

Region-wide proposed new rules and regulations

Solid Waste Management



The Solid Waste Management chapter manages the disposal of certain types of solid waste to land in circumstances where it may enter water. The types of wastes captured by the provisions of this chapter include discharges from:

- Landfills
- Clean fill material
- Organic waste

The disposal of these types of solid waste is currently managed by the Regional Plan: Waste for Otago (Waste Plan). Plan Change 1 (PC1) to the Waste Plan (operative from 9 July 2022) strengthened the policy direction for establishing and managing certain classes of landfill to reflect current best practice and to contribute towards improving water quality in the Otago Region.

This chapter does not manage liquid wastes (managed through Other Discharges), or agricultural waste and farm landfills (managed through Primary Production).

Overview and key changes

The table below provides a high-level comparison of the provisions of the operative Waste Plan with those included in the draft Solid Waste Management chapter and highlights the key changes from the Waste Plan.

Solid Waste Management chapter of draft LWRP	Existing plan
Landfill	
<p>Closed landfills</p> <p>Existing approach generally retained with some amendments.</p> <p>Key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy direction requiring the identification and remediation (if practicable) of closed landfills at risk of erosion/inundation • No requirement to obtain consent for closed landfills if monitoring over 20 years shows contaminant levels are within 10% of background levels • If the above conditions are not met, a controlled consent will be required. 	<p>Closed landfills do not require a consent if closed before 1991.</p> <p>Closed landfills require a consent and a closure plan if closed after 1991.</p>
<p>Existing and new landfills</p> <p>No changes. PC1 introduced management in accordance with Waste Management Institute New Zealand’s Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land (October 2022), which is considered best practice, therefore no changes are needed.</p>	<p>Existing and new landfills</p> <p>Existing and new landfills require a discretionary consent and must comply with Waste Management Institute New Zealand’s Technical Guidelines for Disposal to Land (October 2022).</p>
Clean fill	
<p>Key changes:</p> <p>No consent needed if the discharge meets specific requirements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setback 20 metres from water bodies and bores • Not in a drinking water protection zone • Less than 250 cubic metres per site per year • The material must contain the same or lower levels of and naturally occurring contaminants (such as arsenic) as the area of deposition. <p>If the above permitted activity conditions are not met, a discretionary consent is required</p>	<p>No consent needed provided no sediment enters water. If sediment enters the water, a discretionary consent is needed.</p>

Organic waste (green waste and compost)

Key changes:

- **One rule framework for all organic waste.**
- **New definition:** “organic waste: biodegradable vegetative material which includes compost and green waste and does not include any sewage, greywater, industrial or trade waste or agricultural waste.”
- **No consent needed if the discharge meets specific requirements, including:**
 - Setback 20 metres from surface water, coast, bores
 - Setback 10 metres from any neighbouring dwelling
 - Less than 250 cubic metres total organic waste
 - No stock access
 - Not in a stormwater flow path
 - Leachate must not enter water.

If the permitted activity conditions are not met, a discretionary consent is required.

No consent is needed for the disposal of green waste if no leachate enters a water body. If the permitted activity conditions are not met, a discretionary consent is required.

No consent is needed for the disposal of compost if 51% of the material is generated from the same property. If the permitted activity conditions are not met, a discretionary consent is required.