

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL



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WHAT IS A WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN (WMMP)?

A WMMP is a long-term plan that sets out how councils will reduce waste and manage the waste that cannot be avoided. Every council in Aotearoa New Zealand is required by law to have a WMMP and to review it at least every six years.

The WMMP helps guide decisions about:

- waste and recycling services,
- education and behaviour change,
- infrastructure and facilities,
- how councils work with communities, businesses, and the waste sector.

It does not cover every operational detail, but it sets clear direction about priorities, roles, and where effort will be focused over time.

This WMMP has been jointly prepared for the three WasteNet Councils, being Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council, through WasteNet Southland. This approach provides a coordinated framework for action across the Southland region.

WHY WASTENET SOUTHLAND IS UPDATING THE WMMP NOW

WasteNet Southland is updating its WMMP to guide waste management and minimisation across the region for the period 2026 to 2032.

Since the current plan was adopted in 2020, there have been important changes, including:

- improved understanding of what waste is being generated and sent to landfill,
- changes to national waste and climate policy,
- new waste and recycling services coming into place across the region,
- strong feedback from communities, iwi, and stakeholders about what is and isn't working.

The updated WMMP builds on this new evidence and feedback. It recognises that while some progress has been made, large amounts of recoverable material are still going to landfill, waste disposal is costly, and Southland faces unique challenges due to distance, scale, and access to processing facilities.

This draft plan sets out a practical, regionally appropriate approach to improving waste outcomes over the next six years.



WHY WASTE MATTERS IN SOUTHLAND

Every year, large amounts of waste generated in Southland end up in landfill. The Waste Assessment shows that much of this material could potentially be avoided, reused, recycled, or recovered under the right conditions.

Organic material, such as food and green waste, makes up a significant proportion of what is disposed of. Other materials commonly found in landfill include construction and demolition waste, plastics, glass, textiles, and problem materials such as batteries and e-waste.

When valuable materials are sent to landfill, resources are lost, disposal costs increase, and environmental impacts continue long after the waste is buried.

WASTENET SOUTHLAND WANTS TO HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK, AND DO BUSINESS IN THE REGION.

This consultation is your opportunity to tell us:

- whether the proposed direction is right for Southland,
- whether we are focusing on the right priorities and materials,
- whether the balance between ambition, cost, and practicality feels appropriate.

Managing waste is a shared responsibility. Your feedback will help shape how Southland reduces waste, protects the environment, and makes better use of valuable resources over the next six years.



Waste is costly - for households, businesses, and councils

Managing waste is an essential service, but it comes at a cost. Households and businesses pay through collection fees and disposal charges, while councils fund services, facilities, education programmes, and long-term environmental management.

Southland's geography adds to these costs. Long transport distances, a dispersed population, and limited local processing options mean it can be more expensive to recover materials here than in larger urban centres. As a result, decisions about waste need to be practical, affordable, and well suited to local conditions.

The Waste Assessment and community feedback both highlighted frustration that recoverable materials continue to go to landfill because practical alternatives are limited or unclear.

Waste affects the environment and climate

Waste disposal has ongoing environmental impacts. Organic material breaking down in landfill produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Even in well-managed landfills, not all emissions can be captured.

Waste can also affect land and water quality, create long-term liabilities, and pose safety risks, particularly where hazardous or problem materials are involved.

Reducing waste and making better use of materials helps lower emissions, protect the environment, and reduce future costs.

Southland has unique challenges - and real opportunities

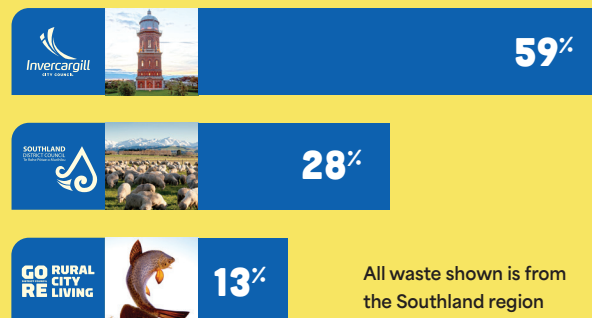
Southland's scale, distance from major markets, and reliance on infrastructure outside the region mean that not all waste solutions used elsewhere are appropriate here. The Waste Assessment shows that many waste challenges are structural, rather than the result of individual behaviour alone.

