



## The Sorting Depot

January 2026

# 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 m<sup>3</sup>
    - 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	New Zealand recyclers or composters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building fixtures</li><li>• Carpet</li><li>• Concrete</li><li>• Bricks</li><li>• Rubble</li><li>• Reusable timber lengths</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardboard</li><li>• Glass bottles</li><li>• Metals</li><li>• Plasterboard/gib</li><li>• Plate glass</li><li>• Large plastic containers</li><li>• Mixed recycling</li><li>• PVC/PP/HDPE pipe</li><li>• Polystyrene</li><li>• Untreated timber</li><li>• Car seats</li></ul>

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**

%

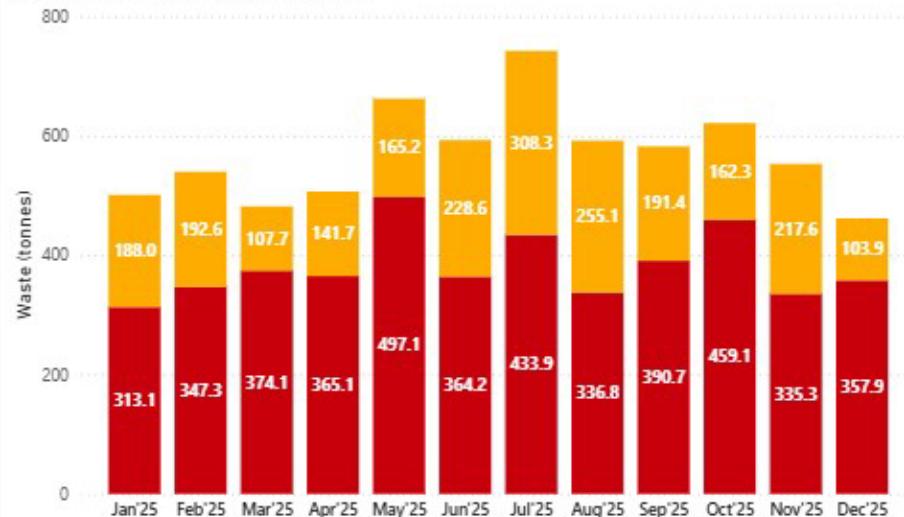
Number of Customers

**52**

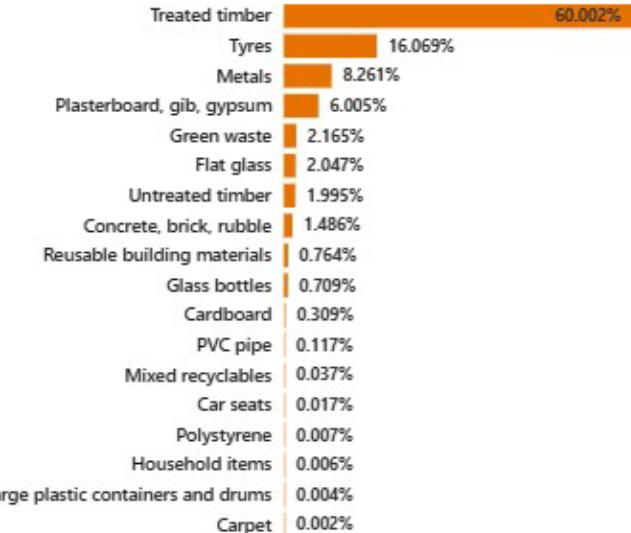
Organisations

### Sorting Depot Output for the Past 12 Months (tonnes)

● Actual Waste to Landfill ● Diverted Waste



### 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"><li>• Lower customer and waste volumes than predicted<sup>1</sup></li><li>• Limited marketing and promotion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High treated timber volumes<sup>2</sup></li><li>• Increasing costs to recycle and process some materials</li></ul>

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
  - Privatise 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?

