



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Draft West Coast Regional Waste Minimization and Management Plan

Issued	18 November 2024
Submissions close	20 December 2024

Statement of Proposal

All Councils are required under the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) 2008 to consider the current situation regarding waste minimisation and management in their district and set out how they will progress efficient and effective waste management and minimisation.

This process is documented in a **Waste Assessment** and future direction and actions are set out in a **Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP)**.

The last Waste Assessment for the West Coast region (covering all three districts) was carried out in 2018, and the Buller, Grey, and Westland Districts adopted the final WMMP in 2018 (following public consultation).

As per sections 43 and 44 of the Waste Minimisation Act (WMA) 2008, the Waste Assessments and WMMPs must be reviewed and adopted every six years.

Why is this being proposed?

Requirements for Territorial Authorities

A joint WMMP is an efficient and effective way for Councils to complete strategic planning enabling a collaborative approach for Waste Minimisation and Management as a region. Continuing the approach adopted in 2018 Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils have elected to proceed with a regional approach for the required review.

The Waste Assessment prepared in 2018 evaluated current quantities and composition of waste and diverted materials in the district, existing services, future demand for services and practicable options for addressing the various waste and diverted materials streams. The 2024 Waste Assessment reviews and updates the 2018 analysis to reflect the changes that have occurred locally, regionally and nationally since 2018 and also to meet the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA).

A WMMP must summarise Council's waste management and minimisation objectives, policies, methods and funding to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district. The WMMP must also include a commitment to waste minimisation through consideration of the waste hierarchy and must have regard to the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the most recent Waste Assessment undertaken by the three district councils in the region. In addition, councils must ensure that public health is protected and that waste collection, transport, and disposal do not cause any nuisance.

The **West Coast Regional Waste Assessment** describes the waste situation, sets out the region's vision, goals, objectives, and targets, and develops options for meeting future demand.

The draft **West Coast Regional Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP)** summarises the information presented in the Waste Assessment and adds an action plan.

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) outlines what Te rautaki para, the National Waste Strategy, means for the West Coast and proposes the region's approach to delivering waste management and minimisation services. The Plan has been designed to meet each Council's obligations to evaluate and plan for waste minimisation and management in their district under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA).

The Plan covers the whole West Coast and reflects a regional approach to minimising waste through regional collaboration. All solid waste, whether landfilled or diverted material, is considered in this Plan. Diverted material includes items being reused, recycled, or composted.

Liquid and gas wastes, which are managed through other policies, are not in the scope of this Plan.

Aotearoa New Zealand legislative influence

Legislation and policy surrounding waste management and minimisation continues to evolve in Aotearoa, New Zealand, aiming to transition us to a circular economy where materials being sent to landfills are viewed as a valuable resource. Since the 2018 WMMP was published central government has issued additional policy which influences the content of the West Coast Regional WMMP. An overview of these changes is detailed below:

Te rautaki para | Waste Strategy (2023)

Te rautaki para | Waste Strategy is the core policy document setting the future direction of waste management and minimisation in Aotearoa New Zealand. The strategy's vision is to commit Aotearoa New Zealand to a low-emissions, low-waste, circular economy by 2050 with a set of guiding principles. The strategy provides an increased focus on:

- taking responsibility and providing equitable outcomes;
- The circular economy and wider systems approaches (across sectors and beyond waste only);
- Reducing waste (all waste and recycling material that enters the waste system) and disposed (landfilled); and
- Reducing emissions from waste.

As this strategy comes into effect, the regional WMMP should reflect this direction through the actions established.

Kerbside standardisation (2023)

As part of the work plan/priorities laid out in Te rautaki para | Waste Strategy, kerbside standardisation aims to ensure consistent waste and recycling services are offered across all districts in Aotearoa, New Zealand. The transition to standardise services will also require all districts and regions to provide kerbside organics collection to households in urban areas by 2030 and establish minimum standards for diverting waste from landfills. As such, these changes were required to be incorporated into the WMMP to establish an action plan for the region to meet these requirements.

Waste Levy Expansion

For every tonne of waste disposed of in landfills, a levy is applied and collected by MfE. Since 1 July 2021, the landfill waste disposal levy has been progressively increased and expanded to include a wider range of disposal facilities, with further increases scheduled through 2027. With waste becoming more expensive to dispose of, alternatives through reuse and recovery of materials are becoming increasingly attractive for households and businesses. Approaches to providing or enabling these alternatives are detailed as actions in the WMMP.

Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) (2022)

In May 2022, the national Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) was released. The ERP sets the planned targets and objectives for climate action over the next 15 years. The plan aims to enable a transition to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future for Aotearoa, New Zealand. As the first of its kind, the government is placing new requirements on councils to reduce their waste emissions, focusing on emissions from organic

materials and landfill gas. A significant opportunity for local government to reduce emissions is to offer a food scraps collection service by 2030 in line with the kerbside standardisation programme of work. This is reflected in the proposed actions in the WMMP.

What is being proposed?

The 2024 Regional Waste Assessment has identified that over 16,000 tonnes of waste were generated in the West Coast Region in 2022/23. Around 70% of this waste was sent to landfill, with the remainder diverted, either by recycling or composting. This diversion occurs predominantly through recycling at kerbside and transfer stations and recovery of green waste for mulch or compost.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Waste Assessment has identified a range of challenges and opportunities related to waste management and minimisation to be addressed through the WMMP. These include:

Challenge	Opportunity
The West Coast councils are increasingly challenged by the affordability of meeting the future national targets, partly due to their low population density.	Explore options to collaborate with Iwi, community groups, industry and neighbouring regions.
Inconsistent waste data available across the region (e.g. contamination in kerbside recycling, illegal dumping incidents, reuse of materials).	Streamlining data collection across all Council services. Leveraging national policy change, such as alignment with national standardisation of what is collected for recycling.
High quantities of waste are being sent to landfill from the region.	There is considerable opportunity to increase the capture of materials (specifically paper, plastic, metals, and organic materials) for diversion. Streamlining kerbside collections with all Councils offering the same service and planning for new services as required, in line with the national kerbside standardisation.
Inconsistent information regarding the available waste services, education, and system performance is available across the three districts.	To increase buy-in, ratepayers and members of the public should be provided with information regarding waste diversion, infrastructure, and current performance online and through other methods. Education and behavioural change are important to reduce material generation, enhance the use of existing infrastructure, improve material capture for recycling and recovery, and address contamination in recycling and illegal dumping.
Engagement with high waste-generating industries.	Focus on sectors likely to generate more waste in the future, including: – Agricultural waste – ensuring farmers make informed decisions on waste management and appropriate services for their sector. – Mining waste – considering the increases in waste volumes and types from the industry.
Reporting emissions associated with waste services and management is not currently being done. As part of the National Strategy,	Establish a process and start to collect baseline data to inform decision-making.

Challenge	Opportunity
Tracking of this data will need to start.	
Waste from tourism is expected to increase.	Work to support the procurement of goods and consumables from tourism providers and careful planning around communication and infrastructure available to tourists to encourage waste diversion is essential to successful recovery in the region, particularly in Westland.

The overall vision of the WMMP is:

“By 2030, our enabling systems are working well, and behaviour is changing.”

PROPOSED TARGETS

A series of waste minimisation and management targets, reflecting national targets where relevant, are proposed:

Target		Unit	2018	2022/23	Regional Target
Waste generation	Reduce the amount of material entering the waste management system by 10% per person by 2030*	kg per capita per annum	385.51	494	445 by 2030
Waste to landfill	Reduce the total waste per capita going to landfill by 30% per person by 2030*	kg per capita per annum	299.76	402	282 by 2030
	Reduce the total waste per dwelling going to landfill from the Council Kerbside collection system by 30% per dwelling by 2030	kg per dwelling per annum	575.63	573	401
Diversion of waste	Increase the amount of household waste diverted to recycling (council-provided kerbside collection only, excludes green waste)	% diversion from landfill	37%	33%	30% by July 2026 40% by July 2028 50% by July 2030
	Reduce contamination of Council-provided kerbside recycling.	% contamination	N/A	31%	20%
Waste emissions	Increase organics capture at the transfer station and kerbside (%) Organics capture includes food, garden, and timber waste streams.	% diversion from landfill	N/A	4%	30% capture of organic material by 2030
	Reduce the biogenic methane emissions from waste by 2030 (CO ₂ e)	% reduction of biogenic methane	N/A	TBC ¹	30% reduction
Customer satisfaction	Percentage of community satisfied with the solid waste service.	% satisfaction	N/A	72 – 82%	> 85% satisfaction
	Total number of complaints received about the Council’s solid waste service	No. of complaints annually	N/A	N/A	< 50 complaints annually
Environmental health	Maintain 100 per cent compliance with resource consent conditions for council-operated solid waste district facilities.	% compliance	100%	100%	100% compliance

¹*Councils are awaiting guidance from central government on the calculation of biogenic methane emissions from waste before a baseline is confirmed for the region

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

To address the challenges and opportunities identified and meet the targets, the three regional district councils propose a range of actions. These actions are underpinned by policy, infrastructure and education.

