Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

August 1, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Surveillance expanded to stop empty sections becoming rubbish dumps

The message is clear: Use the Bluff Waste Transfer Station or pay the penalties.

Invercargill City Council is increasing surveillance in a bid to lower the rate of fly tipping – the dumping of rubbish on empty sections or unoccupied properties in the area.

Environmental Health Team Leader Muriel Rusike said dumped items ranged from abandoned machinery and commercial fishing equipment to household items such as mattresses, televisions and water tanks.

The Council has been aware of fly tipping in the past, but it became an obvious issue again after the Environmental Health Team's last inspection of the overgrown sections in the Bluff area. Each year Council Staff monitor empty sections in Bluff and Invercargill under the Environmental Health 2008/1 Bylaw, incorporating Section 5 (Untidy Sections and Abandoned Vehicles).

After the last round of inspections in Bluff, about 40 of 69 empty sections were non-compliant. The cost to clear the sections is passed on to landowners, many of whom do not live in the area. Ms Rusike said some locals were being opportunistic and were aware that the owners were absent.

"Council will be increasing surveillance to identify those who are dumping their waste on empty sections – those people will be prosecuted under the Litter Act 1979." The Act allows for action to be taken when there is evidence as to the identity of the offender.

"Surveillance would be increased in several ways, Ms Rusike said. "Surveillance cameras will be placed in problem areas to help us catch the culprits. We will be

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relying somewhat on word-of-mouth, good Neighbourhood Watch, and will also be working with local community groups to sort out the problem," she said. "People are welcome to approach the Service Centre or phone the Civic Administration Building and lodge any concerns or queries that they may have about fly tipping."

Offenders will be charged a hefty fee if they are found to be in breach of the legislation. These charges will include the cost of disposing the rubbish to the transfer station and standard compliance and administration fees. Ms Rusike said people could avoid the fines by simply taking their unwanted rubbish to the Bluff Transfer Station or unwanted equipment to the scrap metal dealers.

NOTE: The Bluff Transfer Station operating hours are 2pm to 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11am to 2pm on Saturdays and 10am to 12.30pm on Sundays.

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Inquiries, please contact Muriel Rusike on (03) 211 1618 or 021 776 584 or email muriel.rusike@icc.govt.nz

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