

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Scrap metal thefts

*The increasing price of scrap metal is also driving up the incidence of theft in District with a substantial amount stolen from the Southbrook transfer station in Flaxton Road over recent months.*

Because the income from the legitimate sale of scrap offsets some of the costs of running the site, Waimakariri District Council Solid Waste Asset Manager, Kitty Waghorn says, "these thefts are also hitting the Council (and therefore the ratepayers) in the pocket".

One person (subsequently spoken to by police) was seen loading car batteries into the back of his vehicle during operating hours, but the bulk of the thefts are occurring overnight.

On Monday (the night of 20th May or the early hours of the 21st) a reasonable amount of aluminium was taken from the transfer station.

Kitty Waghorn says evidence suggests those responsible probably parked their vehicle on the side of Lineside Rd.

Transfer station staff estimate it would have taken around an hour for the material to be carried from the recycling area, and over or through the fence, to the waiting vehicle.

Anyone who may have noticed a vehicle parked on Lineside Rd about 200 m before the railway crossing, or any other suspicious activity in

that area on Monday night, is asked to contact the police.

Mrs Waghorn adds "if anyone sees any suspicious activity around the transfer station during the hours of darkness, we would appreciate it if this is also immediately reported. That way any potential offenders may be caught in the act."

Waste Management (a division of Transpacific Industries), which operates the site on behalf of the Council, will be increasing security measures around the site.

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For more information contact:

Kitty Waghorn  
Solid Waste Asset Manager

Phone: 03 313 6136 or 03 327 6834