate with different delegations from the parent bodies. However, there are practical considerations of having different delegations; specifically, careful consideration of decisions and the requirement to note when such decisions are within the various delegations or not and if not, what steps are needed before the decision can be advanced/actioned.

Delegation Variations and Associated Options

GDC and SDC are consistent in the financial delegations approved for the Waste Advisory Group.

As noted above, the delegations approved by ICC differ slightly from those approved by GDC and SDC with options to address these points contained in the below table.

The review and comments added by the ICC Finance and Assurance GM were to ensure financial control and transparency.

GDC and SDC Approved Delegations	ICC Approved Delegations (reordered)	Key Points of Difference / Implications	Options / Interpretations
<i>Financial delegation to approve the WasteNet Southland annual budget, inclusive of up to \$2,000,000 excluding GST for the strategic, education and administrative expenditure components the WasteNet Southland annual budget</i>	<i>Agree an annual expenditure budget (excluding landfill and kerbside collection contract costs) that totals no more than \$2 million (excluding GST). Should the total expenditure exceed that amount the budget will need to be referred to ICC for approval.</i>	Further detail in ICC resolution, however implications and intent are consistent.	Generally consistent – no action required.
<i>Financial delegation to set the annual WasteNet administration fee</i>	<i>Approve the annual WasteNet Administration Fee.</i>	Slightly different wording between resolutions, however implications and intent are consistent.	Generally consistent – no action required.
<i>Financial delegation to approve variations to the annual WasteNet Southland budget of up to \$200,000 excluding GST per annum</i>	<i>Approve the reallocation of approved budget between budget lines to the maximum value of \$200,000 (excluding GST) per item.</i>	As recorded in the April 2026 WAG report, unforeseen events/workstreams can and have occurred which require variations to the approved budget during a financial year. To provide flexibility to respond promptly in such scenarios, it was recommended that financial delegations included approval of variations to the approved budget of up to \$200,000 ex GST per annum. ICC wording allows for redistribution rather than variations. The implication of the ICC wording is that if there are unforeseen and unbudgeted requirements which are not able to be accommodated through redistribution within the approved budget, approval would need to be sought from each individual council, irrespective of the value.	ICC raised that the current interpretation is that if \$100,000 of reserves was used from the annual budget, then WAG could potentially use a further \$100,000 of reserves without coming back to council for additional approvals up to a maximum of \$200,000 per annum. The option is to add the wording to highlight <i>maximum value of \$200,000 (excluding GST) per item.</i>
<i>Financial delegation to distribute WasteNet Southland Reserves of up to \$200,000</i>	<i>Agree to use reserve funds to the maximum value of</i>	As presented at the February 2026 WAG meeting, it is proposed that a documented framework is introduced to manage WasteNet	i) Update GDC and SDC delegations to the approach approved by ICC.

GDC and SDC Approved Delegations	ICC Approved Delegations (reordered)	Key Points of Difference / Implications	Options / Interpretations
excluding GST to projects/activities not provided for by the WasteNet Southland annual budget.	\$200,000 (excluding GST) per annum.	Reserves. At present, this draft framework is based on the WAG having financial delegations to allocate Reserves values up to \$200,000 where applications are made to fund activities/projects outside of the annual WasteNet budget. Beyond that value, funding recommendations would be required to be presented to each individual WasteNet Council for approval. Development and implementation of this Framework is intended to occur alongside the Joint Agreement review process. The ICC resolution does not provide for distribution of Reserves where applications/activities are not provided for in the approved annual budget. Approval of such funding would therefore need to be presented to Council for approval. As written, the ICC resolution limits the use of reserves in any capacity to \$200,000/annum, with this including decision to fund any budget shortfall exceeding \$200,000 with reserves. This may introduce Business Plan and annual budget approval delays, noting that budgeted shortfalls in excess of \$200,000 have occurred every year since FY2023/24.	OR ii) Remove the reserves distribution line from all Councils' delegations and address this matter at a later date once the WasteNet Reserves Framework is fully developed and/or the Joint Agreement is updated. OR ii) Seek approval from ICC for delegations which allow for the distribution of Reserves up to \$200,000 excluding GST to projects/activities not provided for by the WasteNet Southland annual budget. AND iii) Seek a decision from all WasteNet Councils on approvals and delegations for funding budgeted shortfalls.
-	Must report to each member authority where approvals have been made under clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 above.	The requirement for reporting was not contained in the papers presented to GDC and SDC, but rather was an insertion by ICC. Noting that Joint Agreement Clause 4.12.3 requires that the WAG report to constituent	i) Update GDC and SDC delegations to include the reporting requirement as written and approved by ICC. OR

