

7.3 Solid Waste Report

Report To:	Local Services Committee
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 8 May 2025
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Authorised by:	Executive Manager Delivery

Purpose

To inform the Local Services Committee of solid waste activities and progress on future projects.

Recommendation

That the Local Service Committee:

- a. receives and notes the Solid Waste Report (Resolve # 2025-206).

Executive Summary

As part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 process, Council set a goal that no waste or rubbish leaves the District.

Our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) sets the activities that enable Council to support our goals and objectives and meet the forecast demand for waste services.

This report provides an update on solid waste, waste minimisation and resource recovery activities and initiatives for the January - March quarter 2025.

Context

Council owns and operates transfer stations in Tokoroa and Putāruru. General waste, green waste and a range of recyclable materials are accepted at both facilities. There is a recycling only drop-off facility in Tirau. All three sites are managed for Council by private operators in accordance with service contracts.

Commercial and industrial waste is accepted at Tokoroa transfer station only. All greenwaste is mulched on site at Tokoroa before transport to MyNoke for vermicomposting.

Council provides kerbside collection services to the four urban areas:

- weekly rubbish in 120 litre wheelie bins
- fortnightly recycling in 240 litre wheelie bins
- fortnightly glass in either 45 litre or 60 litre crates.

Co-mingled recycling (#1,2,5 plastics, cans, paper and cardboard) is transported to the Hamilton Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and glass is transported to Visy Recycling in Onewhanga.

Council contracts services for the collection and disposal of illegal dumping on all roads, excluding State Highways. When identifying information is found at a dumping site, it is forwarded to the Compliance team for appropriate action. We are actively exploring ways to reduce illegal dumping, with our 2025 intern dedicated to supporting this work.

Discussion

Kerbside Collection

Kerbside collection data for the Jan-Mar 2025 quarter			
	Rubbish	Recycling	Glass
Monthly average bins emptied	28,637	11,185	4,236
Monthly average participation rate	80%	62%	24%
Monthly average tonnes	295	61	28

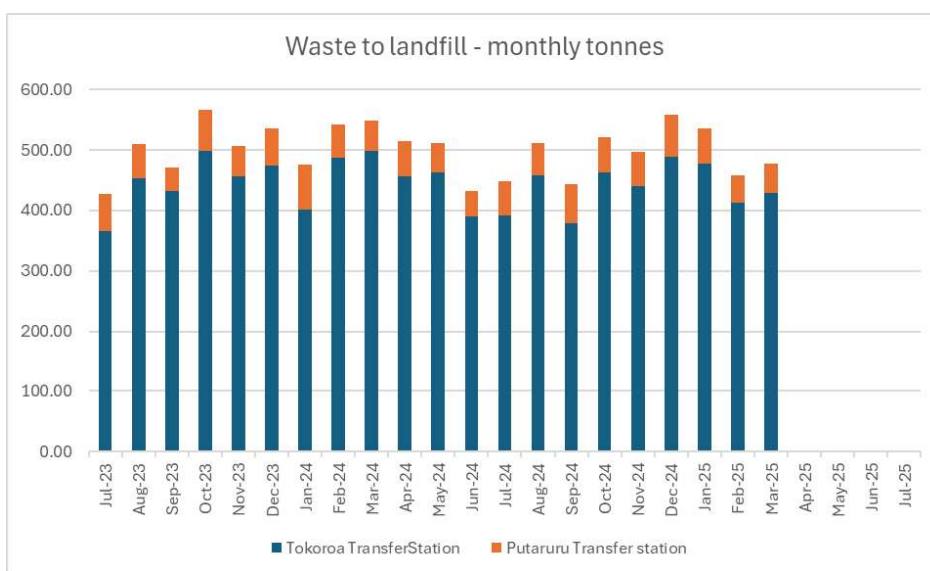
Contamination levels in our recycling remain below the 12% margin as required for processing at the MRF.

Service request data for missed bins	
Total bin empties for 12 months	504,558
Total service requests	223
Closed within 3 days	223
Closed outside 3 days	0
Missed collections	144
Confirmed missed collection	75
Confirmed bin not out	69

Outbound Waste to Landfill

Total outbound waste to Hampton Downs for the financial year to date (July 24 to March 25) is 4,450 tonnes, compared to 4,579 tonnes for the same period last financial year.

