



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE – WASTENET SOUTHLAND AND SOUTHLAND DISABILITY ENTERPRISES**

**Friday 1 May 2020**

### **Recycling processing restarting in Southland on 11 May**

WasteNet Southland and Southland disAbility Enterprises are pleased to announce recycling processing services will restart on Monday 11 May 2020. Due to COVID-19, manual recycling processing services were not able to be safely conducted at Alert Level 4, resulting in recycling being disposed to landfill.

Southland disAbility Enterprises General Manager Hamish McMurdo says the team has worked hard to ensure recycling can be safely sorted from 11 May.

“We know how important it is to our residents that we resume recycling and our team is excited to get back to work processing Southland’s recycling. As we are operating at Level 3, there are many restrictions and guidelines to follow. We are only able to bring in a limited number of staff to cover the operation on the MRF which manually processes the contents of Southland’s yellow recycling bins.”

“We have been busy writing procedures and organising our business to ensure physical distancing is maintained at all times. We have also added extra PPE and the regular sanitising of machinery to assist in keeping our team safe.”

Unfortunately at Level 3, Southland disAbility Enterprises is unable to resume any of its wider operations and services such as the recycling drive through facility or business processing.

“If you are a regular user of the Invercargill recycling drop-off please stockpile clean recyclables until we are in a position to reopen the drop-off area.”

Senior WasteNet Officer Donna Peterson says recycling will be being hand sorted from 11 May, which means residents need to make sure any rubbish is removed from their Council yellow recycling bin before it is collected.

“If you have been using your yellow recycling bin for general waste under Alert Level 4, now is the time to stop and wash out your bin. Like always, all plastic, metal and glass needs to be empty and thoroughly washed before going into your yellow bin.”

“Please be kind, and consider the safety of the Southland disAbility Enterprises team” said Ms Peterson “remember a person has to handle your recycling once you have binned it.”

“Resuming safe recycling in Southland means that we can look after our environment, and contribute to local employment,” she said.

**ENDS**

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