In all areas, the focus is on enabling the West Coast community to reduce the waste generated through managing their waste according to the waste hierarchy, preferring reducing, rethinking and redesigning before reuse, repair and repurposing before 'conventional' waste management options are introduced (recycle, compost, recover, dispose).

The WMMP actions relate to continuing and enhancing existing activities and starting new activities and initiatives.

All district councils have a role in delivering the actions in the WMMP. These range from advocating to central government and promoting services to enabling community and industry groups to collaborate for better outcomes for the West Coast.

The Action Plan includes actions focusing on waste minimisation and management infrastructure, education of the West Coast community, and establishing the right policy framework.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS ACTIONS

Industry waste – Advocate and facilitate sector groups (e.g. C&D, Agricultural waste groups) to discuss problems and explore solutions. Utilise resources outside the region and connect with other regional sector groups (e.g. Tradie Breakfast).

Contamination in the kerbside—Collaborate with central government, local government, and non-government organisations to assess solutions to reduce contamination and explore opportunities for the West Coast to improve waste management. This could include joining nationwide forums, e.g., the WasteMINZ TAO Forum, or connecting with the Sustainable Business Network.

Industry waste—Investigate and facilitate collaboration opportunities across the region with iwi, industry, businesses, and community groups, utilising already established activities, e.g., virtual/in-person networking events, Council gardens, etc.

COMMUNICATE AND SHARE CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVES ACTIONS

Reduce generation—Utilise council websites to link to existing resources, e.g., BRANZ and REBRI for the construction sector, to help plan and manage material management.

Contamination in kerbside – Develop an educational programme of work focusing on behaviour change and information sharing with the community.

Contamination in kerbside – Utilise and/or build on national waste and behaviour change campaigns and/or collateral to promote waste diversion.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

Contamination in kerbside – Develop solid waste bylaw to strengthen enforcement.

Information and education – Investigate whether a grant for waste and resource recovery activities in the region can be developed between Councils.

Reduce generation – Implement a tourism Levy for those staying in the region to cover the costs of infrastructure including waste assets and management.

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS

Information and education – Advocate for action and research promoting the top of the waste hierarchy (e.g. Product Stewardship Schemes, Right to Repair legislation, and research into recovery options for difficult-to-manage waste streams).

Industry waste—Investigate whether Council wants to facilitate Product Stewardship Schemes at their transfer stations, e.g., Tyrewise collection points, promoting the programmes to encourage uptake.

Reduce generation – Continue to support and promote product stewardship schemes through existing transfer stations where appropriate.

MAKING DIVERSION EASY ACTIONS

Streamline data collection – Align services available at transfer stations across the region.

Reduce generation—Investigate alternative options to manage waste streams/materials that take up the most volume in the region's landfills and transfer stations.

Reduce generation—Review the results from the C&D feasibility study to assess the region's best options for C&D recovery (subject to a feasibility study).

Reduce generation—Review the organics feasibility study results to assess the region's best organic recovery options in line with central government's indicated direction.

Reduce generation—Investigate the volumes and impacts of waste from tourism, which can feed into a feasibility study on how to manage waste from tourism in the region.

RESILIENCE ACTIONS

Environmental impacts—Develop resilience plans for current waste infrastructure and services. This could include collaborating with Civil Defence and other organisations to develop a regional Disaster Waste Management Plan. This will ensure processes are in place for managing waste associated with natural disasters and waste from earthquake-prone buildings.

Environmental impacts – Investigate the feasibility of a regional Disposal Facility/Landfill that could service the entire region.

Council will fund these actions through a combination of targeted rates, user-pay fees and charges, waste levy funding, and contestable funds.

The above actions are intended to provide a wide-ranging approach to waste services in the West Coast Region, protecting public health and promoting effective and efficient waste management and minimisation.

Where to find more information

The Regional Waste Assessment, the draft Regional Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP), and the Statement of Proposal can be collected from Council's service and community centres, libraries and main offices, or you can download them from the Council's websites.

Council	Westland District Council	Grey District Council	Buller District Council
Web address	www.westlanddc.govt.nz	www.greydc.govt.nz	www.bullerdc.govt.nz
Main office	36 Weld Street, Hokitika	105 Tainui St, Greymouth	6-8 Brougham St, Westport
Telephone	03 756 9010	03 769 8600	03 788 9111

How to have your say

We want your feedback on the draft West Coast Regional Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.

All submissions must be in writing. You can complete the online submission form or a paper submission form available from each Council. Refer to your Council's website for full details.

You are welcome to speak in person in support of your submission—if you wish to do this, please clearly indicate this in your submission. Submissions will be heard and considered at a hearing in January 2025—the final date to be confirmed.

Submissions close at **5 pm on Friday, 20 December 2024**