



**Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) will be held in the Council Chambers, First Floor, Civic Theatre, 88 Tay Street, Invercargill on Monday 14 April 2025, at 9.00 am.**

**Elected member representatives**

***Gore District Council***

**Cr Keith Hovell (Chairman)**  
**Cr Neville Phillips**

***Southland District Council***

**Mayor Mr Rob Scott**  
**Cr Christine Menzies**

***Invercargill City Council***

**Cr Ian Pottinger**  
**Cr Barry Stewart**  
**Cr Peter Kett (alternate)**

## Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet) - Public

14 April 2025 09:00 AM

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Minutes of a meeting of the Waste Advisory Group (WasteNet), held in the Gore District Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Monday 17 February 2025, at 10.05am

**Present**

***Gore District Council***

Cr Keith Hovell (Chair) and Cr Neville Phillips.

***Southland District Council***

Mayor Mr Rob Scott and Cr Christine Menzies (online from 10.15am)

***Invercargill City Council***

Cr Ian Pottinger

***In attendance***

Ms Fiona Walker, Director of WasteNet, General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan, Gore District Council), Group Manager Infrastructure (Ms Erin Moogan, Invercargill City Council), Strategic Manager Water and Waste (Mr Grant Isaacs, Southland District Council), Mark Simpson, WasteNet Contracts Manager and Sustainability and Waste Project Officer (Mr Craig Sinclair, Gore District Council).

***Apology***

***Cr Barry Stewart apologised for absence, accepted on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Mayor Scott.***

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**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Pottinger, THAT the minutes of the Waste Advisory Group meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024, as presented, be confirmed as a true and complete record.**

**2. WASTENET STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTION AND ACTIVITY UPDATE**

A report had been received from the Director providing an update on progress with executing the WasteNet 2024/2025 Strategic Plan and providing an overview of associated activities up until 31 January 2025.

The Director highlighted a recent announcement by the Government to previous waste minimisation initiatives, some of which would no longer be progressed.

Cr Hovell noted the date on point 2 on page 13 of the agenda that read, inter alia, "... occurring from November 2026" should have read "... occurring from November 2025."

In response to Cr Hovell, referring to a formal Section 17A review and cost analysis for the various governance model options, the Director advised there were workshops scheduled in March with each of the territorial Councils. It was intended that WasteNet staff would provide the Group with an update on the deliberations at its April 2025 meeting.

*Cr Menzies now joined the meeting online via Mayor Scott's mobile phone.*

Cr Pottinger felt the announcement from the Government was like Ground Hog day. There had been variable options proposed by central Government since 2010. He thought there were two choices but he was keen to continue.

Discussion ensued about the options available and the consensus was to keep progressing this year. It would ensure there was a draft available that set out WasteNet's thoughts and considerations so the incoming governance group that would be appointed following the October elections had a starting point.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Mayor Scott, THAT the report be received, and direct that the regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan programme be advanced with a target draft date of 30 July 2025.**

### **3. WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE**

A report had been received from the Director providing an update on the education and communication activities that had been undertaken by WasteNet staff until the end of January 2025. The purpose of the education and communications activities was to deliver a collaborative education programme across the Southland region to change behaviour, minimise waste and increase awareness.

Cr Pottinger said educating young people was the best approach, particularly with schools participating in recycling initiatives.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the waste education and communication activity update report be received.**

### **4. WASTENET KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UPDATE**

A report had been received from the Director that presented data on key performance indicators including materials discarded rate, waste volumes to landfill and diversion rates and recycling data. The report also provided an update in relation to WasteNet's



waste performance for the first six months of the FY2024/2025 year. The Director advised the calculation of contamination rate had been revised which would provide greater clarity in the future.

Cr Pottinger noted there was less choice about what beverages were available in glass and many were now in aluminium cans. The Director said it had been noticed on a national level.

Cr Hovell questioned if the contamination target was too high. The Director would like to think the contamination rate would reduce now that regular inspections had been recommenced. In response to Cr Hovell, the Southland area was at the higher end of the scale with contamination when compared to other areas in New Zealand.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Mayor Scott, THAT WasteNet key performance indicators update report be received,**

**AND THAT the WasteNet Advisory Group note the clarification and calculation basis for the Council service recycling contamination key performance indicator and note the materials discarded, waste to landfill and diversion data and trends.**

**5. WASTENET HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2024/25**

A report with an update on WasteNet's financial performance for the first six months of the 2024-2025 financial year had been circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Mayor Scott, THAT the WasteNet half yearly financial report FY2024/25 be received.**

**6. AGED DEBTOR PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS OVERVIEW**

A report had been received from the Director providing the Group with an overview of improvements made to processes to manage aged debtors recorded by WasteNet. The workstream had been undertaken to minimise financial risk to WasteNet and the responsive Councils, as well as to improve WasteNet's cashflow. The Director added the member Councils had been notified of the change to the process in January and following this meeting, the changes would be implemented.

Cr Hovell asked if overdue account holders were charged interest. The Director advised they were not. Cr Pottinger said WasteNet was effectively acting as a bank and providing funds interest free. Mayor Scott said there were some debtors well in excess of what would be deemed of an acceptable timeframe. He suggested there should be interest charged and perhaps a suspension of service. He thought the change in process would assist with WasteNet's cashflow.

Cr Hovell asked if there was a willingness to provide staff with direction to charge interest. Cr Phillips thought it should be left to the staff to determine if interest was charged. Cr Menzies supported adding interest similar to what a rates penalty was.

Mayor Scott said there was additional costs incurred with staff time chasing overdue debtors.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Pottinger, THAT the Waste Advisory Group receive and note the aged debtors process improvements overview report.**

**7. RECYCLING BIN INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME REINTRODUCTION UPDATE**

A report had been received from the Director providing the Group with an update on the reintroduction of recycling bin inspections and the supporting enforcement programme. Bin inspections were 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. The reintroduction of bin inspections had been endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group in September 2024 and the activity was scheduled to commence in February 2025.

Mayor Scott supported the introduction of a three-strike system. The Strategic Manager Water and Waste Manager for Southland District Council added that Southland District had a type of three strike process which was not enforceable. Letters had been sent to offenders and once they received the first one they rarely breached again. Some had been sent a second letter but nothing further. Once they received the education they tended to comply.

Cr Pottinger said solid waste was a targeted rate and if ratepayers were “struck out” did they receive rates relief for not having the service provided? Cr Hovell said they still received the service but only via the red bin, not the yellow one. The Director advised the legal advice received was that as long as a service was provided, there was no issue. The proposed three strike system did not have any financial penalty.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Pottinger, seconded by Mayor Sott, THAT the Waste Advisory Group receive and note the recycling bin inspections ad enforcement programme reintroduction update and endorse the recommendation to proceed with implementing a three-strike system from 31 March 2025.**

**8. REGIONAL SOLID WASTE BYLAW DEVELOPMENT DRIVERS**

A report had been received from the Director advising that development and implementation of a Solid Waste Bylaw was provided for by Section 146 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). In alignment with LGA Section 145, solid waste bylaws were primarily intended to protect the public from nuisance and for protecting, promoting and maintaining public health and safety. LGA Section 155 stipulated that a local authority must, before commencing the process for making a bylaw, determine whether a bylaw was the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem.

Development of a regional solid waste bylaw had been nominated as a priority workstream for WasteNet in FY2024/2025. It was understood that the WasteNet workstream would be to develop a bylaw template for the WasteNet Councils, so as to support regional cohesion and consistency. The template would then be utilised by each individual Council with minor amendments only.

Cr Hovell questioned why event management plans were not listed to be included in a bylaw. The Director said they were appropriate to be included. Mayor Scott said the key word was “regional” and ensuring there was consistency applied across the province with events and fly tipping issues that impacted each Council area.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor Scott, seconded by Cr Pottinger, THAT the regional solid waste bylaw development drivers report be received,**

**AND THAT WasteNet staff be directed to initiate the bylaw development process on the basis of the following problem areas being addressed through the development and implementation of a Solid Waste Bylaw, being:**

- i) The promotion and delivery of effective and efficient waste management and minimisation, and/or**
- ii) The implementation of the regional Southland Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, and/or**
- iii) To support the purpose of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, and/or**
- iv) The regulation of the collection, transport and processing of waste, and/or**
- v) The protection of the health and safety of waste collectors, waste operators and the public, and/or**
- vi) The management of litter and nuisance in public places, and/or**
- vii) Other specific matters.**

The meeting concluded at 10.49am

## WASTENET STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTION AND ACTIVITY UPDATE

**To:** Waste Advisory Group

**Meeting Date:** Monday 14 April 2025

**From:** WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

**Open Agenda:** Yes

**Public Excluded Agenda:** No

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### Purpose and Summary

This report aims to update the Committee on progress with executing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan and to provide an overview of associated activities up to 31 March 2025.

### Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receive the report "WasteNet Strategic Plan Execution and Activity Update".
2. Direct WasteNet staff to either:
  - (a) Proceed with the current regional solid waste bylaw development process, or
  - (b) Pause the current regional solid waste bylaw development process until the outcomes of the Waste Minimisation Act, Litter Act and Bylaws Act reviews are suitably progressed and/or finalised.
3.
  - (a) Endorse the programmed approach of the Waste Advisory Group receiving and adopting the proposed Waste Management and Minimisation Plan under delegations, and
  - (b) Provide direction on the process to present and seek feedback on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan from each of the individual WasteNet Councils.

### Background

#### Activity Status Overview

The WasteNet 2024/25 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 provides a summary of progress with implementing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan up to 31 March 2025.

Table 1 - WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Execution Summary

Status	Number of Workstreams Due To-Date	Task / Project Description
<b>Complete</b>	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and endorsement of strategy; implementation; formalise reporting to Waste Advisory Group (WAG).</li> <li>- Establish regular linkages between WasteNet and SDC, GDC &amp; ICC: Staff &amp; Councils</li> <li>- Implement monthly financial tracking/reporting</li> <li>- Glass out consultation <del>&amp; implementation</del></li> <li>- Organics (food &amp; green waste) assessment</li> <li>- Regional Waste Assessment</li> <li>- Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals: Existing contracts due diligence</li> </ul>
<b>In Progress</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WMMP review and drafting process</li> <li>- Implement business management systems &amp; team KPIs</li> <li>- Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals: Business Case development</li> <li>- Regional Bylaw review and development</li> </ul>
<b>Overdue</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment: Community Engagement Officer</li> <li>- Tyrewise stewardship scheme implementation</li> <li>- Refresh WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	16	Overall it is considered that WasteNet is largely on track to deliver the FY24/25 Strategic Plan, noting the above three exceptions.

### New Zealand Waste Strategy Update

When developing the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan, consideration was given to the Government's draft waste strategy, Te Rautaki Para, which was released in March 2023. In late December 2024, the Government announced that it will not progress the remaining four proposed actions of the draft Te Rautaki Para waste strategy. Subsequently, the current Government has adopted a new waste and resource efficiency strategy which cites a focus of reducing waste and improving how waste managed in New Zealand, with this announcement occurring on 7 March 2025.

The Government's March 2025 announcement highlights that the new strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- reduction of waste disposal per person
- increasing reuse and recycling of materials and products
- minimising emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter
- ensuring resource recovery and disposal facilities are managed to minimise their environmental impacts
- limiting the environmental harm caused by contaminated sites including legacy sites.

It is of note that the requirement for Gore District Council to reinstate co-mingled recycling by 1 January 2027 was included in the Standard Materials for Kerbside Collections Notice 2023 gazette notice, and therefore this requirement remains despite the above changes.

## **WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Activities Update**

### **Workstream: Setting the Strategic Direction**

Scope: This workstream ensures that there is a clear direction for the FY2024/25 year. The scope includes a workshop to set priorities and the resulting WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan (the plan). Review of the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement was also included to ensure that there was regional alignment moving forward.

Activity Update: All tasks within this workstream have been progressed, with the initial focus being the development, endorsement and implementation of the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan.

The secondary focus of this workstream is to refresh the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement. The stakeholder engagement phase of the review was completed between August and September 2024. A report summarising the outcomes of this process and associated recommendations was presented to the Waste Advisory Group in November 2024. As an outcome of the November 2024 meeting, the next step to be taken in the WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement review process is a formalised Local Government Act Section 17A review and cost analysis for the various governance model options. This is underway at present and the outcomes of this will be presented back to each individual Council for further deliberation on the preferred structure, as well as the approach to waste management and minimisation services and functions in Southland. This was originally due to be presented back in April 2025, however due to delays with cost modelling this step is overdue. WasteNet staff now expect to provide the Waste Advisory Group with an update on the outcomes of these deliberations at the June 2025 meeting. On this basis, this workstream has been flagged in the 2024/25 Strategic Plan as being overdue.