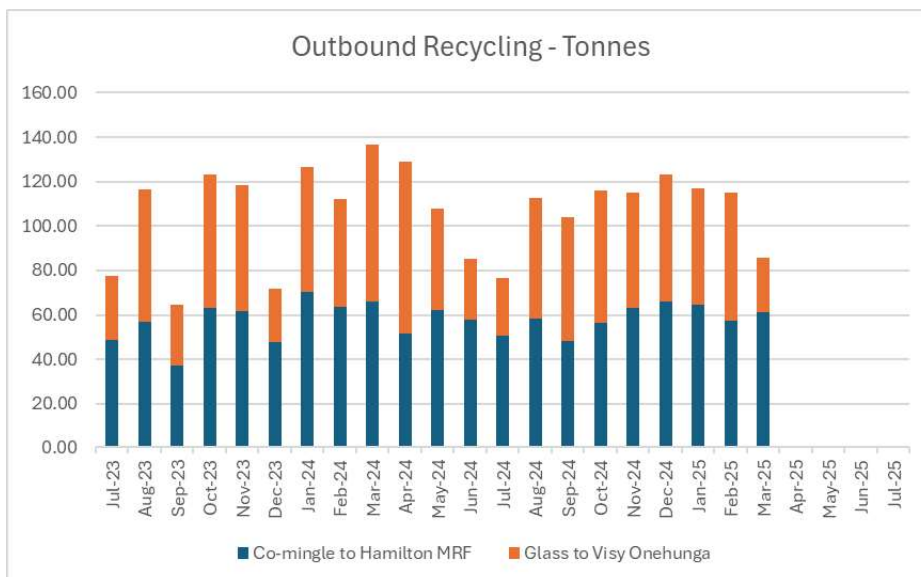
Putāruru Transfer Station waste to landfill is on average 11.2% of total outbound waste. Putāruru kerbside rubbish is disposed directly to Tokoroa Transfer Station, so is included in the Tokoroa waste to landfill tonnage.



Outbound Recycling and Glass

Total outbound recycling to Hamilton MRF for the financial year to date (July 24 to March 25) is 526 tonnes, an average of 58 tonnes per month. In the previous financial year for the same period, 516 tonnes was processed at Hamilton MRF, an average of 57 tonnes per month.

Total outbound glass to Visy Onehunga for the financial year to date (July 24 to March 25) is 439 tonnes, an average of 49 tonnes per month. In the previous financial year for the same period, 433 tonnes was processed at Visy Onehunga, an average of 48 tonnes per month.



Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2022

Of the 25 activities in the WMMP, ten are completed annually and are ongoing throughout the six-year lifespan of the WMMP.

Seven activities are currently underway, including;

1. Review of kerbside collection services (part of a larger review of our Solid Waste Services contract with EnviroNZ)
2. Introduction of kerbside food waste collection service is temporarily on hold for the following considerations:
 - no longer mandated by government
 - new data from the recent SWAP audit to be received and analysed
 - agreement with MfE re inclusion of cardboard in our organics collection
 - survey of urban households on their willingness to use this service
3. Interim improvement work at Putāruru Transfer Station
4. SWAP audit completed (report due mid-May)
5. Illegal dumping - intern project
6. Illegal dumping - support regional and national campaigns
7. Encourage and implement resource recovery activities that enhance local economic development

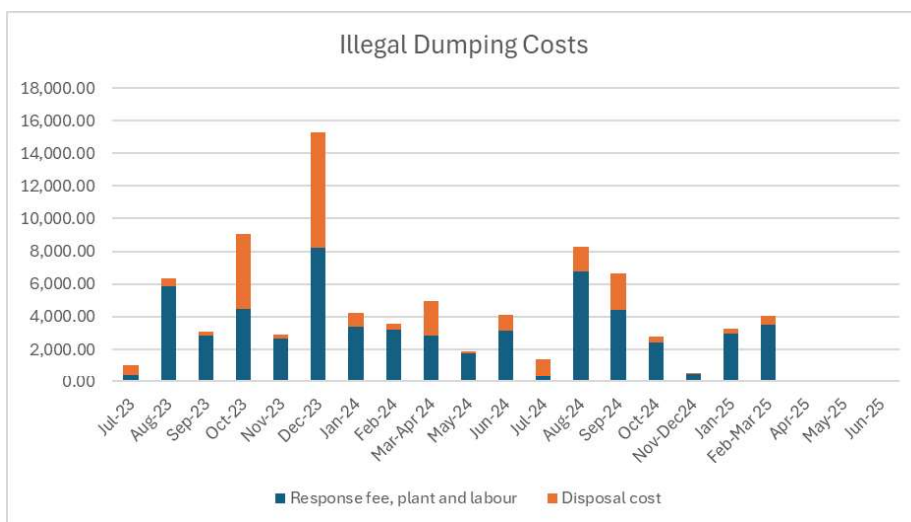
Illegal Dumping

As shown graphically below there is little correlation between incidents of illegal dumping and the costs of cleaning up. Some of this can be attributed to the machinery needed to uplift and dispose, such as carcasses, freezers full of rotting meat, car parts, and furniture.