GDC and SDC Approved Delegations	ICC Approved Delegations (reordered)	Key Points of Difference / Implications	Options / Interpretations
		WasteNet Council as to the WasteNet Activities outcomes.	ii) Note and rely on the existing reporting clause of the Joint Agreement and make no further amendments.
-	<i>that transactions should not be split in order to come under the limits and all items should be incurred in the delivery of the WasteNet Southland Business Plan. It is still the expectation of ICC that the Business Plan is provided to ICC for approval</i>	This ICC resolution was not contained in the draft papers provided and subsequently presented to GDC and SDC, but rather was an insertion by ICC. The main point of difference is a result of the requirement that; <i>It is still the expectation of ICC that the Business Plan is provided to ICC for approval.</i> This does not reflect current practice, with the Business Plan instead being received and approved directly by the Waste Advisory Group. To support efficient and effective governance, the processes for approving the annual Business Plan need to be consistent across the three WasteNet Councils. Should there be a requirement for all three WasteNet Councils to receive and approve the proposed Business Plan each year prior to its execution as well as by the Waste Advisory Group, this is anticipated to introduce delays particularly if one or more of the WasteNet Councils do not support and/or require amendments to the draft Business Plan.	In relation to the requirement <i>that transactions should not be split in order to come under the limits and all items should be incurred in the delivery of the WasteNet Southland Business Plan</i> – The approach of ensuring budget expenditure is detailed in full and is included in the WasteNet Southland Business Plan is considered to be standard fiscal management. As such, it is proposed to note this only and not to make any amendments to the GDC and SDC delegation wording. In relation to Business Plan approval processes, either: i) Seek approval from ICC that the Business Plan may be approved by the Waste Advisory Group provided it meets all financial delegations. OR iii) Update GDC and SDC delegations to include the requirement that the Business Plan is provided to each WasteNet Council for approval. Should this option be preferred, it is recommended that the Business Plan is either a two or three year plan rather than annual in order to improve efficiencies.

<i>GDC and SDC Approved Delegations</i>	<i>ICC Approved Delegations (reordered)</i>	<i>Key Points of Difference / Implications</i>	<i>Options / Interpretations</i>
-	Contracts can only be entered into for a maximum term of 36 months.	Whilst not included in the list of resolutions for GDC and SDC, it was noted in the paper. As such, it is considered that there is consistent understanding.	Consistent information presented and received – no action required.

Next Steps

Subject to direction by the Waste Advisory Group, WasteNet staff will liaise with individual council staff to prepare and present the required paper(s). The outcomes of this process will be reported back to the Waste Advisory Group once advanced.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

To: Waste Advisory Group

Meeting Date: Monday 17 August 2026

From: WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Waste Advisory Group (WAG) with an update on WasteNet's financial performance for the 2025/26 financial year.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Financial Report For The Year Ended 30 June 2026".

Background

The WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement Clause 4.12.2 requires that the WAG is to:

Receive and approve financial monitoring reports as to the accounting between the WasteNet Councils in relation to the WasteNet Activities.

The following report outlines the draft financial performance and position of WasteNet for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The information is still to be subject to standard audit processes and finalised thereafter. Once the final version of WasteNet's financial statements is complete, a copy will be distributed to the three Council stakeholders as well as the Waste Advisory Group.

Financial Report for Year Ended 30 June 2026

Financial Performance

The following report outlines the draft financial performance and position of WasteNet for the year ended 30 June 2026. It is of note that the information is based on unaudited data and therefore for informational purposes only.