### **Workstream: Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework**

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

Activity Update:

#### Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd (Eunomia) have been engaged to support the regional waste assessment and WMMP review processes. The first phase of the 18-month WMMP refresh programme was to conduct a regional waste assessment, with this having been completed in the latter months of 2024. In order to comply with the Waste Management Act, Waste Assessment will need to be formally received by June 2026 and a decision made on whether to continue with the existing WMMP, amend, revoke, or revoke it and replace the existing WMMP with a new one. Pending the outcomes of this, WasteNet is scheduled to have a draft WMMP by 31 July 2025, with consultation late 2025/early 2026, and adoption in the first quarter of 2026.

In order for staff to schedule the WMMP consultation and adoption programme, further direction is required. It is understood that the Waste Advisory Group has suitable delegations to receive and adopt the proposed Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, noting that this is a regional document held collectively on behalf of the three WasteNet Councils as opposed to a document held and maintained by each individual council. Direction is needed on the level of engagement, if any, with each individual Council to seek feedback and comment on the draft WMMP.

Eunomia are presenting the outcomes of the Waste Assessment as a separate agenda item.

#### Regional Solid Waste Bylaw

Development of a regional solid waste bylaw forms the second activity under this workstream. In accordance with direction given by the Waste Advisory Group in February 2025, staff have initiated the bylaw development process. However, the Minister for the Environment (MfE) has signalled that the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979 are to be reviewed, with consultation expected to occur in April 2025. Information from MfE has indicated that review of the Waste Minimisation Act will include provisions relating to bylaws. Additionally, MfE have advised that the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is part way through a 12-month review of the local government bylaws system. Expected changes to the Bylaws Act 1910 may lead to consequential changes to other legislation that uses the bylaw regulation-making tools, such as the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. As such, direction is required on whether to proceed with the current regional solid waste bylaw workstream or pause this until the outcomes of the Waste Minimisation Act, Litter Act and Bylaws Act reviews are finalised.

#### **Workstream: Building and Streamlining WasteNet's Operations**

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

Activity Update: WasteNet continues to implement improved processes relating to financial management, including management of aged debtors as detailed during the February 2025 Waste Advisory Group meeting.

In relation to recruitment, the Community Engagement Officer remains vacant. Staff are in the process of reviewing workflows and resource demands in order to inform recruitment, with this intended to be advanced in mid-2025.

On the basis of the above, it is considered that the tasks contained in this workstream are all generally on-track as scheduled.

#### **Workstream: Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals**

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. On this basis, Morrison Low were engaged to provide technical guidance and support. To-date, the following components have been completed:

- Performance assessments of the current contracts
- Assessment criteria and options workshop with individual Councils
- Early market engagement via Request for Information

Overall, the procurement process is on track and is proceeding in alignment with the timeline contained in the *Proposed Pathway to Waste Service Contracts Procurement* report submitted to the Waste Advisory Group in September 2024. It is of note that this September paper highlighted the potential for a bridging arrangement(s) to be required, with this position being reinforced during the procurement work completed to-date.

In relation to the S17A review and Business Case development, initial workshops were held with the Councillors from each individual council in March 2025. Feedback on the assessment

criteria and options has been collated and is being used to inform the Business Case. The draft Business Case is due to be presented back to each individual Council late April/early May 2025.

#### **Workstream: Meeting Legislative Requirements and Projects**

Scope: This workstream includes 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 2024/25 year, focus areas include organics collection and processing, glass out collection services and tyre product stewardship (Tyrewise).

Activity Update: As detailed in the Background section of this report, there have been a series of changes in government legislation and waste strategy. While this does not have a direct impact on the activities contained in the WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan, it does have a bearing on future planning for both WasteNet and each individual council.

In relation to scheduled activities, two of the three action items have now been completed, being glass out consultation and the regional organics feasibility assessment. The third item, being implementation of the Tyrewise Scheme, is currently outstanding. There have not been any further advancements with this workstream further to the update provided to the Waste Advisory Group in February 2025.

#### **Follow-up / Parking Lot**

Scope: The abovementioned workstreams were set as the priority for FY2024/25 however it was recognised that there were a range of further items which should be monitored and/or implemented should resourcing allow.


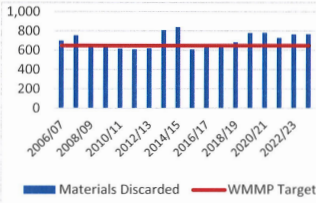
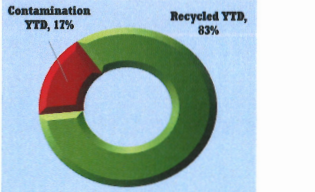
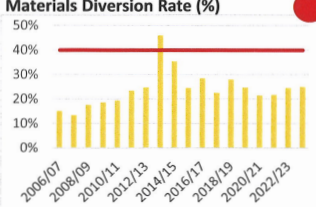
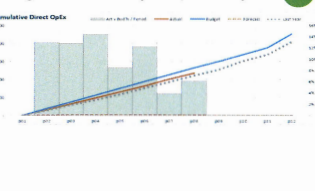
Activity Update: There have not been any further advancements with these listed workstreams further to the update provided to the Waste Advisory Group in February 2025.

#### **Attachments**

Appendix 1 - WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan Update as at 31 March 2025 (A5822677)



A5822677

WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan											
Date Reviewed: 18 Mar. 2025											
											
<b>Background</b> 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.				<b>Key:</b> <span>Scheduled</span> <span>Complete</span> <span>In Progress</span> <span>Overdue</span>							
<b>Target Condition</b> » WMMP: By 1 July 2026 Southland will have maintained a materials discarded figure of 650kg per person, comprising 40% diverted materials.  » Alignment with Te Rautaki Para: Targets and timelines				<b>Action</b> (Excludes BAU activities)							
<b>Current Condition / Reflection</b> » Current opportunity to revitalise GDC, ICC & SDC 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.				<b>Setting the Strategic Direction</b>							
<b>Impact Monitoring: WasteNet 2024/25 KPIs</b>				WAG Workshop to confirm strategy							
				Implement refreshed Business Plan and 24/25 budget							
				Implement Business Plan reporting to WAG							
				Refresh WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement							
				<b>Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework</b>							
				Bylaw Review							
				Bylaw Implementation: GDC, ICC & SDC							
				Regional Waste Assessment							
				Waste Management & Minimisation Plan (WMMP) Refresh, including s17A review							
				Consultation & adoption of revised WMMP							
				<b>Building &amp; Streamlining WasteNet's Operations</b>							
				Establish regular linkages between WasteNet and SDC, GDC & ICC: Staff & Councils							
				Recruitment and on-boarding: Data Officer (complete) & Engagement Officer (vacant)							
				Implement business management systems & team KPIs							
				Implement monthly financial tracking/reporting							
				<b>Pathway to 2027 Contract Renewals</b>							
				Existing contracts due diligence							
				Procurement Planning: Business Case							
				2027 Contract Expiries - Procurement process							
				<b>Meeting Legislative Requirements &amp; Projects</b>							
				Organics (food & green waste) assessment							
				Glass Out Consultation & implementation							
				TyreWise implementation							
				<b>Follow-Up / Parking Lot</b>							
				1. Hazardous Waste Services							
				2. Actions as per Te Rautaki Para (NZ Waste Strategy)							
				3. Resource Recovery Park review (GDC & ICC)							
				4. Support recycling implementation for GDC							
				5. Product Stewardship Schemes: Container Returns, E-Waste, Agrichemicals, Farm Plastics & refrigerants							
				6. Implementation of organics programme							
				7. WasteNet cost recovery, structure and fees review							
				8. Flytipping deep dive & counter measures							
				9. ETS fees / AB Lime Review							

## WASTENET KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UPDATE

<b>To:</b>	Waste Advisory Group
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday 14 April 2025
<b>From:</b>	WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)
<b>Open Agenda:</b>	Yes
<b>Public Excluded Agenda:</b>	No

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### Purpose and Summary

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

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

This report provides an update in relation to WasteNet's waste performance for the first nine months of the FY2024/25 year, being 1 July 2024 to 1 April 2025.

For the Southland Region, waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill for the FY2024/25 year-to-date, as at 1 April 2025, totalled 26,449 tonnes. This is a 0.7% less (176 tonnes) than the same period of the FY2023/24 year. The volume of diverted material is consistent with historic trends, with a year-to-date average of 31%.

The average contamination rate of co-mingled recyclables collected via kerbside collection and public drop-off facilities is 17% for the FY2024/25 year-to-date.

### Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Key Performance Indicators Update", and
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.

WasteNet is currently 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.

## Issues

### Waste Volumes to Landfill

- The volume of waste discarded through transfer stations to the landfill for the FY2024/25 year-to-date, as at 1 April 2025, totalled 26,449 tonnes. This is 0.7% less (176 tonnes) than the same period of the FY2023/24 year and 3% below the previous 5-year average for the comparable period.
- The total waste discarded to landfill, including that from Authorised Users, for the FY2024/25 year-to-date is 6% less (2,433 tonnes) than the comparable period in the FY2023/24. This difference is primarily driven by the Bluecliffs closed landfill remediation activities which occurred in the first quarter of 2024.

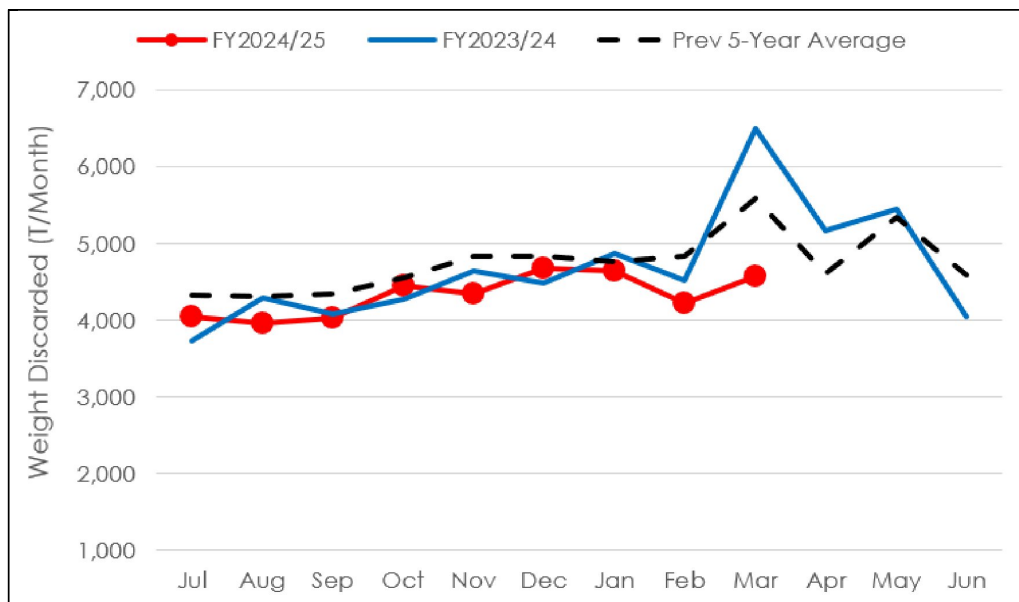


Figure 1: WasteNet Monthly Waste to Landfill (including Authorised Users) - FY2024/25 Year-to-Date

### Diversion Rate and Recycling Data

During the first nine months of the FY2024/25 year, a total volume of 12,000 tonnes has been diverted from landfill collectively by the three WasteNet Councils, equating to a diversion rate of 31% for the year. This percentage result mirrors that achieved for the comparable period of FY2023/24, however does not achieve the WMMP target of 40%.

In regards to recycling activities;

- For the FY2024/25 year-to-date, the total volume of co-mingled recyclable material processed from the ICC and SDC kerbside recycling collections and the Invercargill public drop-off facility combined was 4,228 tonnes. This volume is 4% greater (181 tonnes) than the comparable period of the FY2023/24 year.
- For the FY2024/25 year to-date, the average contamination rate in co-mingled recyclables collected via ICC and SDC kerbside recycling collections and the public drop-off facility was 17%. This equates to 705 tonnes of contaminated material being sent to landfill. This contamination rate is comparable with the FY2023/24 year-end average contamination rate of 18%.

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%. By

comparison, contamination rates per month for the first nine months of FY2024/25 were within a range of 15% to 18%, with an average rate of 17%. This performance will be monitored to determine the impact of recycling bin inspections, which were reintroduced in February 2025.

