

Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes

6:30pm to 8:00pm, Tuesday 19th May 2025

Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Boardroom

180 Smith Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8062

Executive summary of minutes

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the group and introductions were made.

2. Previous minutes confirmed in their entirety without amendment.

The Minutes of the previous meeting dated 17 February 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to a minor change as discussed in the meeting.

3. Actions from previous meeting

Updates on actions from the previous meeting were confirmed and all were closed.

4. Affected residents felt experience reports and questions arising

Residents reported the odour and dust continue to be an ongoing issues in the area.

ECan advised that a more frequent proactive dust monitoring programme has been set up, including engaging with multiple site owners to address dust and odour sources.

5. Christchurch City Council report

The report was taken as read, with no significant updates since the previous meeting.

Early morning odour scouting has been undertaken during the last quarter and will continue as part of ongoing independent monthly monitoring by PDP. Reports will be available on the Council's webpage as usual to provide transparency on odour management performance.

Ecogas presented a video showing progress update on the Hornby Plant, with full commissioning expected by October 2027. Details were provided on plant operation, biomass field innovation and environmental benefits. Transition from the Organics Processing Plant (OPP), Bromley to Organics Processing Facility (OPF), Hornby was discussed. Truck movements to the Bromley facility are expected to reduce from April 2027 through to October 2027, followed by a month of final tunnel operation prior to the plant closure. Thereafter, the OPP will be decontaminated / cleaned prior to any future use.

Options for the future use of the Bromley site are still being explored, with an update expected in June/July 2027.

Action:1 Council to keep the CLG informed of decisions regarding the future use of the current OPP site.

6. Living Earth answer any questions arising from their CLG report.

The report was taken as read.

Ongoing dust monitoring trends, noting an elevation in total atmospheric dust levels and routine odour monitoring by calibrated staff were reported. No non-compliance reported during the quarter.

Operational updates included increased tunnel composting duration due to seasonal changes in waste volume, ongoing screening shed decommissioning, and planned biofilter maintenance. A detailed biofilter maintenance plan will be provided to Council to enable advance communication with residents and minimise potential community impact.

Action:2 Council to keep residents informed of planned maintenance via newsletter to Bromley mailing list.

7. Questions for Environment Canterbury (ECan) arising from their CLG report.

The report was taken as read.

Increased collaboration between ECan and Christchurch City Council was noted to address overlapping responsibilities for airborne dust and road tracking. Sites with visible loose sediment and road tracking are identified and engaged for dust reduction measures like watering and shaker grids.

An influx of Smelt It complaints, has overwhelmed processing capacity. Methods have been adjusted to differentiate compost characteristics complaints that were bunched with wastewater complaints. Three complaints related to OPP operations were recorded during the last quarter, and none were substantiated.

Residents were encouraged to continue reporting as these continue to be reviewed.

8. Any further questions about resource consent compliance for the organics processing plant.

Discussion focused on upcoming changes to the Resource Management Act and the need for national standards. Concerns were raised by ECan, that the new Natural Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act will eliminate public consultation for consents fitting the spatial plan. It was also noted that the shift elevates private property rights and limits community input on future development. There was consensus that spatial planners must consider reverse sensitivities to avoid placing industrial sites next to residential. ECan stressed that strong advocacy is needed to capture lessons learned and apply them to future land use planning to avoid repeating past mistakes.

Residents highlighted the need for improved transparency around enforcement records and expenditure, and encouraged reflection on past decision making. Greater involvement from health authorities in future environmental and consent processes was also discussed.

9. Bromley Residents lived experience

The group discussed approaches to recording and preserving the community's lived experience. Residents expressed interest in working with the wider community to capture their stories in a meaningful way. Multiple formats were considered including written accounts, recordings, and creative projects, with the aim of creating a lasting record to inform future communities.

It was suggested that young residents be included in the storytelling on their experience growing up during the plant's operation to broaden perspectives.

Action:3 *Gary Watson to contact residents in two weeks to discuss preferred ideas on how to capture the community's lived experience.*

Meeting closed.

Verbatim Minutes

Chair: Carl Pascoe.

Christchurch City Council staff: Alec McNeil, Lynette Ellis, Rory Crawford, Gary Watson.

Christchurch City Council Councillor: Yani Johanson.

Ecogas: Andy Bedford.

Living Earth: Jaco Kleinhans, Ingrid Cronin-Knight.

