

23 July 2020

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR RECYCLING INFORMATION  
OIA : REF 038/21**

We refer to your official information request dated 29 June 2021 for information regarding recycling.

The information you have requested is below.

**1. How much recycling has been collected by your council per year in tonnes?**

Please note that the quantities described below include general recycling and glass

2016 -2017	993 tonnes
2017-2018:	961 tonnes
2018-2019:	1,030 tonnes
2019-2020:	1,080 tonnes
2020-2021:	1,005 tonnes

**2. Of the recycling collected how much has been sent to landfill per year in tonnes? If possible, please include the reason why (ie recycling contamination).**

In Buller on average of 36% of recycling is contaminated. Of each 10 kg of recyclable material collected from kerbside collection, 3.6 kg is contaminated and goes into landfill.

During the year 2020 -2021 (July 2020 to June 2021) a total of 1,005 tonnes of recycling were received in the Buller Transfer Station, of this quantity 364 tonnes were sent to landfill (36%) due to, the material was contaminated, that means, the material was not really recyclable or was dirty. So, only 640 were really recycled.

Unfortunately, there are no stats about recycling contamination from the older years.

**3. Of the recycling collected how much has been recycled domestically per year within New Zealand in tonnes?**

Of the 640 tonnes really recycled in Buller during the year 2020/21, 454 tonnes were recycled within NZ. The material recycled inside NZ are plastics #1, #2 and #5 (the other plastics are not received), aluminium, tins and glasses.

The quantities for older years are undetermined.

**4. Of the recycling collected how much has been sent overseas to be recycled per year in tonnes? (please include the country sent to).**

Of the 640 tonnes really recycled in Buller during the year 2020/21, 186 tonnes were sent overseas. Particularly, paper and cardboard are sent overseas, the rest of the material are recycled inside NZ.

The quantities for older years are undetermined.

**5. Please include a brief outline of which items your council can and cannot recycle? (particularly around the types of plastics).**

**Can Recycle:**

- Plastics #1, #2 and #5 only: Rinsed and clean, Lids off.
- Glasses: Rinsed and clean. Sorted by colours if you drop them off to any transfer station.
- Aluminium and tins: Any food residue. Rinsed and clean.
- Papers and cardboards: Don't have liquid residue or food contamination. Council encourage people reduce papers and cardboard and use them to make compost at home.

**Cannot Recycle:**

- Plastics # 3, # 4, # 6, # 7
- Meat trays
- Polystyrene
- Soft plastics (plastics bags)
- Clean film/bubble wrap
- Coffee cups
- Plastic bags
- Garden waste, green waste, food (as there is not composting system in Buller)
- Bubble wrap
- Lids
- Nappies
- Hot ashes
- Engine oil bottles
- Ceramic, crockery, porcelain,
- Product with multiple components

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to [lgoima@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:lgoima@bdc.govt.nz).

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published in due course at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz) with your personal information removed.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes.

**Michael Duff | Group Manager Infrastructure Services**