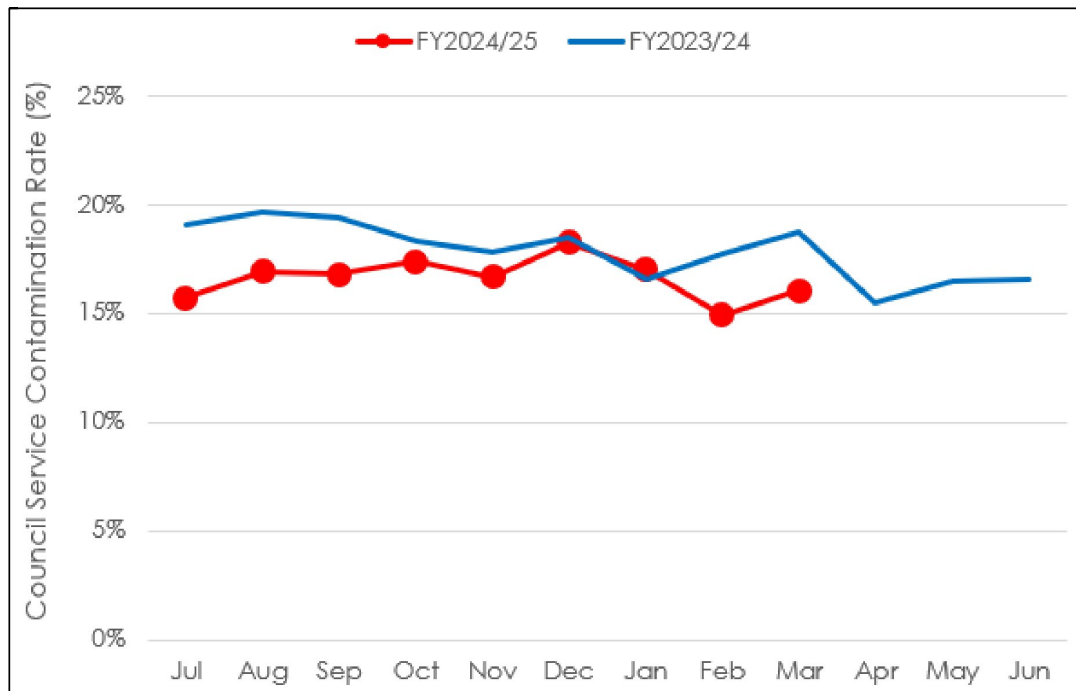


Figure 2: Council Provided Service Recyclables Contamination Rate (Percentage per Month) - FY2024/25 Year-to-Date

### Waste Trends Analysis

The Materials Discarded Rate for FY2023/2024 breached the WMMP target of 650 kg per person by 112 kgs. For the first nine months of FY2024/25, the materials discarded rate is 490kg/person. On the basis of the first nine months of FY2024/25 there is a medium to high risk that the FY2024/25 year-end result will breach the WMMP target.

There has however been a notable reduction in waste volumes generated across the region in recent periods when compared to historic averages, both kerbside volumes and that generated by Authorised Users. This is attributed to economic conditions which have resulted in reduced consumer expenditure and consumption, and thus waste generation. As noted above, the difference in volumes between FY2023/24 and FY2024/25 to-date is primarily driven by the Bluecliffs closed landfill remediation activities which occurred in the first quarter of 2024.

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 BI-MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE FY2024-25

**To:** Waste Advisory Group

**Meeting Date:** Monday 14 April 2025

**From:** WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

**Open Agenda:** Yes

**Public Excluded Agenda:** No

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### 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 first nine months of the 2024/25 financial year, being 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025.

### Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Bi-Monthly Financial Update FY2024-25".

### Background

The WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement Clause 4.12.2 requires that the Waste Advisory Group (WAG) are 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 first nine months of the 2024/25 financial year, being 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The information is yet to be subject to standard year-end audit processes and as such is interim in nature.

### Financial Report for Period of 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025

#### Financial Performance

The following report provides an update on the financial performance and position of WasteNet for the first nine months of the 2024/25 financial year, being 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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 9 months ending 31 March 2025

	2025 \$ 9 Mths	2024 \$ Full Year
<b>Income</b>		
Contracts	13,624,931	20,794,655
Grants	(12,938)	56,250
Commissions	14	-
Interest	52,749	64,428
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>13,664,742</b>	<b>20,915,333</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Contracts	13,001,214	19,826,809
Operational	696,333	706,585
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>13,697,547</b>	<b>20,533,394</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(32,805)</b>	<b>381,939</b>

**WASTENET**  
**INTERIM STATEMENT OF EQUITY POSITION**  
As at 31 March 2025

	2025 \$ 9 Mths	2024 \$ Full Year
<b>Equity Interim</b>		
Accumulated funds - Balance at 1 July	2,253,872	1,871,934
Total surplus for the year	(32,805)	381,939
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>2,221,067</b>	<b>2,253,872</b>

**Commentary on the Financial Report for Period of 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025**

For the FY2024/25 year-to-date, the Southland Regional Landfill has received 4,912 tonnes less than forecast for the FY2024/25. These volumes are also 10% lower than that received for the comparable period of FY2023/24, with the impact of the Bluecliffs Landfill remediation activities being excluded. This reduction in volume has impacted the Contracts business component for both income and expenditure.

The interim deficit for the nine-month period of FY2024/25<sup>1</sup> is \$32,805. Strategic activities contributed to moving WasteNet into this deficit, including:

<sup>1</sup> Invercargill City Council has an accounting policy of not processing accruals during the year, rather they are only processed for year end June payments and revenue booked in July. This means that Nine-Month\* Period means eight months of actual activity, July to February.

1. Regional Service Contract Procurement: Costs associated with the business case/Section 17a review currently being undertaken by Morison Low. This work is on-going.
2. The Waste Assessment and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan review activities being undertaken by Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd. Again, this work is on-going.

Within the endorsed FY2024/25 budget, \$375,000 of the current reserves balance was allocated to the above activities. This reflects in the current interim FY2024/25 deficit.

There are vacancies within the WasteNet division, which meant that staff costs were less than forecast and activities have not been fully completed as originally scheduled, thereby incurring less cost.

In the FY2023/24 under 'Grants', income of \$56,250 was received from the Ministry for the Environment as a Levy Grant for the purpose of the Regional Organics Feasibility Study. This amount was paid upfront in FY2023/24. As previously reported, the full scope of works did not proceed and a portion was refunded in the FY2024/25.

Provisional equity in WasteNet at 31 March 2025 is \$2,221,067.

### Aged Debtor Balances Update

As submitted to the Waste Advisory Group, WasteNet implemented an aged debtor monitoring and management process in February 2025. This involves specific actions to be taken for Authorised User and Transfer Station accounts which are 30, 60 and 90 days overdue, being request for payment, revoking account-based access, and referral to a debt collection agency respectively.

As at 2 April 2025, the following aged debtor balances remain. The position as of 14 January 2025 has been included for reference purposes. It is of note that the current balance is across three account holders. Of this, the majority of the balance is with one debtor who has now entered into a payment plan with WasteNet to reduce their debt.

**Table 1 – Current WasteNet Aged Debtor Balances Summary (April 2025)**

	> 30 Days	> 60 Days	> 90 Days	Total
<b>14 January 2025</b>	\$311,402.17	\$14,554.29	\$30,939.13	<b>\$356,895.59</b>
<b>2 April 2025</b>	\$96,629.33	\$17,927.90	\$54,518.09	<b>\$168,715.32</b>

## WASTENET EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

**To:** Waste Advisory Group

**Meeting Date:** Monday 14 April 2025

**From:** WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)

**Open Agenda:** Yes

**Public Excluded Agenda:** No

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### Purpose and Summary

This report aims to update the Committee on the education and communication activities undertaken by WasteNet staff until 1 April 2025. The purpose of the education and communication activities is to deliver a collaborative education programme across the Southland region to change behaviour, minimise waste and increase awareness.

### Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report "WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update".

### Background

Part of the WasteNet Business Plan is to deliver direct education to our target groups which are 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.



The following workstreams form the **2024/25 Education and Engagement Activities**:

Status	School Education Activities	Residential & Community Education and Engagement Activities	Business Education and Engagement Activities
<b>Underway / On-going</b>	-	Advertising via Radio, Social Media and Digital	-
		Community Waste Minimisation Fund (One of two rounds complete)	
		Bin Audits – Reimplementation communication / education	
		Community Events: Te Hau o Te Ora Maitaia (Maitaia Medical) Invercargill Age Concern, Invercargill Central Lions Club and Bupa Care Services NZ Limited	
<b>Not Yet Initiated</b>	Presence at ILT KidZone (July 2025)	General Media: Fridge magnets	Agri-waste drop-off scheme: Targeted engagement
		Flytipping – Targeted education	Business Waste Reduction Audit Toolkits
			Waste Reduction Toolkits
			Trade Shows / Events
	Engagement and consultation regarding Waste Minimisation and Management Plan review		
<b>Proposed</b>	-	-	-
<b>Complete</b>	Waste Free Wanda (Three of three tours complete)	Plastic Free July Campaign	Organics Feasibility Study
		Ultimate Guide to Recycling in the Gore District (print advertising)	
		Love Food Hate Waste Campaign	
	Para Kore – Wānanga and community groups	WasteNet Website: Phase II	
		Southland "Waste Free Wednesday" events: Riverton, Winton & Te Anau	
		Community Events / Fair: Hokonui Culture Festival	
		Bin Clips – Further distribution	

## School Waste Education Activities Update

There have not been any activities under the School Waste Education programme further to the WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in February 2025.

## Residential Education and Community Engagement Update

### WasteNet Website

Scope: The WasteNet website has been upgraded in two phases for the purpose of providing information to the public on bin collection services, recycling guidelines and standards, and general information on waste minimisation. Phase I of the website upgrade was completed in 2023 and Phase II was completed in 2024.

Activity Status: As noted in the WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in November 2024, the WasteNet website upgrade project has now been completed. A monthly website traffic report is generated, with this information used to inform focus areas in order to encourage on-going engagement and to ensure relevant information is available to the public. For the month of February 2025, 3,700 users accessed the WasteNet

website, with an active engagement time of 1 minute and 17 seconds. The 'Recycling' and 'A-Z Item Search' pages received 1,090 and 767 views respectively in February, which correlates with the bin inspection communication and advertising campaign that occurred in February 2025.

### **Community Events**

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-focussed events. These events are an opportunity to provide education material and answer specific questions from members of the community.

Activity Status: WasteNet have received an increased number of requests to present to various community groups and organisations, which is attributed to the bin inspection communication and advertising campaign, and heightened community awareness around recycling. To meet these requests, Ali Green was contracted to deliver four presentations on behalf of WasteNet during the month of March 2025, as follows:

- Invercargill Age Concern  
Presentation on correct kerbside recycling in accordance with kerbside standardisation requirements.
- Bupa Care Services NZ Limited  
Presentation on correct kerbside recycling in accordance with kerbside standardisation requirements.
- Invercargill Central Lions Club  
Presentation on correct kerbside recycling in accordance with kerbside standardisation requirements.
- Te Hau o Te Ora Maitāwhiri (Maitāwhiri Medical)  
Presentation on the proper disposal of medical and infectious waste, as well as explaining the current recycling guidelines for both Southland District Council area & Gore District Council area. Te Hau o Te Ora Maitāwhiri received funding from the last round of the WasteNet Community Waste Minimisation Fund towards reusable incontinence products, and the event included presentations from various medical providers as well as Te Hau o Te Ora Maitāwhiri on use of reusable incontinence products.

Feedback forms were collected from attendees following each event and will be reviewed to determine if the events were well-received and effectual.

### **Advertising: Radio, Social Media and Digital Media**

Scope: Radio partners and digital marketing suppliers have been engaged to support with community education and engagement by delivering messaging relating to waste issues and to encourage our community to implement change one step at a time. Our advertising partners run the WasteNet advertisements and promotional campaigns. Digital media and digital advertising are used in conjunction with radio to reinforce messaging and broaden the target audience.

Activity Status: There have not been any change in activities under the Radio, Social Media and Digital Media programme further to the WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in February 2025. The focus for radio, social media and digital media communications throughout February and March centred on bin inspections and correct recycling practices.

### **Flytipping: Data Collation**

There have not been any significant alterations to nor outcomes from the flytipping data collation programme of works further to the WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in June 2024. WasteNet staff expect to provide an update on this workstream mid-2025.

### **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 is currently \$50,000 per annum.

Activity Status: As detailed in the *WasteNet Community Waste Minimisation Fund Recipients F25* report presented to the Waste Advisory Group in November 2024, the allocated funds of \$50,000 were not fully distributed as a result of the October 2024 process. As endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group in November 2024, WasteNet staff re-opened the fund from mid-February to 31 March 2025, for the residual amount of \$22,595. Applications are now being collated and will be assessed by the evaluation panel, comprising the Waste Advisory Group Chair and staff representatives from each of the three respective councils. An update on the outcomes of this round will be presented to the Waste Advisory Group in June 2025.

### **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 has been developed which includes education and engagement as the initial phase. This element focussed on communicating with residents that bin inspections were to commence and also to provide residents with information around what materials can and cannot be recycled so as to encourage correct recycling.

Activity Status: The *Recycling Bin Inspections and Enforcement Programme Reintroduction Update* report, presented as a separate agenda item, provides an update on the workstreams associated with the Bin Inspections Reintroduction Campaign.