At the same time, engagement highlighted strong interest in locally appropriate solutions. Communities, businesses, iwi, and the waste sector are already contributing through reuse, repair, food rescue, composting, and improved waste practices.

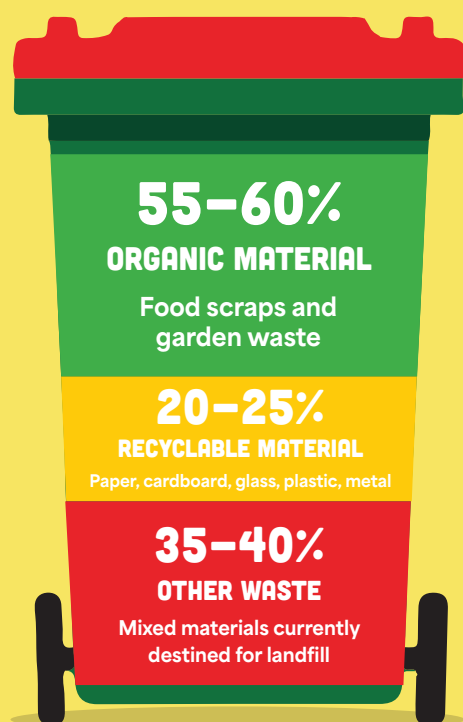
The updated WMMP builds on this evidence and local experience to focus effort where it can make the most difference for Southland.

Council areas sent to the SRL

WHICH COUNCIL AREAS SEND WASTE TO THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL LANDFILL?



The Southland Regional Landfill is a private facility. Their operations include accepting waste generated from within the Invercargill City, Southland District and Gore District. For waste managed by the WasteNet Councils, the most waste comes from Invercargill City, with significant contributions from Southland District and Gore District.



WHAT'S IN OUR KERBSIDE RUBBISH BINS - AND WHAT COULD BE DIVERTED

More than half of kerbside rubbish in Southland could potentially be diverted from landfill

WasteNet surveyed kerbside rubbish bins across Gore District, Invercargill City and Southland District. The results show that a large share of what is currently placed in rubbish bins is organic or recyclable material. While this indicates significant potential to reduce landfill waste, additional services and infrastructure would be needed to enable greater diversion across the region.

Diversion potential depends on available services

OUR DIRECTION AND VISION

REDUCING WASTE – PROTECTING SOUTHLAND

USING THE WASTE HIERARCHY TO GUIDE DECISIONS

The WMMP is guided by the waste hierarchy, which prioritises actions that deliver the greatest environmental benefit:

1. **Avoid and reduce waste** where possible
2. **Reuse and repair** materials to extend their life
3. **Recycle and recover** value from materials
4. **Dispose of residual waste** as a last resort

