



The Sorting Depot

January 2026



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**New Plymouth
District Council**

Purpose: Why are we here today?



- To provide a summary of what has happened to date with The Sorting Depot, our commercial waste sorting facility, which is not meeting financial targets
- To offer some context for two upcoming meetings:
 - Public submissions hearing: 29 January 2026
 - Decision report to Extraordinary Council Meeting on 18 February 2026



Background: What is The Sorting Depot?



- The Sorting Depot is...
 - a commercial waste sorting facility, opened in July 2023
 - owned by New Plymouth District Council and operated by Evolve Ltd.
 - located on the former New Plymouth Transfer Station site. NPDC lease from KiwiRail. Next to The Junction & The Material Recovery facility(MRF)
 - part of the Zero Waste 2040 vision to keep valuable materials out of landfill and reduce waste in our district.



Background:

Why did we start The Sorting Depot?

- Commercial and industrial waste is estimated to make up **60% of waste sent to landfill**
- Before this facility opened, landfill was the easiest and cheapest option for most businesses.
- The Sorting Depot was created to offer a convenient and affordable alternative to landfill to increase recovery of materials.
- Funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund supported the establishment of The Sorting Depot.



Background: Who uses The Sorting Depot?

- There are now 52 customers including:
 - large construction firms
 - industrial businesses
 - local waste service providers
 - skip bin companies
 - local businesses



Background:

How does The Sorting Depot work?

- Customers pay a gate fee to drop off their waste.
The current charges are:
 - Mixed loads: \$294 per tonne
 - Pre-sorted loads: \$96 per tonne
 - Polystyrene: \$264 per m³
 - Non-compliant load: \$65
- NB: Prices were increased 20 October 2025
- Commercial and industrial materials are manually sorted by staff, separating out reusable items and recyclable materials.



Background:

Where do sorted materials go?



Taranaki reuse, recycling or composting businesses

- Building fixtures
- Carpet
- Concrete
- Bricks
- Rubble
- Reusable timber lengths

New Zealand recyclers or composters

- Cardboard
- Glass bottles
- Metals
- Plasterboard/gib
- Plate glass
- Large plastic containers
- Mixed recycling
- PVC/PP/HDPE pipe
- Polystyrene
- Untreated timber
- Car seats

Treated timber is sent to Golden Bay Cement as an alternative to burning coal.



Background: What has been diverted?



The Sorting Depot Insights

This dashboard presents data since opening (Jul, 2023) through to Dec, 2025, and is updated monthly