WASTENET STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE For the year ending 30 June 2026		
	2026 \$ Full Year	2025 \$ Full Year
Income		
Contracts	22,101,477	21,901,738
Grants	-	(12,938)
Commissions	-	14
Interest	40,820	66,166
Income Total	22,142,297	21,954,980
Expenditure		
Contracts	20,993,023	20,851,207
Operational	1,359,642	964,667
Bank Fees	26	26
ICC Administration	484,318	331,985
Comms/Education	378,362	220,795
Strategy	258,338	344,220
Administration	13,062	21,203
Incident Management	137,704	18,516
Grants Expense	107,832	27,922
Expenditure Total	22,352,665	21,815,874
Surplus/(Deficit)	(210,368)	139,106
WASTENET STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 June 2026		
	2026 \$ Full Year	2025 \$ Full Year
Assets		
Funds held by ICC	1,411,740	722,981
Debtors	871,628	1,718,531
Accrued Revenue	1,668,294	2,201,679
Total assets	3,951,662	4,643,191
Liabilities		
Creditors	107,232	28,832
Accrued expenditure	1,667,401	2,158,334
GST Payable	(5,580)	63,047
ICC Advanced Funds	-	-
Total liabilities	1,769,053	2,250,213
Equity		
Accumulated funds - Balance at 1 July	2,392,977	2,253,872
Total surplus for the year	(210,368)	139,106
Total equity	2,182,609	2,392,978
Total liabilities and equity	3,951,662	4,643,191

Financial Report: Performance Against Budget for Period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

The following report outlines the draft financial performance and position of WasteNet for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 against the budget.

	Actual Year End (000)	Annual Budget (000)	Variance (000)
Income			
Contracts	22,101	23,019	(918)
Grants	0	0	-
Interest	41	74	(33)
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>22,142</u>	<u>23,093</u>	<u>(951)</u>
Expenditure			
Regional Solid Waste Contracts	20,993	21,960	967
Administration	477	813	336
Communication / Education	378	444	66
Strategy and Policy	366	365	(-1)
Incident Response	137	568	431
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>22,352</u>	<u>24,150</u>	<u>1,799</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(210)</u>	<u>(1,057)¹</u>	<u>847</u>

Commentary on the Financial Report for Year Ended 30 June 2026

Landfill

The Southland Regional Landfill has received higher volumes for the financial year (FY) 2025/26 than were forecast when preparing the FY 2025/26 budget, with values of 56,000 T forecast and 58,353 T received. This has been driven by volumes associated with the Ocean Beach closed landfill remediation. This difference impacts both income and expenditure, and specifically increased the WasteNet admin fee income by \$44,495 compared to budget for FY 2025/26.

Collection

Regional Solid Waste Services Contract (550) is operating in line with last year when contract 550 escalations are taken into consideration. Gore District Council has higher contract 550 cost for transport of recyclables collected at transfer station beginning during 2025/26 compared to 2024/25.

Operational

Incident Management has incurred \$137,704 of cost for 2025/26, with the process ongoing. Strategic activities continue as planned, specifically procurement of the Regional Service Contract(s) with support from Morison Low. The Waste Assessment and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan review activities have been completed as scheduled.

¹ Forecast deficient to be funded via Reserves as per endorsed FY 2024/25 budget.

Administration

The Administration Line in the FY 2025/26 WasteNet budget provides for staffing, inclusive of overheads payable to Invercargill City Council as the administrative body for WasteNet, and a provisional value for general legal and consulting fees.

\$813,000 was budgeted for FY 2025/26, with an actual value of \$477,380 incurred. This position is largely driven by the staff vacancies which have occurred during the financial year.

Overall Position

The draft operating deficit for the FY 2025/26 is \$210,368. Provisional equity in WasteNet now totals \$2,182,609 which is a decrease of \$210,368 on the FY 2024/25 year-end position.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UPDATE

To:	Waste Advisory Group
Meeting Date:	Monday 17 August 2026
From:	WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this report is to present data on key performance indicators, including:

- Materials discarded rate,
- Waste to landfill, and
- Diversion rate and recycling data.

This report provides an update in relation to WasteNet's waste performance for the 2025/26 financial year (FY2025/26), being 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

For the Southland Region, waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill for the FY2025/26 year totalled 35,064 tonnes. This is 0.3% more (122 tonnes) than the FY2024/25 year-end result, however 3% less than the previous 5-year average.

The volume of diverted material is comparable with historic trends and the FY2024/25 average of 32%, with a year-end result of 32%.

The average contamination rate of co-mingled recyclables collected via kerbside collection and public drop-off facilities was 13% for FY2025/26. This is a noticeable improvement from historic contamination rate of 18% in FY2023/24 (pre-inspection programme), illustrating the benefits of the bin inspection programme.

As resolved by the Waste Advisory Group in June 2026, WasteNet's key performance indicators are to be revised for the FY2026/27 year. These key performance indicators will be first reported on at the Waste Advisory Group meeting scheduled for October 2026 given timing of the new financial year relative to scheduled Waste Advisory Group meetings.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Key Performance Indicators Update".
2. Notes the materials discarded, waste to landfill and diversion data and trends.