### **Bin Clips – Further Distribution**

Scope: The endorsed FY2024/25 WasteNet Budget provides for the purchase and distribution of 5,000 bin clips for use on co-mingled recycling (yellow-lidded) bins. Bin clips are purchased by WasteNet and distributed to residents on a upon request basis. This roll-out follows that completed in FY2023/24 of 5,000 clips.

The intention of this activity is to minimise nuisance litter being generated when bin lids are blown open and/or bins blown over during high wind events.

Activity Status: 1,000 clips were ordered and distributed in February 2025. Bin clips were provided to the Invercargill City Council Esk St and Bluff Offices, and the Southland District Council Invercargill and Area Offices for distribution to community members upon request. A further order will be placed when the current stocks have been distributed.

### **Business Waste Minimisation Education and Engagement Update**

There have not been any significant alterations to nor outcomes from the Business Waste Minimisation Education and Engagement programme of works further to the WasteNet Education and Communication Activity Update submitted to WAG in September 2024.

### **Attachments**

None.

# RECYCLING BIN INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME REINTRODUCTION UPDATE

<b>To:</b>	Waste Advisory Group
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday 14 April 2025
<b>From:</b>	WasteNet – Fiona Walker (Director)
<b>Open Agenda:</b>	Yes
<b>Public Excluded Agenda:</b>	No

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## 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, as at 18 March 2025.

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. The reintroduction of bin inspections was endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group in September 2024 and the activity was subsequently commenced in February 2025. As endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group, a three strikes system will apply from 31 March 2025.

## Recommendations

That the Waste Advisory Group:

1. Receive and note 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.

Historically, WasteNet staff undertook periodic bin inspections across Southland, with this occurring between 2012 – 2016. It is understood that this programme was ceased due to resourcing and changes in staffing. Since 2016, focus has been primarily on education, with no regular form of inspection or enforcement. Monitoring data collected indicates that the current approach of solely focussing on education is not effective in driving behaviour change and improving kerbside contamination rates.

Bin inspection programmes and supporting three-strike systems are exercised across New Zealand. Councils who utilise this approach include Dunedin City Council, Tauranga City Council and Auckland Council. It is also common for councils to implement such programmes when there are sustained or elevated issues with contamination rates or when there are changes to services (i.e. introduction of a new kerbside bin), with Christchurch City Council having used this approach to address elevated contamination rates in 2020 following COVID-19 and by various councils within the Waikato Region following the introduction of a new kerbside service in 2021.

## **Issues**

### **Activity Programme**

For the programme to be accepted by and sustainable within communities, a staged introduction programme was proposed by WasteNet and endorsed by the Waste Advisory Group, being:

#### Stage I: Communication and Education (January - February 2025)

The intention of this stage was to communicate to residents that bin inspections were recommencing and also to provide residents with information around what materials can and cannot be recycled so as to encourage correct recycling. This stage of the programme has been successfully completed.

#### Stage II: Bin Inspections and Education (10 February – 31 March 2025)

Bin inspections commenced on 10th February 2025, with bins either receiving a green (correct recycling), orange (low level contamination) or red tag (significant contamination). During this phase, the communication campaign was on-going.

To support a staged introduction, bins were inspected without enforcing the three-strike system initially. Rather, as bin inspectors have identified issues and/or opportunities to improve recycling, educational information has been provided to the household to encourage correct recycling. In the event that a bin has received a red tag during this phase (i.e. unacceptable contamination present), the bin has not been emptied on that collection day however has not been removed from the property.

This stage of the programme has now also been successfully completed.

#### Stage III: Implementation of the Three-Strike System (proposed 31 March 2025 onwards)

The final stage of the reintroduction programme is to apply a three-strike system, which comes into effect from 31 March 2025. During this phase, a property which receives three red tags in any one calendar year 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.

It is of note that it will be approximately nine weeks from the launch of programme to when a resident could potentially have their bin taken away due to the time it will take bin inspectors to cover all of the Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council collection routes. As such, there have not been any bins removed under this system to-date.

The abovementioned communication campaign material has been tailored for this phase, in order to proactively and comprehensively communicate the three strike system.

## Bin Inspections Monitoring Data

Between 10 February and 18 March 2025, 3,831 yellow-lidded recycling bins have been inspected across the combined Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council areas. Areas which have been inspected, either entirely or partially, include:

### Southland District Council

- Wyndham
- Edendale
- Riverton/Aparima
- Waianiwa
- Winton
- Dipton
- Te Anau
- Manapouri
- Lumsden

### Invercargill City Council

- Kingswell
- Rosedale
- Waikiwi
- Gladstone
- Richmond
- Clifton
- Georgetown
- Ascot Heights
- Strathern

Table 1 - Bin Inspection Monitoring Data: 10 February to 18 March 2025

	Invercargill City Council Data	Southland District Council Data	Combined Total
<b>Green Tags Issued</b>	2,015 (86%)	1,246 (84%)	3,261 (85%)
<b>Orange Tags Issued</b>	223 (10%)	186 (12%)	409 (11%)
<b>Red Tags Issued</b>	99 (4%)	62 (4%)	161 (4%)
<b>Total Bins Inspected</b>	2,337	1,494	3,831

Between the period of 10 February and 18 March 2025, 72 properties received more than one inspection, with reinspections specifically focussed where possible on those properties which had received a red tag initially. The following table summarises the relevant data collected during this period. Although data is limited, initial data indicates that the bin inspection programme is successfully encouraging behaviour change, as demonstrated by the reduction in red tags issued between first and second inspections in comparison to the number of green tags issued.

Table 2 - Bin Inspection Multiple Inspections Monitoring Data Summary: 10 February to 18 March 2025

	Inspection One	Inspection Two	Inspection Three
<b>Green Tag Issued</b>	23 (32%)	48 (67%)	2 (67%)
<b>Orange Tag Issued</b>	15 (21%)	9 (13%)	-
<b>Red Tags Issued</b>	34 (47%)	15 (21%)	1 (33%)
<b>Total Bins Inspected</b>	72	72	3

In terms of the nature of contamination, monitoring data demonstrates that the most common types of contamination are soft plastics (25%) and dirty items/rubbish/other (25%), followed by lids/pumps (22%), garden/food waste (7%), and fabric (7%).

## Next Steps

WasteNet staff will continue to advance bin inspections and the supporting three strikes enforcement programme.

A further update will be provided to the Waste Advisory Group at the June 2025 Waste Advisory Group meeting. This will include details such as the number of bins inspected, and the ratio of green, orange and red tags.

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# Regional Climate Change Framework for Action (Phase Two)

## Overview of the draft shape and key components

Cr Phil Morrison and Anke Habgood







 Climate change  
in Murihiku Southland

**Regional  
Climate Change Strategy  
for Murihiku Southland** Phase One

 environment  
SOUTHLAND  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Taitao Tonga

 GO RURAL  
RE CITY  
LIVING

 Invercargill  
CITY COUNCIL

 SOUTHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

 TE AO  
MĀRAMA INC.

## Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland (Phase One) Principles

**Kaitiakitanga Guardianship** – our responsibility to protect the essential life-supporting capacity of our environment, balancing the wellbeing of our present and future generations.

**Mōhiotanga Understanding** – effective risk evaluation and an evolving, iterative management approach, which fosters a future-focused community of learning.

**Whakamana Empowerment** – facilitate innovative and bold pathways for action while nurturing the resilience of our youth, in preparation for their future.

**Whakarāneinei Anticipation** – adopting a data-driven approach in developing proactive action plans, prioritising long-term thinking and reinvestment in our environmental capital.



**Hauora Wellbeing** – the interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience.

**Kotahitanga Inclusivity** – transparent sharing of knowledge for a fair and equitable transition towards our future.

**Mahitahi Alignment** – a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative approach that facilitates consistency and synergy and enables informed and balanced decision-making.

# Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland (Phase One)

## Aspirations

### Our aspirations

#### Guiding

- 1 Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa - the mana of the environment is valued and respected enabling our people to be responsive as our climate changes.
- 2 Science and Mātauranga underpins our response to our changing climate in Murihiku Southland.
- 3 We understand the changes, challenges and opportunities associated with our changing climate and will act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive.
- 4 We will create meaningful change within our generation and inspire future generations to continue this work.

#### Mitigation

- 5 Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Great South will be net zero\* organisations by 2050 or earlier.
- 6 By June 2026\*\*, all four Councils will measure their organisational greenhouse gas baseline and develop emissions reductions targets for progressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions toward 2050.
- 7 Councils understand their role in enabling Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region by 2050.

\* Net zero refers to the reduction of organisational greenhouse gas emissions to a net zero level.

\*\* This date is being referenced to ensure the direction resulting from organisational baseline measuring of greenhouse gas emissions, can be incorporated into planning as part of the LTP cycle 2027-2037.

#### Adaptation

- 8 We understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.
- 9 Councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions.\*
- 10 We collaborate to create regional pathways for action\*\*, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues.

\* This is important as local government agencies collectively work towards planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037, however it is also relevant for regional decisions in a broader sense as well.

\*\* Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management, biodiversity, nature-based solutions etc. The intention is that these RCCWG discussions will be ongoing and aligned pathways for action will be able to be incorporated into the planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037 and beyond.

#### Communications & engagement

- 11 We build a regional community of learning; collectively and openly improving our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku Southland.
- 12 We support individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations to start and progress their journey responding to our changing climate.
- 13 We engage our children and young people to empower active participation in ongoing climate change conversations.







Draft **Regional**  
**Framework for Action on Climate**  
**for Murihiku Southland**





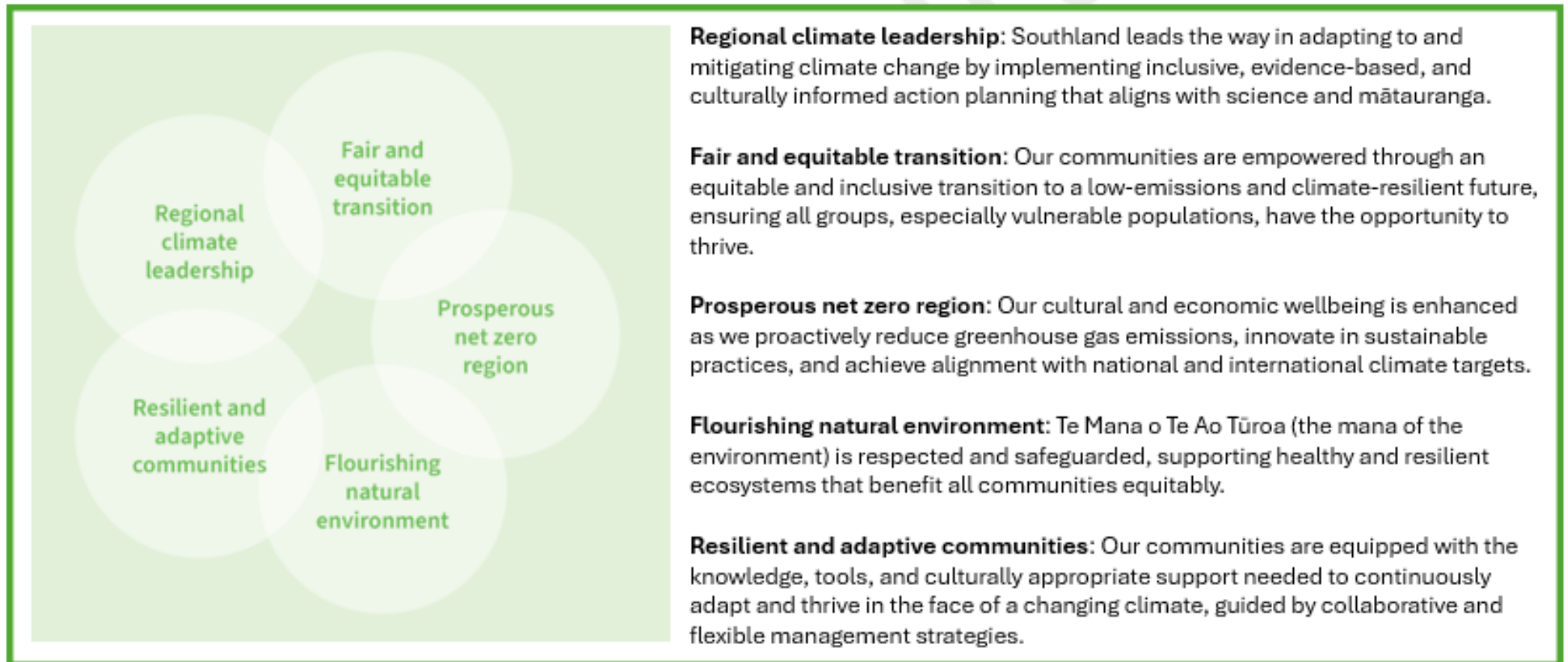
## Purpose of Regional Climate Change Framework for Action

- Identify agreed outcomes, key focus areas for action and high-level actions/objectives
- Ensure visibility of existing near-term planned actions by each of the key partner agencies
- Reflect on collaboration, in particular if planned actions would benefit from being progressed within the collaborative inter-agency space
- Provide direction on level of priority of planned actions
- Provide role clarity for progressing planned actions
- Provide high level direction for the communications and engagement required to support the key focus areas for action





## Regional Framework for Action: draft regional outcomes



# Ongoing climate action planning







## Our Changing Climate

Tell us about the changes you're noticing in Murihiku Southland from our changing climate.