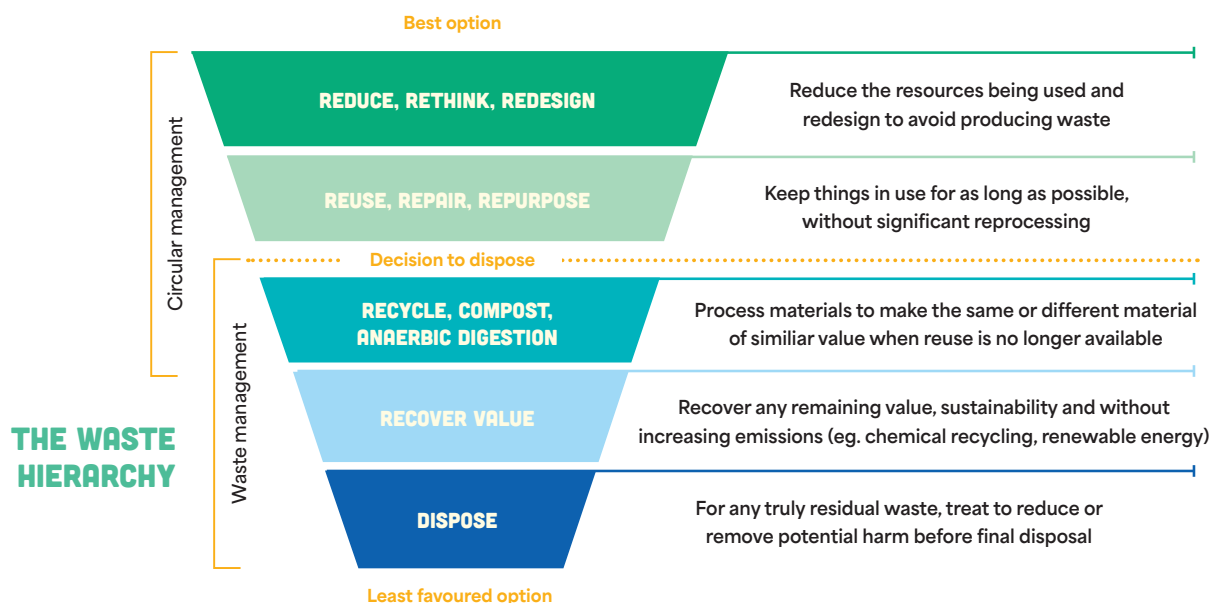
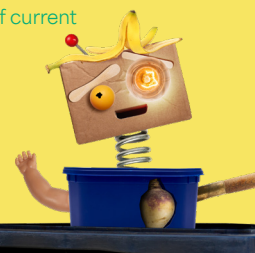
This hierarchy helps guide decisions about services, infrastructure, education, and investment. It recognises that while landfill will continue to play a role in Southland, long-term outcomes improve when waste is prevented or diverted earlier in the system.

The vision for waste management and minimisation in Southland is:

**THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT STEWARDSHIP
OF WASTE AS A RESOURCE WITH A RESIDUAL VALUE
TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.**

This vision reflects the understanding that materials we discard still have value, and that how waste is managed affects public health, environmental protection, and the wellbeing of current and future generations.

The updated draft WMMP sets a clear direction for reducing waste, making better use of resources, and ensuring that any remaining waste is managed safely and responsibly.



A practical approach for Southland

Southland's geography, population distribution, existing infrastructure, and distance from major processing markets mean that waste solutions must be locally appropriate, affordable, and effective.

The WMMP takes a balanced approach by:

- building on existing services and infrastructure,
- addressing known system challenges (such as glass in commingled recycling),
- supporting community-led and small-scale solutions where they work best, and
- assessing future options carefully before committing to major changes.

This approach allows progress while avoiding one-size-fits-all solutions that may not work in Southland.

Shared responsibility

Waste minimisation is a shared responsibility.

While councils play a key role in providing services, setting rules, and coordinating action, lasting change depends on the combined efforts of:

- households,
- businesses,
- iwi,
- community and not-for-profit organisations,
- the waste and resource recovery sector
- visitors to the region, and
- central government.

The WMMP focuses on working together - supporting good choices, improving systems, and advocating for national action where local solutions alone are not enough.

WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON

The draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan sets direction for the next six years. It does not make decisions about every service or project upfront. Instead, it guides how decisions will be made over time. We'll be focusing effort where evidence and community feedback show it can make the greatest difference.

The draft WMMP does not attempt to change everything at once. Instead, it prioritises a small number of material streams and system improvements that consistently emerged through the Waste Assessment and early engagement.