Environmental Canterbury staff: Marlein Vos, Olivia Hobson

Environment Canterbury Elected members: Deon Swiggs

Community members: Geoffrey King, Andrew Walker, Vickie Walker, Bruce King, Carol Anderson.

Apologies: Abi Velkumar, Joe Davis, Ashley Campbell, Paul McMahon.

Minute taker: Maria O'Neill.

Carl Pascoe (CP): Welcome folks. Welcome to the quarterly meeting of the CLG. Tonight, one of the new introductions from last time will be the piece that's entitled lived experience. It's a standing agenda item. Bromley residents lived experience.

At the last meeting, there was quite a lot of support for the idea of using that time to, if you like, take whatever lesson we have learned or things that have happened that we have gained from the 14 or 15 or 16 years of it that might be helpful to the next community that is facing an issue around a plant or whatever. Not just Hornby, Geoffrey, could apply to many communities because there's been a lot of anguish and stuff and people have learned stuff and looking back, you can always look in the rearview mirror and go, boy, if we'd done it that way, this wouldn't have happened. So we're hoping to get something from that.

Firstly, going to start with apologies. I have two so far, Jo Davies and Paul McMahon. Is there any other apologies that anyone knows about?

Right. Following usual practice, we go around the room, starting here. Who you are and what your role is or position in the community is or whatever, so people know who's here.

introductions

CP: We have the previous minutes, is there anything that isn't accurate? People have read. Bruce?

Bruce King (BK): Yeah, there's one thing on there. It says I said an iron works but it's a line works.

CP: Line, not iron. Yeah, thank you, Bruce. Anything else?

In that case, the minutes can be taken as read and accepted.

All: Yes

CP: Actions from the previous meeting. Bruce, have you been added to the email list?

BK: Yeah, I got it this time.

CP: Good.

Andy, you're here. So that's the action two. PDP monitoring underway.

And I talked about the new standing item agenda. Sorry, the new standing item on the agenda. Now we turn to the next point which is the last three months from the resident's point of view. What have we got? What's the smells been like? What have you folks? What have we seen?

Vickie Walker (VW): Yuck. Different times of the day but not unbearable, but it's still been a bit.

Yeah, so it's not all the time, it's just intermittently, but yeah, can't wait for it to go.

Carol Anderson (CA): Nothing like it used to be. I haven't been affected by probably any more than maybe two, three times.

Maybe a bit more.

I just go inside and shut the door and don't notice it.

BK: Okay, There's a new smell that's around not from the sewage pond. It's like someone smoking something.

CP: And Bruce has not taken up smoking.

BK: I know what it smells like having driven a van full of people smoking it.

CP: So you know what it smells like?

BK: Yeah. It's like someone's smoking fish or something in the morning. But I cannot find where it is as I walk my dog around that area regularly probably six days a week. I have not found where the smell's coming from.

CA: I could probably tell you where it might be coming from, my next door neighbour.

He's got a smoker in the back yard, and I have to keep my doors and windows shut. He does tell me when he's going to use it that I had to keep my doors and windows closed because northeast. And it just blows straight from number four to number two.

He's smoking a lot of stuff.

CP: Anything else from the last three months?

BK: The dust is phenomenal. Still continues.

The dust in the area. I went out into our courtyard yesterday and it was crunching under my feet. And as I was at the community meeting on Sunday at the community barbecue a lot of people were complaining about the increased dust in the area. The extra vehicles that are coming down there with the container park there. And this morning when I was walking down Maces Road for about 20 minutes, I would say I saw 10, 12 container trucks going into that container park. And with Blair's or KB's yard there on Maces Road, the dust that's out on that stretch sometimes was phenomenal. I have complained to ECan about that.

And the one, the rear one, I see that they've actually sealed one of the out drive to try and limit the drop of the dust that goes on the road. But when I was walking the dog down there this morning a van went past and I couldn't see the back of the van. The dust coming off the road from the crappy dirty water that comes out of that yard with the trucks is phenomenal.

Olivia Hobson (OH): I can actually say that our staff attended that site today.

CA: Good. They should be washing the street every day.

Geoffrey King (GK): There's another place that sells soil down Dyer's Road.

When the northwest wind. The dust that goes across the road. You need to put your **language moderated** lights on now in a nor east wind. So they need to have covers over the soil. They've got concrete. They need to have soil over. Sorry covers over the top of each bit. But know he won't do anything.

CP: Try and stick to the organics plant but occasionally issues like this, they affect resident's lives. And one of the things we learn from the experience of the composting plant was if issues had been raised that residents raised early had been dealt too early, a whole lot of things would have not continued to cascade. That's the challenge.