<https://www.haveyoursay.es.govt.nz/our-changing-climate>

We want to hear from you about how our changing climate affects you, your whānau/family, your livelihoods and your community.

We now need your input into the regional framework for action on our changing climate in Murihiku Southland – here's what you can help us with:

**What changes in the climate have you noticed in your area?** Flooding? Windier days?

**Are you doing anything differently because of our changing climate?** Using your drier more? Planting crops at new times?

**What actions are needed to support our region's response to our changing climate?** What are you already doing? What else could we be doing?





- Winton A&P show – 18 January
- Gore A&P show – 1 February
- Waiau A&P show – 8 February
- SIT orientation week – 26 February
- Southland A&P show – 1 March
- Surf to City – 2 March
- Invercargill Central – 21 March
- Multicultural festival – 22 March
- Riverton Heritage festival – 29 March
- Climate collaboration hui – 3 April
- Murihiku marae open day – 13 April
- Community Board meetings ongoing
- Meetings such as today





## Our Changing Climate

Tell us about the changes you're noticing in Murihiku Southland from our changing climate.

## Climate Change Strategy: Aspiration 11

We build a regional community of learning, collectively and openly improving our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku Southland.



TE AO  
MĀRAMA INC.



environment  
**SOUTHLAND**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Taiao Tonga



GO RURAL  
CITY LIVING



Invercargill  
CITY COUNCIL



SOUTHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



## Some key reflections to date...







# Connections with the WasteNet Waste Advisory Group work?

## Thoughts? Considerations? Feedback?



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MĀRAMA INC.



environment  
**SOUTHLAND**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Taiao Tonga



Invercargill  
CITY COUNCIL



SOUTHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



April 2025  
Lisa Eve

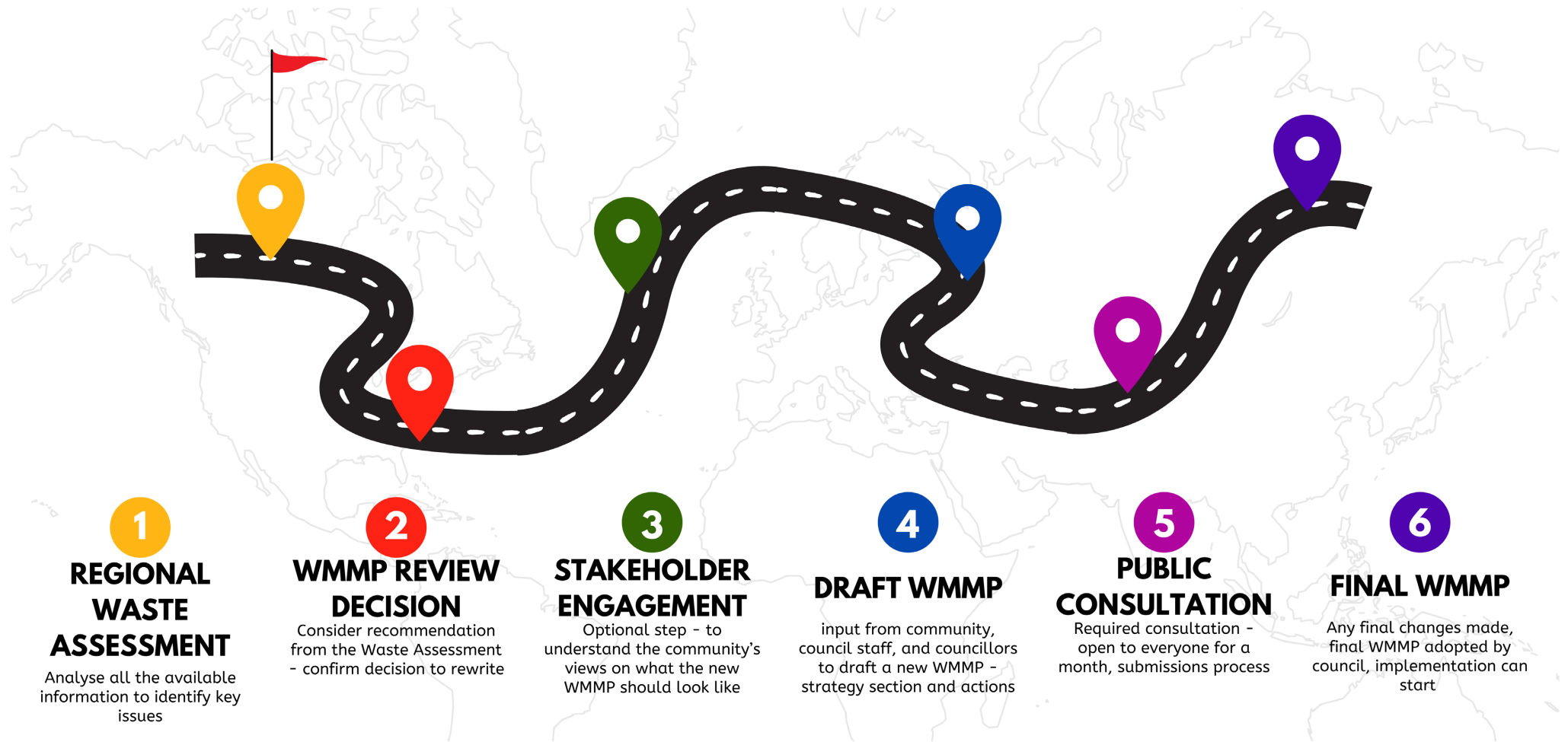
# Waste Planning in the Southland Region

A5855656

# Overview

- The waste planning process
- Waste Assessment outcomes
- Key Issues
- Next steps

# Waste Planning Process



## Waste Planning Process – the Waste Assessment

- Requirements are set out in the Waste Minimisation Act:
- A lengthy technical report
- Sometimes prepared jointly with other Councils
- Analyses the information available – including SWAPs
- What drives waste generation in the region? Trends and benchmarking
- Considers the local and national regulatory and strategic context
- Identifies the key issues with the way waste is managed, now and in the future



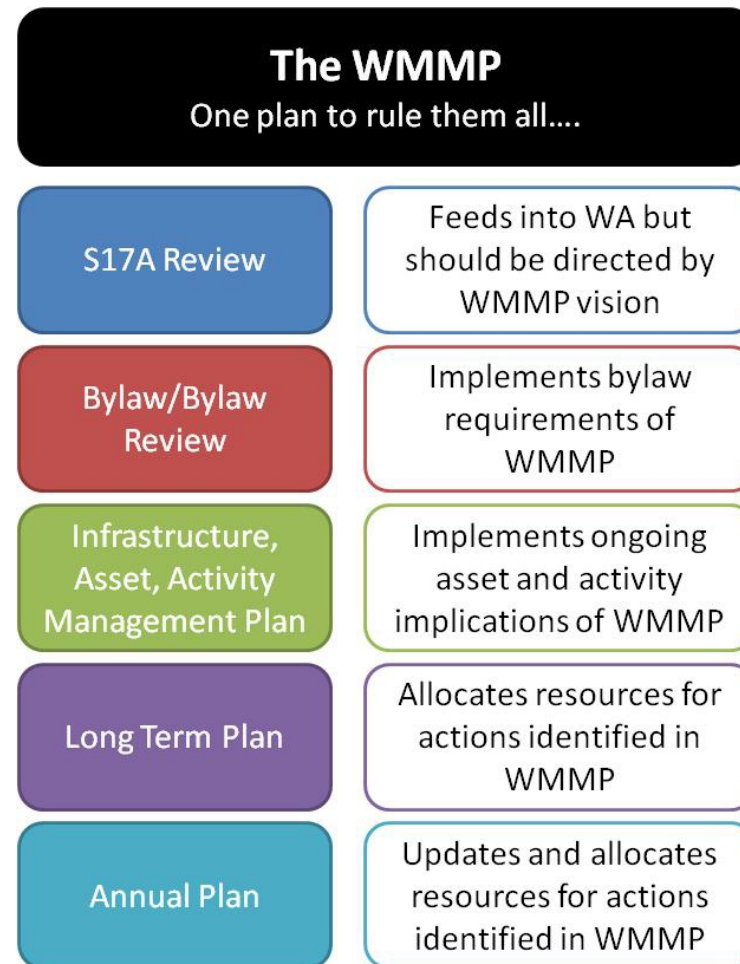
## Waste Planning Process – the Waste Assessment

- Must be completed every six years
- Informs a review of the current Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Recommends whether to retain the current WMMP, or to amend/revoke this and write a new Plan
- Must consult with the Medical Officer of Health
- Levy funds are contingent on the review being completed
- Long list of options

# Waste Planning Process – the WMMP

- Sets out the strategy and actions to tackle the key issues
- Vision (goals, objectives)
- Targets
- Actions
- Monitoring and reporting
- Funding actions
- Making funds available
- Must reflect the New Zealand waste strategy and waste hierarchy

# Waste Planning Process – the WMMP



# Waste Assessment Outcomes – National Context

- New Zealand Waste Strategy
- Released March 2025
- Replaced Te rautaki para | Waste Strategy (released March 2023)
- Aims to reduce waste and waste emissions to reduce environmental impacts and meet climate targets



# Waste Assessment Outcomes – National Context





Fit-for-purpose legislation that supports:

- an efficient market for waste management and recycling
- optimal investment decisions
- appropriate responsibilities across the supply chain



Cost-effective, outcomes-focused investment of the waste disposal levy in infrastructure, innovation and local projects



Working with the sector, business, iwi/Māori, local government and communities to develop and implement practical cost-effective solutions



Where necessary, targeted policy and regulatory measures

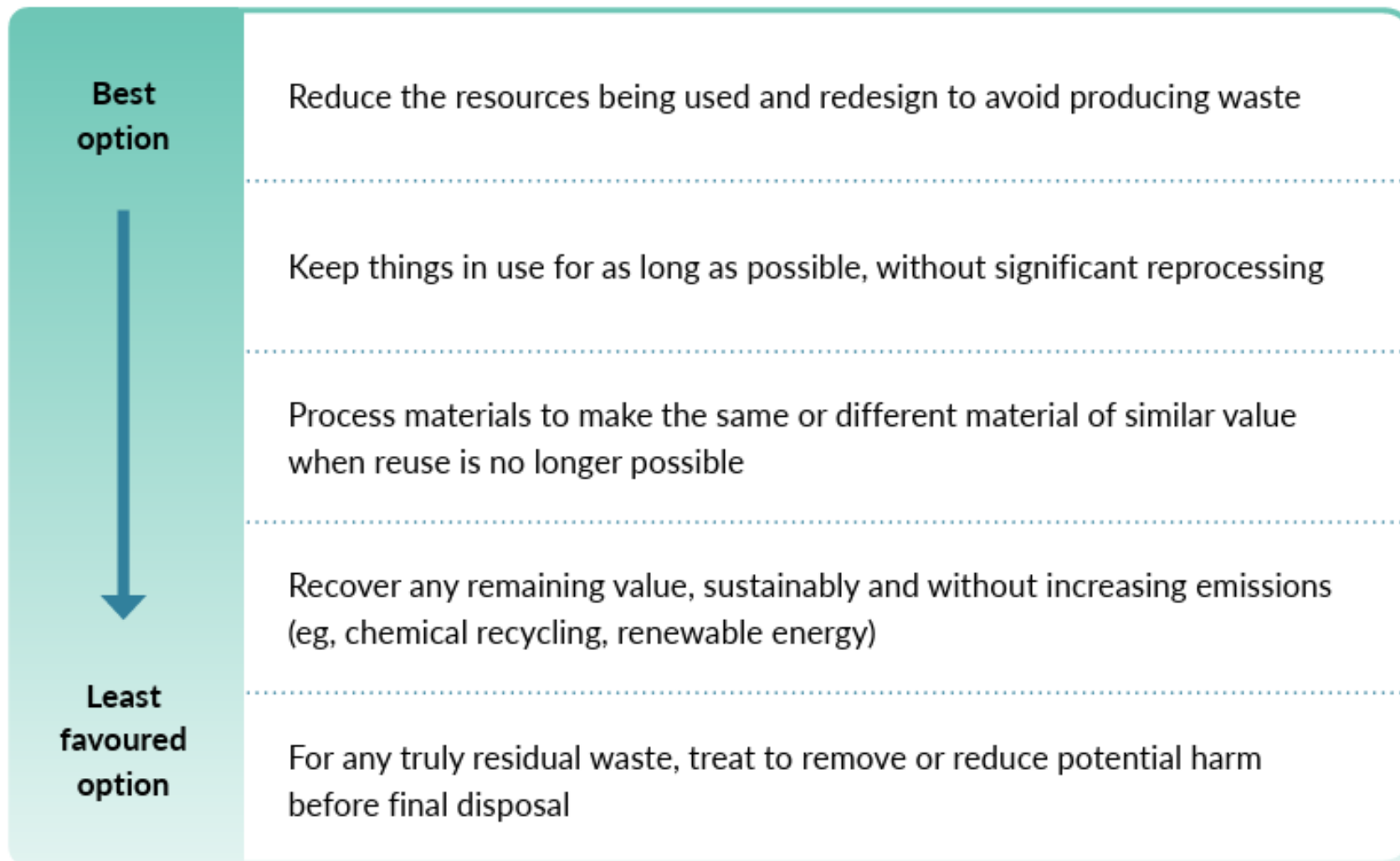


Using the waste hierarchy to guide decision-making, enabling us to keep resources in the economy at their highest value where possible