Background

The WasteNet Councils have a statutory obligation to promote effective and efficient waste minimisation and management within the Gore District Council (GDC), Invercargill City Council (ICC) and Southland District Council (SDC) areas under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

For the FY2025/26 year, WasteNet was operating under the Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2020-2026. Southland's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan sets a target that by 1 July 2026 Southland will have maintained a materials discarded figure of 650kg per person, comprising 40% diverted materials.

For the 2026/27 year, revised KPIs will be reported as resolved at the April 2026 Waste Advisory Group meeting, being:

- Calculated percentage of contaminated material directed to landfill from kerbside collection and council-provided public recycling facilities, with a target of not more than 15% per annum.
- Actions recorded in the 2026 – 2032 Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan are delivered in full and on-time, as reported per annum.
- Missed Pickup Rate – Annual average of not more than 50 missed collections per 1,000 pickups (95%).
- Regional materials discarded figure of per person (kg/year).
Note: This KPI is tracked for informational purposes, with no numerical target set.

Issues

Waste to Landfill

- The weight of waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill for the FY2025/26 year totalled 35,064 tonnes. This is 0.3% more (122 tonnes) than the FY2024/25 year-end result, however 3% less than the previous 5-year average.
- The total waste discarded to landfill, including that from Authorised Users, for the FY2025/26 year was 4% less (2,520 tonnes) than the year-end result for FY2024/25. This difference is primarily driven by materials received from the Little Tahiti and Ocean Beach closed landfill remediation activities, with these activities occurring from April to June 2025 and June to September 2025 respectively.

To enable a more direct comparison, Figure 1 presents the total waste discarded to landfill, including that from Authorised Users and excluding weights associated with the Bluecliffs closed landfill remediation activities in FY2023/24 and the Little Tahiti and Ocean Beach closed landfill remediation activities in FY2024/25 and FY2025/26. With these exclusions, total waste to AB Lime landfill via the WasteNet contract for the FY2025/26 year to-date is 2% more (753 tonnes) than comparable period of FY2024/25.

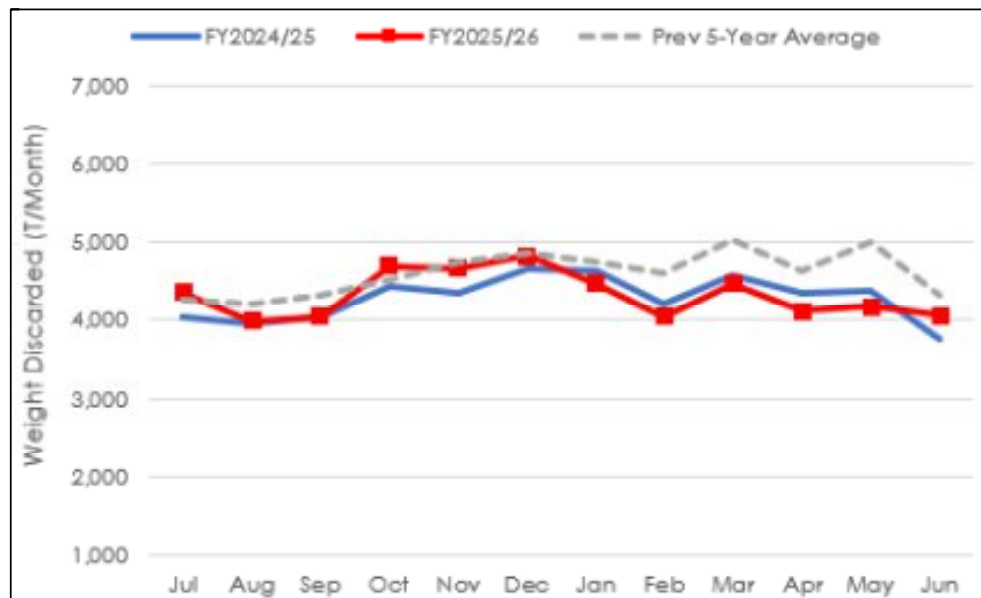


Figure 1: WasteNet Monthly Waste to Landfill (including Authorised Users and Excluding FY2023/24, FY2024/25 and FY2025/26 Closed Landfill Remediation Data) - FY2024/25 and FY2025/26

Diversion Rate and Recycling Data

During FY2025/26, a total of 17,135 tonnes has been diverted from landfill collectively by the three WasteNet Councils, equating to a diversion rate of 32% for the year. This result is comparable with historic trends and the FY2024/25 average of 31%, however does not achieve the 2020-26 WMMP target of 40%.