Total Waste Brought In

13,121.76

Tonnes

Total Waste Diverted

4,492.82

Tonnes

Total Waste to Landfill

8,628.94

Tonnes

Diversion Rate

34.24

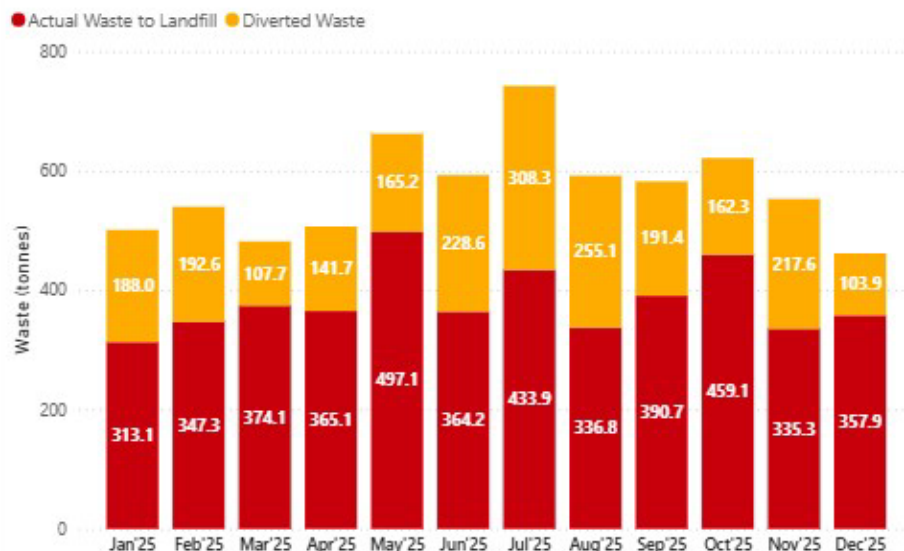
%

Number of Customers

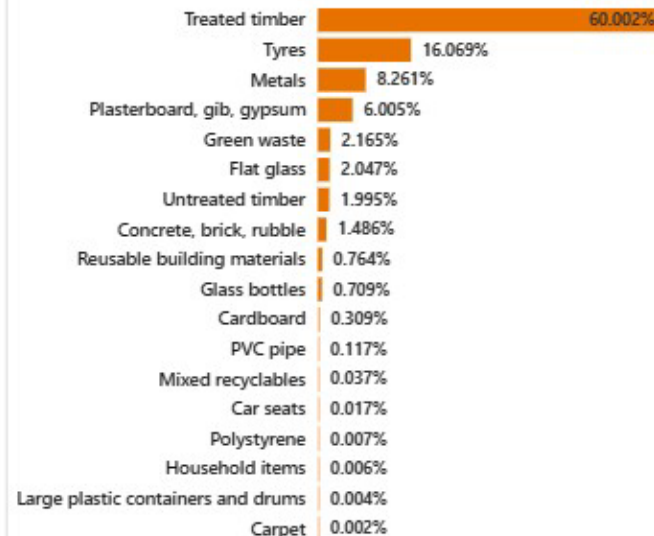
52

Organisations

Sorting Depot Output for the Past 12 Months (tonnes)



Diverted Waste Materials (percentage)



The issue



- The Sorting Depot is not meeting financial targets, with annual results of:
 - Non-adjusted losses of \$1.5 million in 2023/24 and \$1.8 million in 2024/25
 - a projected loss of \$1.5-2 million in 2025/26
- This is due to:

Impacts on Revenue	Impacts on Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower customer and waste volumes than predicted¹• Limited marketing and promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High treated timber volumes²• Increasing costs to recycle and process some materials

1. Contract price per tonne is higher at low waste volumes

2. Cost recovery price for treated timber = ~\$400 per tonne



Timeline



2018 to 2023

- Feasibility, project approval, procurement

Jul 2023

- The Sorting Depot opening

Oct 2024

- Review of operations after a year of operation

May 2025

- Report to council

May-Sep 2025

- Further investigations

Sep 2025

- Report to council

Oct-Nov 2025

- Community Consultation

Nov-Dec 2025

- Request for Information (RFI) process

Jan 2026

- Submissions hearing

Feb 2026

- Decision report



Previous reports



- On 13 May 2025, Council approved four alternatives for further investigation:
 - Keep operating
 - Close the facility
 - Privatised the facility
 - Move the facility
- Investigations following this report included:
 - Customer engagement
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Te Huinga Taumata
 - Sustainability Working Party
 - Desktop analysis of pricing



Previous reports



- On 30 September 2025, a summary of investigations was presented and Council approved continued operation while completing:
 - A procurement process inviting information from suppliers
 - Community consultation, covering
 - The community's ability and appetite to subsidise a commercial waste sorting facility
 - Whether or not The Sorting Depot should remain a strategic asset
 - Whether or not NPDC should close The Sorting Depot
- Council also approved a 20% increase in fees and charges



Community Consultation Overview



Consultation was completed via Have Your Say from 24 Nov – 12 Dec 2025



Asked about awareness of the facility, financial considerations, strategic asset status, and closing/selling the facility



Consultation Responses: 317



RFI Process



- Request for information process published for market response from 30 October to 20 November 2025
- The process sought information on innovative, cost-effective, and environmentally sound approaches to operating The Sorting Depot.
- 9 Proposals
 - 6 operational proposals
 - 3 proposals with detail of equipment and consultant services to support the facility



Next steps

- Public submissions hearing: 29 January 2026
- Decision report: Extraordinary Council Meeting on 18 February 2026



He patai?
He whakaaro?