# National Context

- Kerbside standardisation – implications for Council household kerbside recycling collections
- Waste Minimisation Act and Litter Act reviews
- Emissions Reduction Plans – methane emissions from landfill
- Increasing and expanding waste disposal levy
- Waste hierarchy

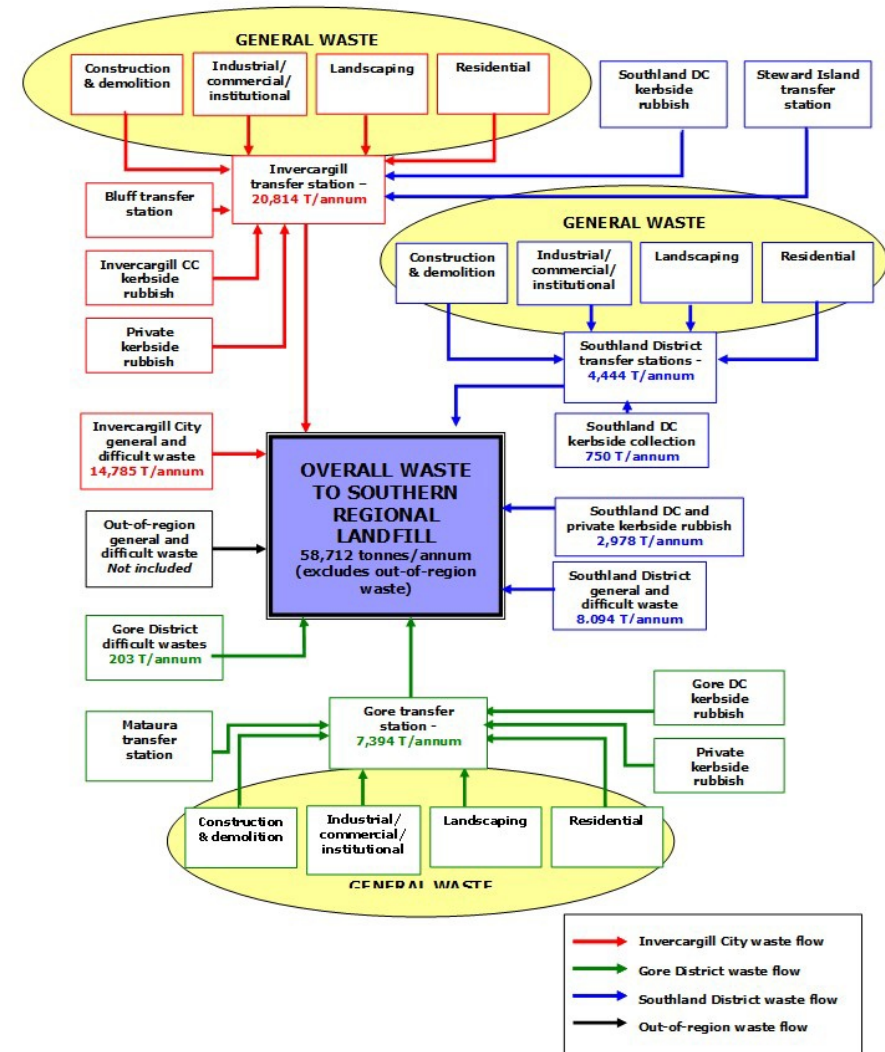




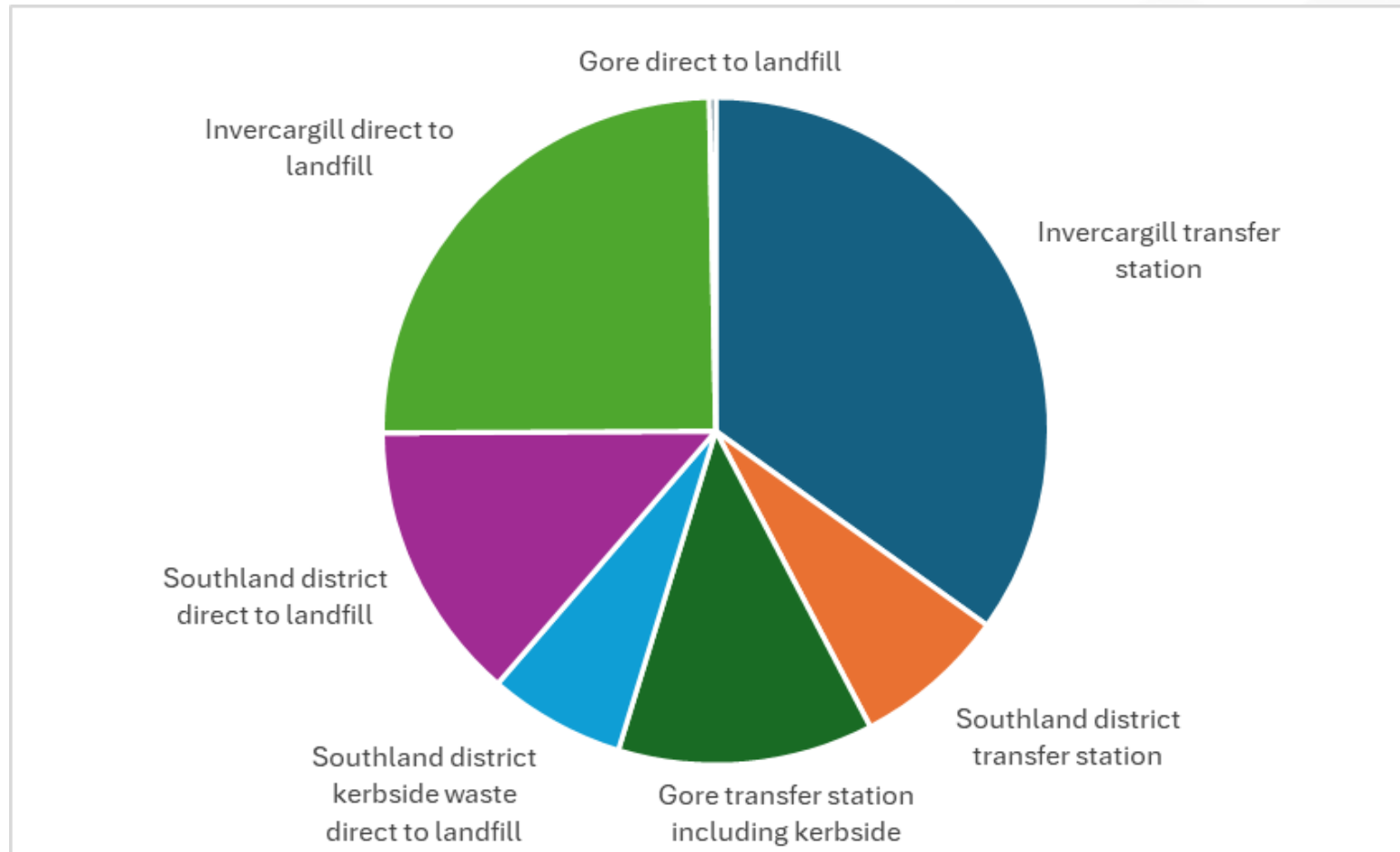


# Waste Assessment – the Data

- A very complex system!
- Council influence only at specific points
- Data available only at specific points



# Waste Assessment – the Data



Material type	National average	Regional average	Gore district	Invercargill city	Southland district
All in percentage (%) of total					
Paper	5.9	10.1	12.5	9.8	9.6
Plastics	8.3	16.5	16.6	17.5	14.6
Organic	14.8	31.7	31	33.1	29.3
Ferrous metals	2.7	3.5	4.9	3.1	3.9
Non-ferrous metals	0.8	0.9	1	1	0.8
Glass	1.8	2.1	2.4	2	2
Textiles	5	7.7	8.5	7.4	7.8
Sanitary paper	2.3	4.2	4.2	4.9	2.9
Rubble	20.1	5.1	7.3	4.8	4.6
Timber	12.6	7.8	10.1	7	8.6
Rubber	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4

# Waste to Landfill – Diversion Potential

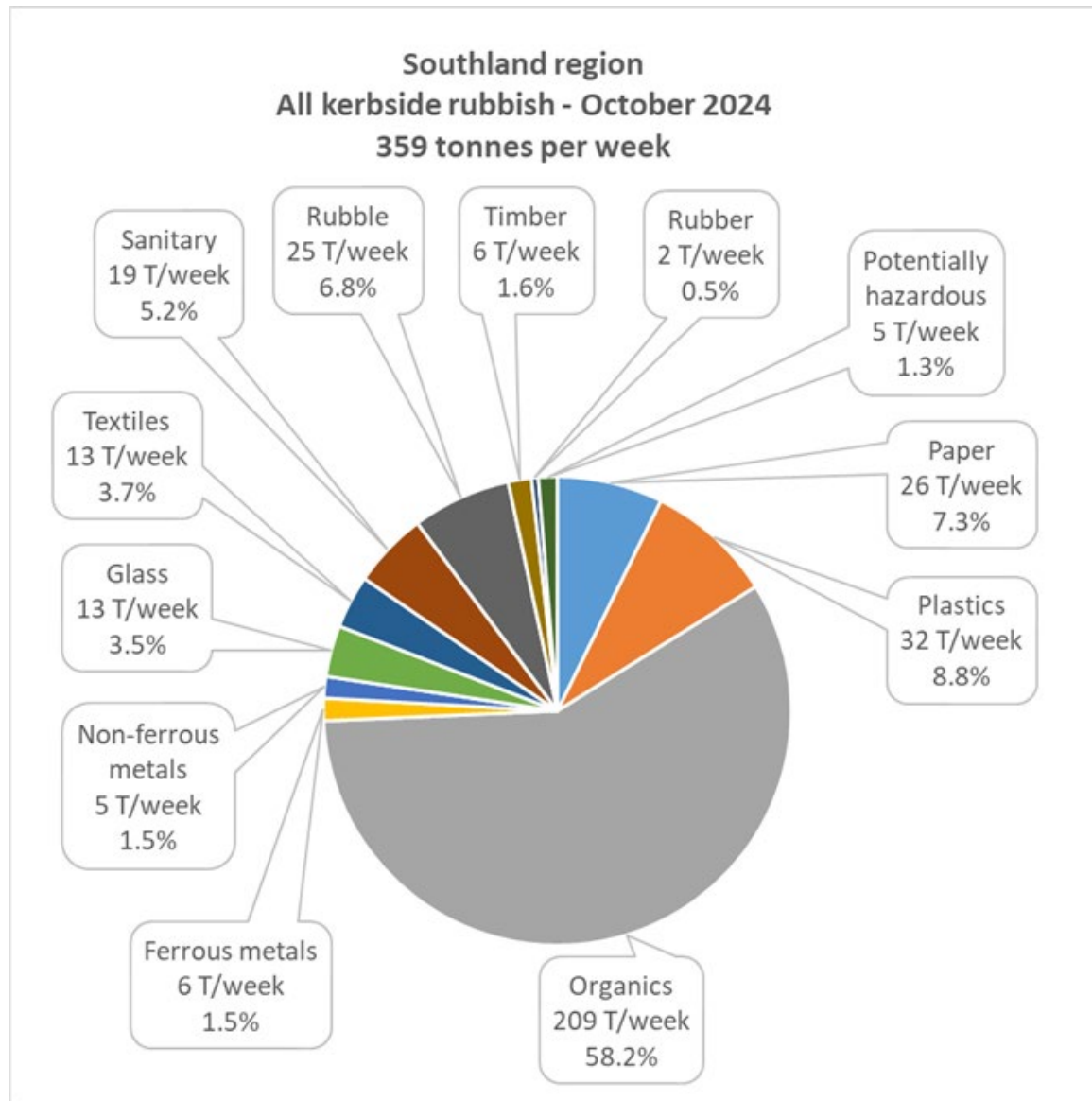
Total: over 30,000 tonnes per annum could possibly be diverted from landfill – around 55% (roughly \$5M of cost)