In regards to recycling activities:

- Gore District Council reintroduced commingled recycling on 3 November 2025. The below incorporates GDC data from November 2025 onwards
- For the FY2025/26 year, the total weight of co-mingled recyclable material processed from the WasteNet Councils' kerbside recycling collections and the Invercargill public drop-off facility combined was 4,604 tonnes. This is 2% less (104 tonnes) than the FY2024/25 year-end result.
- Contamination rates per month for Council provided services during FY2023/24 were within a range of 15% to 20%, with an annual average contamination rate of 18%. Since bin inspections and associated education commenced in February 2025, the contamination rate has consistently been below 15%, which indicates that this campaign is effectively driving behaviour change as illustrated in Figure 2.

For the FY2025/26 year, the average contamination rate in co-mingled recyclables collected via ICC, SDC and GDC kerbside recycling collections and the public drop-off facility was 13%. This equates to 811 tonnes of contaminated material being sent to landfill.

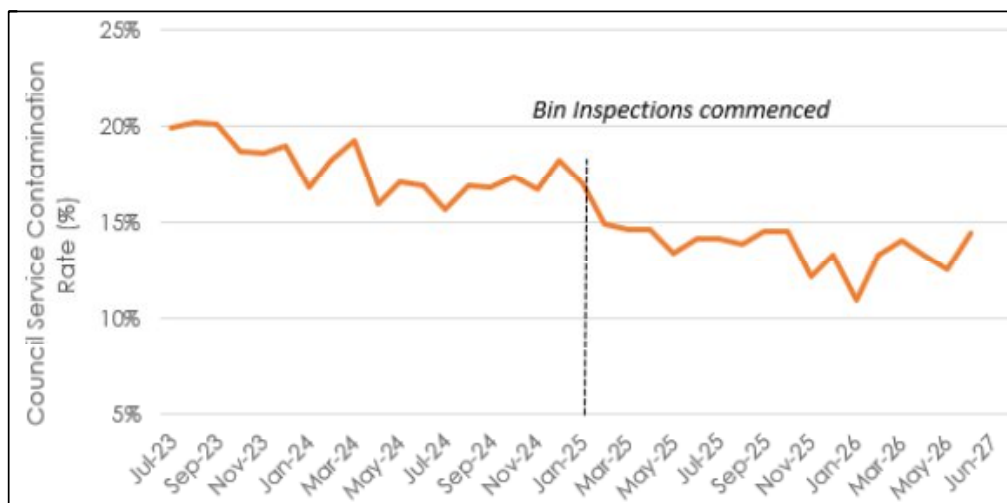


Figure 2: WasteNet Councils Recyclables Contamination Rate (Percentage per Month) – 1 July 2023 to 1 June 2026

Waste Trends Analysis

The Materials Discarded Rate for FY2025/26 breached the 2020 – 2026 WMMP target of 650 kg per person by 77 kgs. The FY2025/26 year-end result was significantly influenced by weights received from closed landfill remediation activities (Ocean Beach and Little Tahiti) in quarter one of FY2025/26. With the FY2025/26 closed landfill volumes excluded (6,362T), the materials discarded per person result reduces to 665kg/person. Further, as demonstrated by Figure 1 above, when closed landfill remediation weights are excluded, the total tonnage of waste discarded to landfill, is comparable to the five-year average weights per month.

WasteNet continues to invest in marketing and education programmes to drive behaviour change around waste minimisation, however it is recognised that this will be a gradual process.

Attachments

None.

WASTENET STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTION AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

To:	Waste Advisory Group
Meeting Date:	Monday 17 August 2026
From:	WasteNet – Paul Mooney (Director)
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

This report summarises the delivery of the WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan for the 2025/26 financial year (FY2025/26).

The WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group in June 2025. Following direction received at the February 2026 Waste Advisory Group meeting, the WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan was revised based on resourcing and corresponding delivery constraints.

Details of activities scheduled and delivered across the FY2025/26 year are presented on the basis of the amended WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan.

Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Strategic Plan Execution and Activity Update".