Our key focus areas for 2026-2032 are:

- **Priority 1: Improve access to appropriate waste infrastructure and services**

A key priority for the Southland region is that households, businesses, and communities have access to waste and resource recovery infrastructure that is effective, safe, and appropriate for Southland's geography. This includes maintaining and improving existing services, exploring opportunities for new or improved infrastructure for priority materials, and collaborating with neighbouring regions and the private sector to improve access to recovery options.

- **Priority 2: Manage waste materials in line with the waste hierarchy, where practical**

The draft plan prioritises actions that prevent waste, support reuse and recycling, and make best use of recoverable materials, while recognising that disposal to landfill will continue to play a role in Southland's waste system. Decisions about waste management will consider environmental outcomes, emissions, costs, operational practicality.

- **Priority 3: Continue to improve household waste and recycling services**

Improving the effectiveness, consistency, and performance of these household waste and recycling services is an on-going priority for reducing waste to landfill and improving material recovery.

- **Priority 4: Strengthen regulation, data, and understanding of waste flows**

Improving understanding of waste generation and management across the region is essential for informed decision-making. Additionally, consistent approaches across the WasteNet Councils are a priority, including clear implementation and enforcement.

- **Priority 5: Support community-led and not-for-profit waste minimisation initiatives**

Community organisations and not-for-profit groups play an important role in reuse, repair, food rescue, composting, and education. This plan prioritises enabling and supporting community-led initiatives where they align with the WMMP objectives and deliver measurable benefits.

- **Priority 6: Work collaboratively and advocate for national action**

A priority for this plan is continued collaboration across the region through WasteNet, working with neighbouring councils and the private sector, and advocating to central government for stronger product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes.





WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

If the proposed WMMP is successful, Southland's waste system will work better for people, communities, and the environment over time.

By 2032, success would look like this:

Less waste going to landfill

More materials that can be avoided, reused, recycled, or recovered are kept out of landfill. Organic waste, construction materials, and other recoverable items are better managed, reducing long-term costs and environmental impacts.

Safer, more effective recycling

Recycling systems are safer for workers and easier for households to use correctly. Materials collected for recycling are cleaner and higher quality, making them more likely to be reused rather than discarded. Known problem areas, such as glass in recycling, are being addressed.

Practical solutions that work for Southland

Waste solutions reflect Southland's geography, communities, and scale. Changes are well planned, affordable, and based on evidence, rather than one-size-fits-all approaches used elsewhere.

Stronger local action and community involvement

Community groups, not-for-profit organisations, and local initiatives are supported to continue and expand activities such as reuse, repair, composting, and food rescue. These efforts reduce waste while also strengthening communities.

Clearer rules and better information

People understand what to do with their waste and why it matters. Councils have better information about where waste comes from and how it is managed, helping them make fairer and more effective decisions.

A system that's ready for the future

Waste management is better prepared for change - including population shifts, new products, and extreme weather events. Councils, communities, and partners are better equipped to respond when challenges arise.

Success will not happen overnight. Progress will be gradual, practical, and informed by ongoing feedback. This plan provides a clear direction for improving waste outcomes in Southland over the next six years.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

WasteNet Southland is seeking feedback on the direction and priorities proposed in the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. We are not asking for feedback on every technical detail. Instead, we want to know whether the overall approach feels right for Southland.

HOW DO I MAKE A SUBMISSION ON THE WASTE MINIMISATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The easiest way is to submit online using the survey form at letstalk.icc.govt.nz

Alternatively, you can fill out the attached submission form and drop it off at any of the locations listed on page 10.