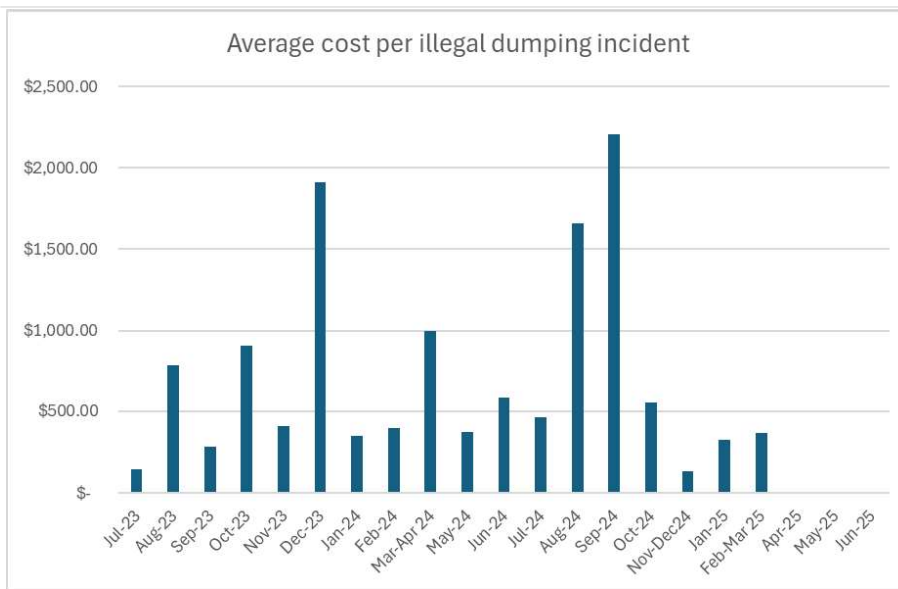
In 2023/24 nearly 40% of reported incidents occurred on the same five roads:

1. Mossop Road
2. Wiltsdown Road
3. Old Taupo Road
4. Arapuni Road
5. Galaxy Road.

Total costs for 2023/24 were \$56k and the 2024/25 year to date is \$27k. Although there are some recyclable and recoverable items (often contaminated) amongst the illegal dumping, the extra cost, labour and time to separate the waste material out is disproportionate to any benefit.



The average cost per illegal dumping incident shown graphically here is indicative of the vast difference between reported incidents. For September 2024, three incidents were reported, of which two were in Leslie Road. One of these was spread over a large area and contained some historical dumping which hadn't been previously reported. The other Leslie Road site was reported on a Friday and when contractors attended the following week, the existing site had been considerably added to.



Circular Economy Intern - Illegal Dumping Project

Our Circular Economy Intern is now at the stage where some practical ways to achieve behavioural change can be implemented and tested for effectiveness. These will be trialed over the next few months and compared with a control site.

Specific activities include:

- Install warning signage 'Area Under Surveillance'
- Physically tape off sites that attract ongoing dumping with *Illegal Dumping under Investigation* tape.
 - Leave the site taped for 3-7 days as further deterrent to repeat offenders.
 - Also indicates to public that council is actively addressing the illegal dumping issues.

Suitable sites for CCTV surveillance are also being identified. Ideally the cameras need to be out of reach and out of sight while still able to capture data.

Sample photo from hundreds of illegal dumping incidents:



Seagull Resource Recovery Site Visit

Two staff visited this privately operated Thames site. Key points from their visit include:

- Initially had financial support from Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) for four to five years.
- It is now self-funded and has 21 FTE's (some are volunteers)
- Located on the approach road to the Transfer Station so materials can be intercepted prior to the Transfer Station weighbridge
- Other community resource sites have since been initiated on the peninsula, and these feed materials into the Seagull site.

Whitianga Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station (RRTS)

Noted that TCDC received a \$5.9 million grant from the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) for their new \$11.5 million Whitianga RRTS. Initial construction commenced April 2025 with a completion targeted for June 2026. Staff are in contact with TCDC for any info they can share.

Mobile Recycling Trailer

We are currently developing a customised Mobile Recycling Trailer (MRT), funded and operated through our Waste Levy Revenue. The MRT is designed to support waste minimisation efforts in rural communities by making recycling more accessible. It will provide regular, staffed recycling drop-off services to areas without existing kerbside collection.

In addition, the MRT will be available for booking by community event organisers, helping attendees recycle correctly during events. After each use, the trailer and its contents will be transported to the Tokoroa Transfer Station for consolidation with other recycling, before being prepared for its next scheduled deployment.

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the trailer's fabrication. Similar services have been implemented by other rural councils, including Western Bay of Plenty and Whanganui. The specifications we are proposing represent a hybrid model based on the designs of those two existing trailers.





Central Government Waste Legislation

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) have distributed their consultation document on proposed amendments to waste legislation. The intention is to replace the existing Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979 with one fit-for-purpose act.

Five areas being consulted on are:

1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Framework
2. Changes to waste disposal levy (distribution and scope)
3. Clarifying roles and responsibilities of government and territorial authorities in waste legislation
4. Modifying the existing compliance regime
5. Changes to the Litter Act

Waikato Regional Council is preparing a group submission that councils across the region can choose to support. This collective approach demonstrates regional unity. We will be contributing input to the group submission.

Linkage to Strategic Plan Priorities

Environmental sustainability

Economic development

Durable infrastructure

Financial Considerations

There has been \$364,000 in Waste Levy Revenue received year-to-date, with over \$100,000 expected in the final quarter.

Currently restricted to WMMP activities, proposed legislative changes may allow broader use of the levy and ensure a fairer distribution across councils, while still addressing the needs of larger centres.

Attachments