Background

Activity Status Overview

The WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan (refer to Appendix 1) overviews WasteNet's goals, target condition and performance indicators, as well as documenting the resulting work programme to achieve the target outcomes. Table 1 summarises the year-end position of the WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan work programme as at 1 July 2026.

Table 1 - WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan Execution Summary

Status	Number of Workstreams Due To-Date	Task / Project Description
Complete	5	- Support recycling implementation for GDC - Waste Management and Minimisation Plan development and preliminary consultation - Recruitment and On-boarding: WasteNet Community Engagement Officer - Organics: Support of Community Initiatives - Waste Management and Minimisation Plan public consultation and adoption processes
In Progress	1	Recruitment and On-boarding: WasteNet Contracts Manager & Operational Projects Manager
Overdue	1	Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals: Procurement process and contract documentation development
Parked / Pending Legislation	6	- Regional Bylaw review, development and consultation - MfE Waste Minimisation Act / Litter Act Reforms - Refresh WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement (Phase 1 – administrative updates) - Establish link with Regional Climate Change Forum and support actions 9.1 (EMS) and 11.1 (Net Zero) - Community funding framework - development, communication and implementation - Refresh Engagement and Marketing Strategy
Total	13	Upon direction of the WAG in February 2026, additional items were deferred on the basis of resourcing constraints. This is reflected in the table above.

WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan Activities Update

Details of activities scheduled and delivered across the FY2025/26 year are presented below, on the basis of the amended WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan. Actions which have been deferred due to resourcing constraints ("parked") are not included in the summary below.

Workstream: Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework

Scope:

This workstream was focussed on updating the framework WasteNet and the three Councils operate within. The scope extended to establishing a waste management and minimisation bylaw (parked), as well as workstreams associated with refreshing the regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP).

Activity Update:

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

In June 2025, the Waste Advisory Group resolved to revoke and substitute the Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2020-2026 (WMMP) in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Clauses 44 and 50(3)(a). Each individual Council received this recommendation and confirmed that the current WMMP shall be revoked and replaced. On this basis, public consultation commenced on 19 March 2026. The Joint Hearing Panel received and considered submissions on 8 June 2026. From this, various amendments were made to the

draft WMMP. The final proposed WMMP was presented to the individual WasteNet Councils in June 2026, with all Councils adopting the WMMP with changes as proposed by the Hearing Panel. This outcome met the FY2025/26 Strategic Plan target of having the replacement WMMP adopted by 1 July 2026, with implementation to commence from the FY2026/27 year.

Workstream: Building and Streamlining WasteNet's Operations

Scope:

This workstream encapsulated actions to ensure that WasteNet is operating effectively and efficiently as a shared business unit. Actions focussed on financial management, staffing and operating systems.

Activity Update:

Resourcing

The appointed WasteNet Director commenced in their role on 18 May 2026. Following this, recruitment of the three vacant WasteNet roles has been advanced, with the appointed WasteNet Community Engagement Officer starting on 13 July 2026. An offer has been accepted for the WasteNet Contracts Manager role, with a start date of late August 2026. Internal candidate Jai Sharma has been appointed to the WasteNet Projects Manager role, also commencing late August 2026.

Given the progress with recruitment, focus will now shift to on-boarding the new staff members to ensure that WasteNet is operating effectively and efficiently as a shared business unit.

Workstream: 2027 Contract Renewals (Kerbside Collections, Transfer Stations And Recycling)

Scope:

Key service contracts, being the kerbside collection contract held with WasteCo and the recycling processing contract held with Recycle South are both due to expire mid-2027. This workstream includes actions to progress procurement in a timely and considered manner.

Activity Update:

Actions and considerations associated with the 2027 contract renewals were detailed in the *Proposed Pathway to Waste Service Contracts Procurement* report submitted to the Waste Advisory Group in September 2024, with this detail being endorsed.

A separate agenda item presents a more detailed update for consideration by the Waste Advisory Group. It is of note that WasteNet has now breached a critical milestone point in the timeline for procurement.

Workstream: Meeting Legislative Requirements and Projects

Scope:

This workstream included actions items required to position Councils to meet pending or forecast legislative requirements, particularly those mandated by central government / Ministry for the Environment, as well as improvement projects set at a regional level. For the 2025/26 year, focus areas included supporting community initiatives to manage organic waste, actions arising from the Waste Minimisation Act and Litter Act reforms, and supporting the reintroduction of mixed recycling by Gore District Council.