You can also email the WasteNet Southland Team at policy@icc.govt.nz

**Post: Submission - WasteNet WMMP
Consultation Feedback
Invercargill City Council
Private Bag 90104
Invercargill 9840**



SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK



letstalk.icc.govt.nz



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN CONSULTATION

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name: _____ (Required)

Organisation: _____

Email: _____ (Required)

Contact Phone: _____ (Required) Postcode: _____ (Required)

Do you want to receive emails from your Council about future consultations? YES ☐ NO ☐

Do you want to attend a hearing: Hearings will be joint hearings with GDC, ICC and SDC. Attendees will have the option to attend in person or via video link. YES ☐ NO ☐

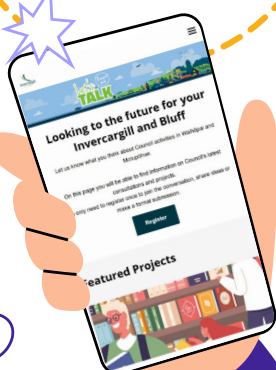
Do you agree with the proposed WasteNet WMMP? YES ☐ NO ☐ YES with Amendments ☐

What district do you live in? Gore District ☐ Southland District ☐ Invercargill City ☐



To learn more about the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, scan the QR code below or read the supplied information sheets.

Alternatively, you can also email the WasteNet Southland team at policy@icc.govt.nz



Submissions
close 5pm,
23rd April
2026.



SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK



letstalk.icc.govt.nz



WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN CONSULTATION

WHAT WE WANT FEEDBACK ON

WasteNet Southland is seeking feedback on the direction and priorities proposed in the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. We are not asking for feedback on every technical detail. Instead, we want to know whether the overall approach feels right for Southland.

In particular, we would like your views on the following questions:

1. Are we focusing on the right things?

The draft plan sets the following priority areas:

- Improve access to appropriate waste infrastructure and services
- Manage waste materials in line with the waste hierarchy, where practical
- Continue to improve household waste and recycling services
- Strengthen regulation, data, and understanding of waste flows
- Support community-led and not-for-profit waste minimisation initiatives
- Work collaboratively and advocate for national action

Do the priority areas identified in the draft plan reflect the most important waste issues facing Southland?

The WMMP contains detail on these priority areas on page 29. Head to Let's Talk to access the draft document.

2. Are the priority materials the right ones?

The draft plan focuses on the following waste streams:

- organic materials,
- glass,
- construction and demolition waste,
- textiles
- problem and hazardous materials such as batteries, vapes and e-waste, and
- Agricultural and rural waste.

The WMMP contains detail on these waste streams areas on page 28. Head to Let's Talk to access the draft document.

SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK



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WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN CONSULTATION

3. Does the plan strike the right balance?

- Does the proposed approach balance environmental outcomes with cost and practicality?

- Does it recognise Southland's unique geography, communities, and access to services?

4. Are the proposed directions clear and realistic?

- Is it clear what councils will focus on over the next six years?

- Is it clear that some changes will be gradual and subject to further assessment and decision-making?

SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK



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5. Is anything unclear or concerning?

- Is there anything in the proposed direction that you are unsure about?

- Are there potential impacts on households, businesses, or communities that you think need more consideration?



SUBMISSION DROP OFF ZONES



Invercargill office
15 Forth Street
Invercargill

**Lumsden office
and library**
18 Diana St
Lumsden

**Otautau office
and library**
176 Main St
Otautau

**Riverton Aparima
office and library**
117 Palmerston St
Riverton Aparima

**Te Anau library
and office**
24 Milford Crescent
Te Anau

Wyndham office
41 Balaclava St
Wyndham

**Winton office
and library**
1 Wemyss Street
Winton



**Te Hīnaki
Civic Building**
101 Esk Street,
Invercargill

**Invercargill
Public Library**
50 Dee Street
Invercargill

**Bluff
Service Centre**
98 Gore Street
Bluff



Gore District Council
29 Bowler Avenue
Gore

Gore Library
10C Ardwick Street
Gore

**Mataura Library and
Service Centre**
1 Bridge Street
Mataura

**MAKE SURE
YOU GET YOUR
SUBMISSIONS BACK
TO US BEFORE
5PM, 23RD APRIL
2026**

