

TIME TO REVISE RECYCLING PRACTICES AHEAD OF NEW POLICY

Residents are being urged to be more aware of how they use their yellow recycling bin, and what they are putting in it, in the lead up to a new three-strike policy being introduced next month.

The Gore District Council is working with WasteNet Southland to implement the policy, which is aimed at helping reduce the amount of landfill-rubbish being placed in yellow recycling bins.

WasteNet Senior Officer Donna Peterson said a recent study showed that up to one-third of Matura and Gore residents were putting landfill-rubbish in their yellow recycling bins.

"This level of contamination is unacceptable as it negatively impacts the health and safety of the team at Southland disAbility Enterprises who hand sort the recycling. It also adds costs to the service."

To ensure workers can see exactly what is in a recycling bin and avoid any nasty surprises, residents should not bundle items in a bag before putting them in the yellow bin, she said.

The three-strike policy means recycling bins will be regularly checked for compliance. Where bins fail their check, a formal 'strike' will be allocated to the property. Three strikes within 12 months will result in recycling services being stopped at the property for three months.

"The immediate impact to residents who receive a 'strike' is their recycling bin will not be emptied that collection day. It will be up to the resident to remove the non-compliant materials and wash out their yellow bin," said Ms Peterson.

If people are not sure what bin an "item" can go in, check the sticker under the lid of the yellow recycling bin or ask the Council.

"It's better to put the item in the red rubbish bin until you find out if it can go in the yellow bin," said Ms Peterson.



WasteNet Waste Minimisation Officers Karen Piercy (left) and Jennifer Lowther demonstrate how to place loose recycling into your yellow bin. A common mistake made by residents is to bag their recycling before placing it in the bin.

MEETINGS IN APRIL

The Gore District Council will hold the following meetings next month:

Wednesday 1 April, at 4.00pm, in the Council chambers, 29 Civic Ave.

Extraordinary meeting of the Council to consider and adopt the Consultation Document and underlying information for the Long Term Plan 2015-25.

Monday 13 April, at 4.00pm in the Council chambers, 29 Civic Ave (please note date change due to Easter)

Committee meetings starting with:

- Community Services Committee, followed by
- Operations Committee, followed by
- Regulatory and Planning Committee, followed by
- Finance and Policy Committee.

Monday 20 April, at 5.30pm, at the Matura Elderly Citizens Centre, in McQueen Ave.

Matura Community Board.

Tuesday 28 April, at 7.30pm, in the Council chambers, 29 Civic Ave.

Ordinary meeting of the Council.

Meeting agendas will be available beforehand on the Council's website www.goredc.govt.nz on the Agenda & Minutes page, at the Civic Centre offices, and Gore or Matura libraries.

EASTER HOURS



Please note that some of the Council's facilities will be closed, or have reduced hours, on Tuesday 7 April for Southland Anniversary Day. If you have an emergency during Easter please phone 2090330 for our after-hours service.

Civic Centre office, in Gore, and Matura Service Centre/Library are closed from Thursday 2 April to 8.30am Wednesday 8 April.

Gore Aquatic Centre/MLT Event Centre

Closed: Good Friday. **Open:** Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April – 10.00am to 6.00pm Easter Monday and Tuesday 7 April – 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Matura Centennial Pool

Closed: Good Friday, Easter Monday and Tuesday 7 April.

Open: Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April – 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Eastern Southland Gallery

Closed: Good Friday. **Open:** Saturday 4 April, Sunday 5 April, Easter Monday 1.00pm to 4.00pm Tuesday 7 April 10.00am to 4.30pm

Gore Visitor Centre

Closed: Good Friday. **Open:** Saturday 4 April 9.30am to 4.00pm. Sunday 5 April, Easter Monday, Tuesday 7 April 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Gore Library

Closed: Good Friday through to Wednesday 8 April.

Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre

Closed: Good Friday and Easter

Monday. Open: Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Gore Transfer Station

Closed: Good Friday and Easter Monday

Recycling and Rubbish Collection

There will be no recycling or rubbish collection services in Matura or Gore on Easter Monday 6 April. Collections will be delayed by one day, therefore Monday collections will take place on Tuesday, Tuesday collections on Wednesday, and so on with Thursday collections taking place on Friday. Normal collections will resume on Monday 13 April.

If residents are unsure what bin to put out, please download a collection calendar by entering your address into the WasteNet website www.wastenet.org.nz

WATER RESTRICTION REMINDER

The Gore District Council is concerned there appears to be some complacency around water usage creeping in, even though Level 3 restrictions are still in place.

3 Waters Asset Manager Sarah Crooks said people need to continue to be careful with water use at home and at work.

"Staff have recently noticed a lot of incorrect water use, particularly with washing cars, watering gardens and using a hose with the kids."

Level 3 restrictions remain in place to help manage the demand on the town's water supply wells, Mrs Crooks said.

Since the start of the year the water supply pumps have been running, on average, for 22 to 23 hours a day to keep up with demand – "this does not leave a lot of spare capacity to let us reduce restrictions".

The water level is also dropping so low that the pumps are cutting out to prevent overheating.

Despite recent rainfall and cooler temperatures, water levels have continued to fall.

"What we need is for the Matura River to rise and recharge the wells' aquifers otherwise we may have to put emergency procedures in place", Mrs Crooks said.

This could include imposing Level 4 water restrictions and pumping water from the river to artificially recharge the wells.

"It is up to everyone to be water wise."

Commercial properties are exempt from the water restrictions if they are dependent on water for their activities and are metered, she said.

Level 3 water restrictions mean there is a total ban on unattended hoses, sprinklers and garden irrigation systems. Handheld hoses can be used only between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on alternative days.

LAUNCH TONIGHT FOR NEW LOOK GORE DISTRICT AMBASSADOR

Are you aged between 18 and 35 years, and passionate about the Gore District?

Then you need to go to tonight's Gore District Ambassador information evening, at the Thomas Green boardroom, starting at 5.30pm.

Some of the exciting changes to this year's event will be revealed. Present Ambassador Faith Harvey will also talk about what she's been up to over the past year.

Anyone aged 18 to 35 years, who lives in the Gore District, or has a close connection to it, can enter. They should be motivated, enthusiastic and be confident approaching people.

One thing that hasn't changed is the winner's trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival in January

2016, plus spending money and sponsors' products.

If you can't make it tonight and would like more information either visit www.goredc.govt.nz and search 'ambassador' or contact Emma Carle ecarle@goredc.govt.nz or phone **03 209 0388**.