## ***Made up of:***

Compostable organic material – 25% of the total (food scraps, green waste, plasterboard, some timber)

Recyclables – 30% of the total (paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass, rubble/cleanfill, timber)

Note that this is divertible material in the ideal possible future world – not necessarily with current systems



# Kerbside Waste – Diversion Potential

Total: around 66% of waste collected in the kerbside rubbish collections could be diverted (63% to 69%) - \$3.5M cost

## ***Made up of:***

Compostable organic material – 54% of the total (food scraps, green waste)

Recyclables – 11% of the total (paper, cardboard, plastics, tins and cans, glass)

Note that this is divertible material in the ideal possible future world – not necessarily with current systems

# Benchmarking

Waste disposal per capita (kilograms per person per year):

- Gore district: 582 kg
- Invercargill city: 598 kg
- Southland district: 500 kg
- National average: 706 kg
- Auckland 2024: 873 kg
- Queenstown Lakes 2024: 940 kg

# Key Issues

- Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill, creating methane emissions and representing a lost resource if composted
- Moderate quantities of construction waste going to landfill
- Waste infrastructure is limited or at a great distance from the region
- Glass in particular is a problematic material and currently requires transport long distances
- Kerbside services are variable, and kerbside standardisation requirements establish a need to expand Gore District Council's household kerbside recycling service



# Key Issues

- Local regulation exists in some areas, but could be expanded and be more consistent cross the region
- Farm waste is poorly understood
- Rural household waste is managed very differently to households in urban areas
- Textiles represent a significant carbon impact in production and are difficult to divert from landfill
- Medical waste requires careful management for public health and protection
- Disaster waste management is an ongoing and growing management need

## Key Issues – how do we address these?

- A long list of options
- *Council's role can be:*
  - ***Strategic – identify the need, set the scene***
  - ***Facilitation/Leadership – within the region and nationally***
  - ***Regulator***
  - ***Funder – full, or partial e.g. support funding applications***
  - ***Provider – taking direct action, providing services and facilities***

# Next Steps

- Waste Assessment draft completed
- Medical Officer of Health consulted
- Receive final Waste Assessment
- Receive recommendation regarding the WMMP – and decide on preferred option
- Assuming new WMMP –
  - Develop strategic direction
  - Draft WMMP
  - Public consultation
  - Adopt
- Implement

# Questions?



Lisa Eve  
Lisa.eve@eunomia.nz

# Thank You



## About Eunomia

Eunomia is an independent sustainability consultancy driven by a genuine passion to make a positive change to the clients we work with and the communities they operate in. Founded in 2001, we have been pioneers in the sector - early advocates for helping NGOs as well as leading public and private sector organisations in the UK and overseas to adapt their approach and adopt more sustainable processes.

Our consultants are experts in the field, deeply immersed in the subject with the technical knowledge and skill to offer clients innovative, clear and practical recommendations. We are committed to finding solutions to better protect the planet, while supporting the wider aims and needs of our clients.

Each client is treated as an individual, with consultants taking the time to understand their objectives and how best we can support them. This personal service ensures a strong relationship is forged, based on honest and regular communication. It also ensures if these objectives change, there is the flexibility to adapt.

As an established leading independent consultancy, clients can have complete confidence that consultants will offer evidence-led solutions based on robust, impartial thinking that offer both pragmatic and positive outcomes.

**Please always include.**

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# Setting our Strategic Direction

14 April 2025





# Purpose and Agenda

## Purpose

- Review current state
- Strategic direction
- FY2025/26 work programme

## Agenda

- Legislative setting
- Current state
- Funding considerations
- Proposed work programme
- Confirmation of next steps





# WasteNet – Who Are We?



## Current Vision:

The effective and efficient stewardship of waste as a resource with a residual value to protect our health and environment.

## Current Goals:

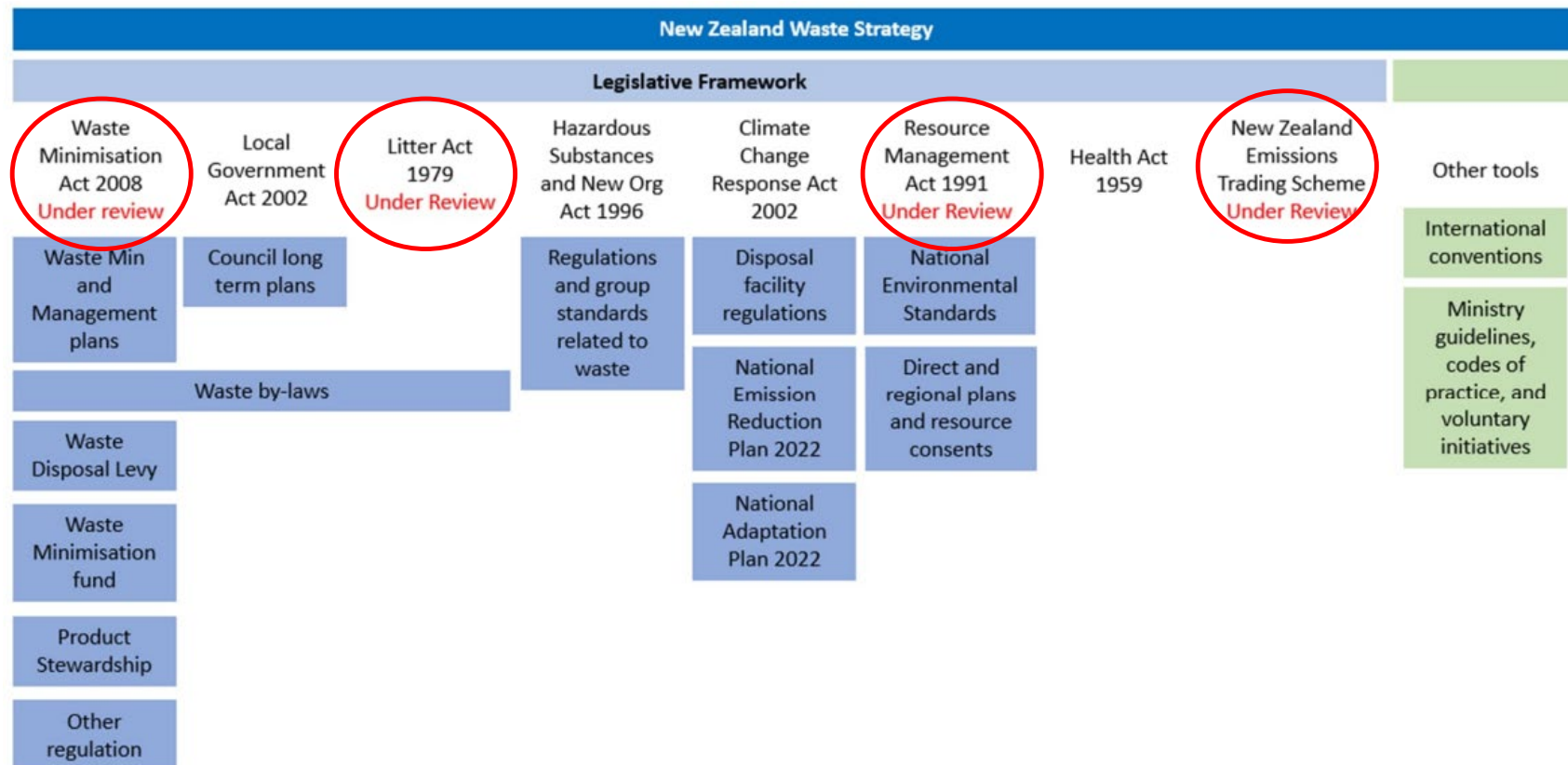
- Work together to improve the efficient use of resources.
- Use the waste hierarchy to guide decision making.
- Reduce the harmful effects of waste to our health and environment.

# WasteNet – Who Are We?



Service Type	WasteNet Service / Contract	ICC Held Contract	Individual Council Responsibility / Service
Kerbside Rubbish Collection	✓		
Rubbish Disposal & Regional Landfill Services	✓		
Transfer Station Services			✓
Recycling Services		✓	✓
Closed Landfill Management			✓
Legislation Monitoring / Response	✓		✓
Education and Communication	✓		

# Legislative Setting



Source: Tonkin + Taylor. (2023). Waste Assessment for New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

# Legislative Setting



## Waste Management Act and Litter Act Reforms

*To ensure New Zealand has fit-for-purpose, modern waste legislation that gives us more options and flexibility to reduce and manage waste effectively and efficiently.*

*The objective is to have new waste legislation in place before the next general election.*

*Public consultation: April 2025 on the policy proposals.*

# Legislative Setting



## Climate Change Response Act and Emissions Reduction Plans (ERP) 1 & 2

In 2022, the waste sector produced an estimated 3.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e (about 4.5 per cent) of New Zealand's gross greenhouse gas emissions.

ERP2 targets the following reductions:

Contribution during the second emissions budget period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste Minimisation Fund: -1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.</li><li>• Organic waste management and landfill gas capture: -0.8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.</li><li>• Regulated product stewardship scheme for refrigerants: -0.4 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.</li></ul>
--	--

ERP2 workstreams:

Key actions and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making further targeted investment in resource recovery infrastructure and systems (including for construction and demolition waste).</li><li>• Investigating ways of improving organic waste disposal and landfill gas capture.</li><li>• Implementing a regulated product stewardship scheme for refrigerants.</li></ul>
--------------------------	--

# Funding the Activity



- Rates and User Charges
- Transfer Stations
- Government Waste Levy

**Solid Waste**

- Local Admin Gate Fee to Landfill
- WasteNet Reserve

**WasteNet**

## Funding the Activity – Fees

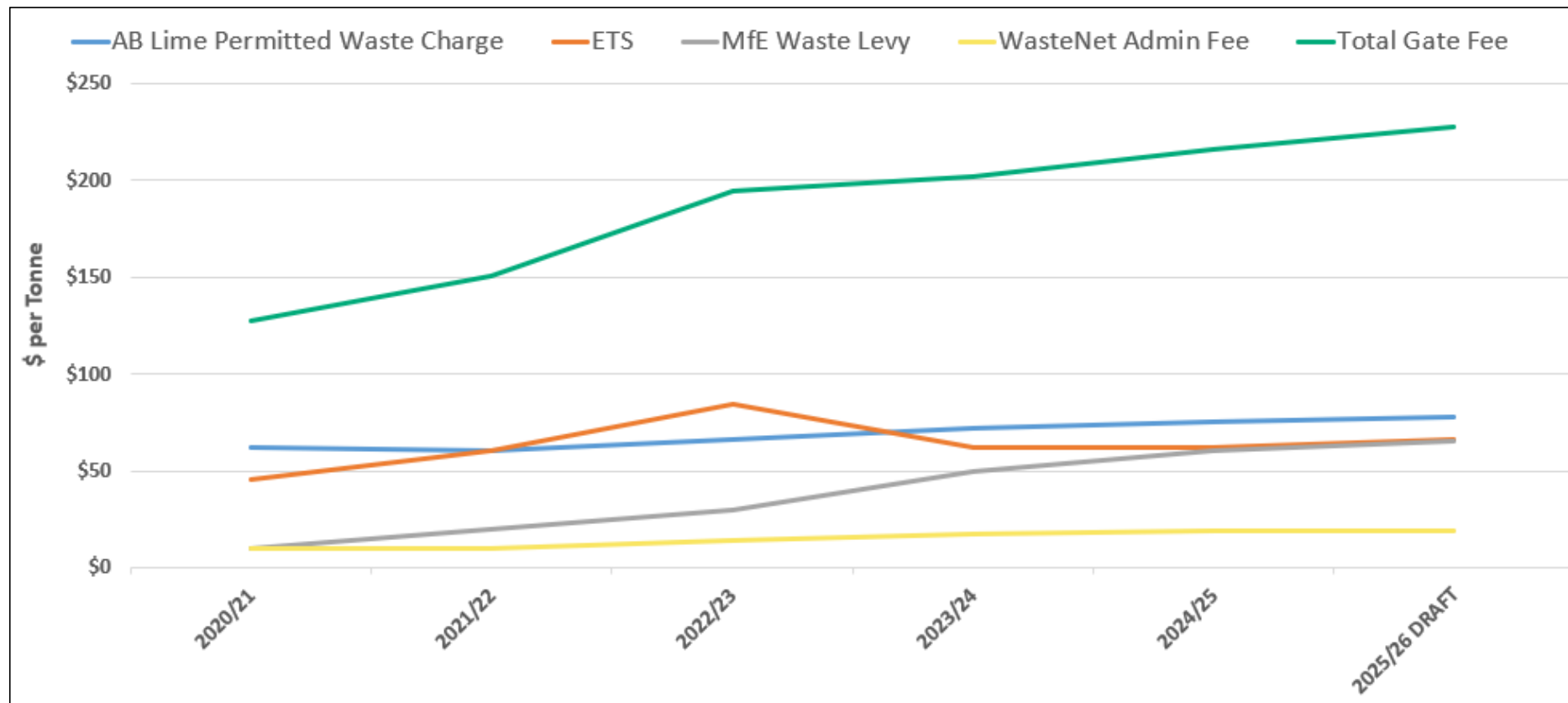


Permitted Waste Discharge Fee (ex GST)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 [DRAFT]
ETS	\$62.31	\$62.31	\$66.00*
Waste Levy	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$65.00
Contract Landfill Fee	\$72.32	\$75.12	\$76.95*
WasteNet Admin Gate Fee	\$17.27	\$18.91	\$18.91 <sup>#</sup>
	<b>\$201.90</b>	<b>\$216.34</b>	<b>\$226.86</b>

