



CENTRAL Otago WasteBusters manager Karen Noble sits among Alexandra's glass mountain. The estimated 5000 tonnes of glass bottles stockpiled at WasteBusters for the past six years, are finally about to be crushed and used as aggregate for roads. **Emma Dawe** reports on page 2.



Glass mountain bound for roads

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ALEXANDRA'S glass mountain is about to be crushed.

The estimated 5000 tonnes of glass bottles, which have been stockpiled at Central Otago WasteBusters for the past six years, are finally about to be crushed and used as aggregate for roading.

WasteBusters manager Karen Noble told the Mirror a national organisation called the Glass Packaging Forum would pay for the glass to be crushed, as well as providing money for four concrete bunkers to be built on site.

Glass Packaging Forum general manager John Webber wouldn't be specific about the cost of removing and crushing the glass, as well as building the four bunkers, but said it would cost tens of thousands of dollars.

The bunkers would be used to sort glass as it arrived at WasteBusters through household recycling.

Mrs Noble was excited by the prospect of the glass being re-used.

There was further good news, with the probability O-I (Owens-Illinois) New Zealand, the country's only glass manufacturing company, would buy a second massive mountain of glass, as well as buying future loads of glass as it arrived at WasteBusters.

"It's a really positive start to the year," Mrs Noble said.

She expected the WasteBusters board to give both glass projects the green light, and expected the glass to be cleared as soon as possible.

While O-I New Zealand was unwilling

to buy the 5000 tonnes of glass, as it had become too contaminated from being stockpiled for so long, the second mountain of glass, which was estimated to be about 1000 tonnes, wasn't as contaminated. So it was able to be re-used by the company to make glass, she said.

The construction of the four glass sorting bunkers by the Glass Packaging Forum would ensure any future glass coming into WasteBusters would not be contaminated, and would be able to be bought by O-I New Zealand.

Mrs Noble said it was a huge relief to finally be able to re-use the glass, which took up a lot of space at the WasteBusters site.

When the area was cleared of glass, it would probably be used for staff and visitor car parking, which was in short supply, she said.

Glass Packaging Forum general manager John Webber said his company's objective was to find alternative uses for glass. The forum had carried out the same sort of operation in other towns throughout New Zealand.

The forum made its money by levying organisations which made glass, filled glass or sold glass, Mr Webber said.

■ The Central Otago WasteBusters board met last night to discuss the glass options and decide whether the clear-up of the glass would go ahead. Their decision was unavailable before the Mirror went to print yesterday.