Activity Update:

Organics: Support of Community Initiatives

As outlined in the separate *WasteNet Education and Engagement Activity Update* agenda item, this project has been successfully advanced for FY2025/26.

MfE Waste Minimisation Act / Litter Act Reforms

In May 2025, the Government publicly consulted on proposed changes to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979. As outlined above, the Government confirmed in December 2025 that Cabinet has now agreed to amend the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and replace the Litter Act 1979, with a target timeline of pre-election 2026. No further update on these reforms has been received since the last report presented to the Waste Advisory Group in February 2026. This action line remained as a placeholder only on the WasteNet Strategic Plan until this legislation is released.

Support recycling implementation for GDC

As previously reported to the Waste Advisory Group, while engagement and education activities under this banner will continue on an as-required basis, it is considered that this action in the WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan has been successfully delivered and accordingly is marked as being complete.

Follow-up / Parking Lot

Scope:

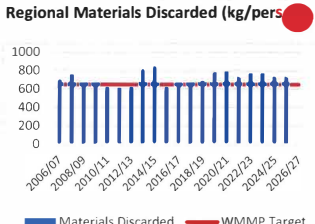
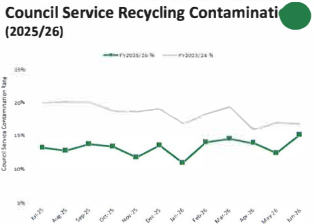
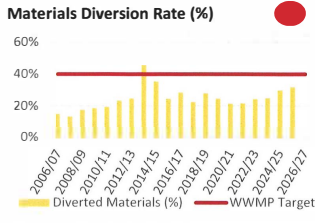
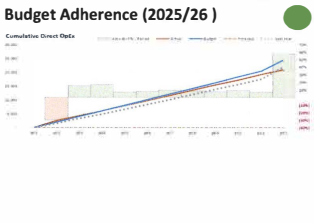
The abovementioned workstreams were set as the priority for FY2025/26 however it was recognised that there were a range of further items which should be monitored and/or implemented should resourcing allow.

Activity Update:

There are no further updates on these items further to the report provided to the Waste Advisory Group in December 2025 as these items have not been progressed during this time.

Attachments

Appendix 1 - WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan Update as at 1 June 2026 (A6548640).

WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan											
Date Reviewed: 1 July 2026											
Background WasteNet aims to provide environmentally sound solid waste management and waste minimisation services to Southland. Seek to achieve this in a cost-effective and practical manner.											
Target Condition » Alignment with MfE Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy » WMMP: [To include 2026 WMMP targets once drafted]											
   											
Current Condition / Reflection » Current opportunity to revitalise unity and alignment within WasteNet to be more effective. To achieve this, we need to refresh our constitutional framework and service contract structures. » Primary focus on kerb-side performance, with secondary focus on wider waste minimisation activities across Southland Region.											
Impact Monitoring: WasteNet 2024/25 KPIs											
   											
Key: Scheduled Complete In Progress Overdue Parked											
Action (Excludes BAU activities)											
Governance Framework											
Refresh WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement / governance framework											
Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework											
Bylaw Review											
Bylaw Drafting & Adoption: GDC, ICC & SDC											
Bylaw implementation (If progressed, otherwise update of policies etc)											
Waste Management & Minimisation Plan (WMMP)											
Refresh, including s17A review											
Consultation & adoption of revised WMMP											
WMMP Implementation / initiatives											
Building & Streamlining WasteNet's Operations											
Recruitment and on-boarding											
Establish link with Regional Climate Change Forum & support actions 9.1 (EMS) and 11.1 (Net Zero)											
2027 Contract Renewals (Kerbside, Transfer Stations & Recycling)											
2027 Contract Expiries - Procurement process											
Contract documentation development											
Tendering & Negotiations											
Engagement & Education											
Refresh Engagement & Marketing Strategy											
Initial implementation of revised strategy											
Community funding framework - development, communication & implementation											
Meeting Legislative Requirements & Regional Projects											
Organics: Support of Community Initiatives											
MfE Waste Minimisation Act / Litter Act Reforms											
Support recycling implementation for GDC											
Follow-Up / Parking Lot											
1. Hazardous Waste Services 2. Resource Recovery Park review (GDC & ICC) 3. ETS fees / AB Lime Review 4. Flytipping deep dive & counter measures 5. Product Stewardship Schemes: Container Returns, E-Waste, Agrichemicals, Farm Plastics & refrigerants											