\* Forecast  
# Proposed



# Funding the Activity – Fees



# Funding the Activity: Reserve



Year Ending	Reserve Amount	Reserve Spent On
30 June 2019	\$609,815	1. Contract negotiation costs 2. Subsidising Landfill fees: Offsetting ETS obligations
30 June 2020	\$852,452	Subsidising Landfill fees: Offsetting ETS obligations
30 June 2021	\$1,171,949	-
30 June 2022	\$1,330,131	-
30 June 2023	\$1,871,934	-
30 June 2024	\$2,253,872	\$220,000 allocated for organics feasibility assessment and website development
30 June 2025	\$2,396,006 (as at 30 Dec 2025)	\$375,000 allocated to WasteNet Agreement Review, WMMP & Waste Assessment, Bylaw development & Contract renewals

## Where Are We Now?



Current Southland Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2020 – 2026 sets a target:

As a result of our actions, **by 1 July 2026** Southland will have maintained a **materials discarded per capita figure of 650 kg**, comprising **40% diverted materials**.

# Where Are We Now?



## 2024 Waste Assessment:

### Landfill Volumes

Table 4.3 - Per capita waste to Class 1 landfills - comparison with other areas

All waste to Class 1 landfill including special wastes (excluding cover materials)	Tonnes per capita per annum
Waimakariri District 2017	0.325
Southland District 2024	<b>0.500</b>
Palmerston North 2017	0.545
Dunedin City 2018	0.554
Tauranga and WBOP District 2020	0.560
Southland region 2024	<b>0.565</b>
Gore District 2024	<b>0.582</b>
Napier/Hastings 2022	0.595
Invercargill City 2024	<b>0.598</b>
Porirua City 2022 & 2023	0.652
Taupō District 2022	0.716
Hamilton City 2017	0.718
New Zealand 2022/23	0.706
Auckland region 2024	0.873
Hutt Valley 2022	0.899
Queenstown Lakes District 2023-24	0.940

# Where Are We Now?



## 2024 Waste Assessment:

### Divertible Materials

Table ES2- Primary composition of kerbside rubbish from Southland region

Southland region kerbside rubbish - Council and private collections - October 2024	Gore District	Invercargill City	Southland District
Paper	8.7%	7.3%	7.3%
Plastics	7.0%	9.1%	8.8%
Food waste	17.7%	29.5%	29.0%
Greenwaste	36.8%	25.4%	22.7%
Other organic	2.1%	4.6%	4.8%
<b>Subtotal - Organics</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>59.5%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>
Ferrous metals	2.4%	1.4%	1.5%
Non-ferrous metals	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%
Glass	3.4%	3.1%	3.5%
Textiles	2.7%	3.4%	3.7%
Sanitary paper	4.8%	6.0%	5.2%
Rubble	9.3%	5.9%	6.8%
Timber	2.4%	1.3%	1.6%
Rubber	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%
Potentially hazardous	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Kg/capita/annum</b>	<b>241 kg</b>	<b>188 kg</b>	<b>142 kg</b>

# Where Are We Now?

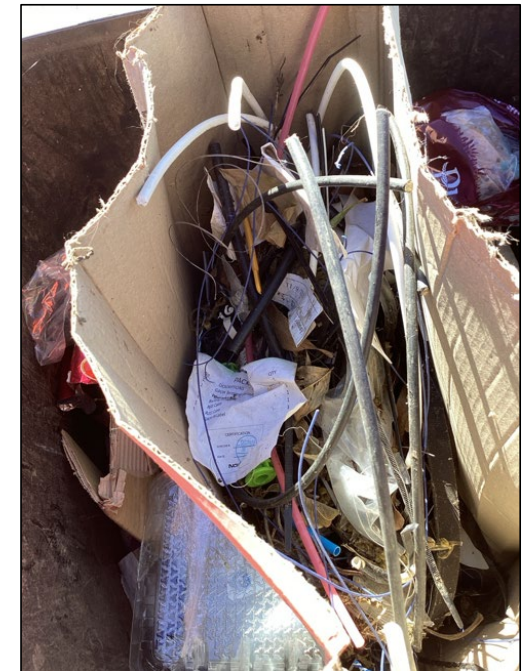
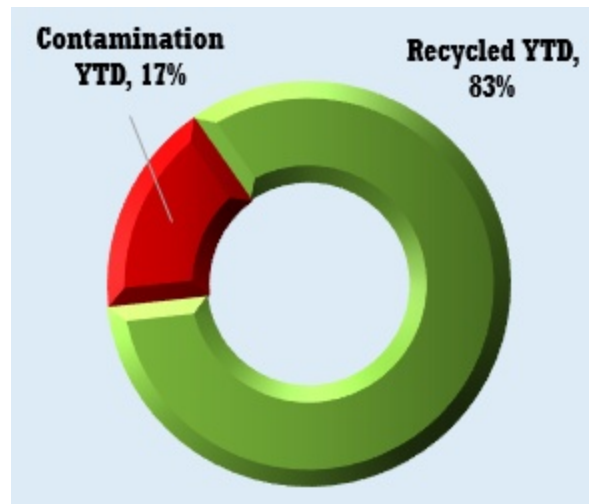


1 July 2024 to 1 February 2025:

**570 T** of rubbish redirected to landfill



Equivalent cost of **\$217,684** (year-to-date)





# Where Are We Now?



- ✓ **WasteNet 2024/25 Strategic Plan** developed and being executed
- ✓ WMMP Review commenced:
  - Waste Assessment complete
  - WMMP Workshops scheduled
  - On track to deliver Draft WMMP by 31 July 2025
- ✓ Regional Service Contract Procurement initiated:
  - Initial Procurement Plan developed and signed
  - S17A Council workshops completed
  - Business Case due to be presented to individual Councils late April/early May 2025
- ✓ Bin Inspections and Three Strike System reintroduced 2025
- ✓ Joint Agreement review initiated
  - Costings pending to deliver back to individual Councils



# Where Are We Now?



## Delivered F25 Engagement and Education Activities

### Schools

1. **Waste Free Wanda:**
  - Primary Schools & Early Childhood Centres
  - Link with EnviroSchools annual Hui
2. **Para Kore**

### Residential & Community

1. **Radio, Social Media & Digital advertising**
2. Community Waste Minimisation Fund
3. Bin Inspections and education
4. Community Events
  - Plastic Free July evening (Gore)
  - Presentations to Women's Network, Lions Clubs, Age Concern etc
  - Hokonui Culture Festival
  - Southland Waste Free Wednesday evenings
5. Website refresh completed

### Businesses

*No activity in F25*

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# Draft Strategic Plan



	2025/26												2026/27												2027/28														
Action (Excludes BAU activities)	Who	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
Governance Framework																																							
Refresh WasteNet Southland Joint Waste Management Agreement / governance framework																																							
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Recycling reimplementation in Gore																																							
Resource Recovery Parks (ICC & GDC) - Support																																							
Solid Waste Teams																																							
Mfe Waste Management Act / Litter Act Reforms																																							

# Draft Engagement Plan



## Options for 2025/26

### Schools

**Waste Free Wanda**

**Para Kore**

**Enhanced EnviroSchools Partnership**

**South Coast Environment Society:  
Composting Workshops**

### Residential & Community

**Radio, Social Media & Digital  
advertising**

Bin inspections and education

Community Events / Presentations

Waste-Ed with Kate (Kate Meads)

- Waste Free Parenting
- General Waste Awareness
- Food Waste

WMMP Consultation

### Businesses

WMMP Consultation

# Next Steps








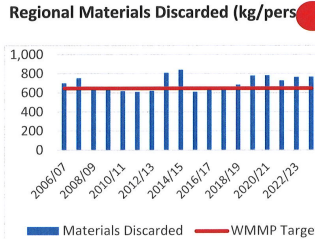
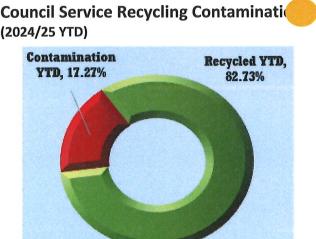
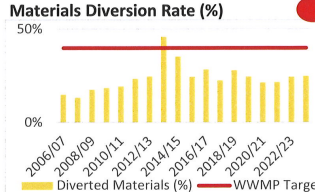
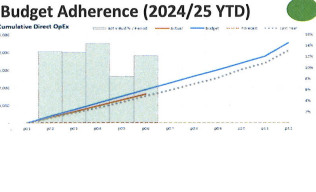
WAG meeting on 16 June 2025:

- Finalise and endorse FY2025/26 Strategic Plan
- Finalise and endorse FY2025/26 Budget

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A5830943										WasteNet 2025/26 Strategic Plan																																							
Date Reviewed: DRAFT														<b>Key:</b> <span>Scheduled</span> <span>Complete</span> <span>In Progress</span> <span>Overdue</span>																																			
<b>Background</b> 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.														<b>Action</b> <i>(Excludes BAU activities)</i>																		<b>Status</b>		<div>Jul</div> <div>Aug</div> <div>Sep</div> <div>Oct</div> <div>Nov</div> <div>Dec</div> <div>Jan</div> <div>Feb</div> <div>Mar</div> <div>Apr</div> <div>May</div> <div>Jun</div>															
<b>Target Condition (SUGGESTIONS)</b> » <b>WMMP:</b> [Include WMMP targets once drafted] » <b>Alignment with MfE Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy</b> <b>Thought prompts:</b> MfE Strategy? KPI attainment? Contamination Rate? Engagement metrics?														 Reduction of waste disposal per person  Increasing reuse and recycling of materials and products so that we retain valuable resources in the economy  Minimising emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter <sup>1</sup>  Ensuring resource recovery and disposal facilities are managed to minimise their environmental impacts																		<b>Governance Framework</b> Refresh WasteNet Southland <i>Joint Waste Management Agreement</i> / governance framework <b>Refreshing Southland's Waste Management Framework</b> Bylaw Review Bylaw Drafting & Adoption: GDC, ICC & SDC Bylaw implementation (If progressed, otherwise update of policies etc) <i>Waste Management &amp; Minimisation Plan (WMMP)</i> Refresh, including s17A review Consultation & adoption of revised WMMP WMMP Implementation / initiatives <b>Building &amp; Streamlining WasteNet's Operations</b> Recruitment and on-boarding <b>2027 Contract Renewals (Kerbside, Transfer Stations &amp; Recycling)</b> 2027 Contract Expiries - Procurement process Contract documentation development Tendering & Negotiations <b>Engagement &amp; Education</b> Refresh Engagement & Marketing Strategy Initial implementation of revised strategy Community funding framework - development, communication & implementation <b>Meeting Legislative Requirements &amp; Regional Projects</b> Organics: Support of Community Initiatives MfE Waste Management Act / Litter Act Reforms <b>Follow-Up / Parking Lot</b> 1. Hazardous Waste Services 2. Resource Recovery Park review (GDC & ICC) 3. Support recycling implementation for GDC 4. ETS fees / AB Lime Review 5. Product Stewardship Schemes: Container Returns, E-Waste, Agrichemicals, Farm Plastics & refrigerants 6. Flytipping deep dive & counter measures																	
<b>Current Condition / Reflection</b> <b>Thought prompts:</b> Roadblocks? Delivery challenges? Opportunities? » 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.														<b>Impact Monitoring: WasteNet 2024/25 KPIs</b> <div><b>Regional Materials Discarded (kg/pers)</b> </div> <div><b>Council Service Recycling Contamination (2024/25 YTD)</b> </div> <div><b>Materials Diversion Rate (%)</b> </div> <div><b>Budget Adherence (2024/25 YTD)</b> </div>																																			

2025/26													2026/27												2027/28												
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