OH: If now would be the time to respond, I can confirm that we have set up a more proactive dust monitoring program within Bromley. It is taking shape. They have also the cross over with CCC and we are working on a joint program where we have already addressed into multiple site owners and we're working and engaging with this. But all your reports do help, and I hear a lot of scepticism, and I understand that and I think we have established at this point that it has been. There have been problems that have been ignored for too long. We did receive the report, and we did respond and we are working at the site now. So we do encourage you to still to let us know.

GK: Thank you. I don't want to be rude, but we've had 18 years of this and 18 years of nothing from ECan. **Language moderated**.

CP: Enough Geoffrey.

City Council Report.

Alec McNeil (AM): So take the report as read. No real changes on site. Jaco will talk to the biofilter maintenance which is coming up in June. We did ask the other consultant, PDP, to follow up on Carol's observation about potential odours early in the morning. So they're running that odour scouting now. So sometimes they're on site from half five in the morning, to do the odour sampling and then they go back later in the day as well. So they're gathering that report now and we'll publish them on the website as normal. But we've really just started that in the last three or four weeks. So you'll get an update on the next quarter. But apart from that, nothing else from us. Everything continuing at an operational level just as it has been in the past.

CP: Any questions? Anything you want to ask? Okay.

Andy from EcoGas is taking you to the movies.

Andy Bedford (AB): This time I'll show a short video. This is some drone footage we put together over the last few weeks. Just to give you a bit of an update on how constructions going and then I'll take some questions and Bruce can probably tell you his experience from this afternoon.

Video played

AB: Only thing I'll add is we're tracking a tiny bit ahead of schedule at the moment. We have just gone through a review of all of the international equipment that's coming, and we've brought forward the ordering of a couple of pieces of equipment just so we don't get caught up with any potential shipping delays because of what's happening in the Middle East. But apart from that, the rest of our plant is either locally manufactured or somewhere in New Zealand manufactured for us. So we're happy with how we're tracking at the moment and the contractors are ahead of schedule. So, Bruce, do you want to pass on any thoughts from your visit today?

BK: I was quite impressed out there how much you've done and the time you've done it in. You can show the CCC a bit about doing a sewage farm in a short time compared with what they've done down in Chatham Road. If you keep up to what you're saying, stay on time, it's going to be impressive.

AB: Yeah, so it is tracking very well and yeah, we'll keep council updated if that changes.

Any questions for me?

VW: I have a question. The tanks, how do they work? Like, are they deep or are they just..

AB: In terms of how the tanks are constructed. They come up. So one of the Tanks. One of the tanks being constructed that I, Bruce, actually got inside and so what they do is they create basically a ring layer and then they hydraulically lift it, put on another ring

layer, hydraulically lift. And so there were two rings in the tanks today and they go up to seven. So they sit at a..

VW: How do you get it out?

AB: Once in use the tanks contents are used for liquids or slurries so we pump that material.

VW: No smell?

AB: Completely enclosed tanks. So no openings. Once it's in our system, there's no openings. When the digestate or the fertilizer at the very end comes out, that goes from our tanks into a truck that is carted off site.

GK: Well, I have a question because when the group from the city council and probably ECan went to Reporoa to view the plant up there. Yep.. They said standing by the area where the, where all the stuff comes in, they could smell it from inside the hall.

AB: Yep, all right, so this won't happen here.

GK: They went then they said they went to the boundary, and they couldn't smell it, but there was nobody at home upstairs because the wind takes the smell. That's our big problem in the northwest and in the southwest. In the northwest and in the southwest, we don't get the odour. We do in the nor'west

BK: Nor' east

GK: Nor'East, sorry. So if there is odour within the building that's producing odour or whatever or any of those things and it's whatever wind it is that'll take people. Also, the consents. Did the consent say the odour doesn't apply for 300 metres?

AB: No, it didn't.

So just to answer your question, around odour. So in four years of operation in Reporoa, we've never had an odour complaint, and we have residents on three of the boundaries that are within 2 or 300 meters of our.. of our boundaries in Reporoa. Reporoa is a food organics plant, solid food scraps type loads and commercial wasted organics. The feedstock is very different. This is 80 to 85% green waste.

CA: It's a food stock that creates the odour, not the garden stuff.

AB: And there's a very low percentage of food organics in this plant in Christchurch, with respect to consents, every bit of our plant has to pipe the air or the odour through a bio filter. That bio filter goes back through the filter as well. There's. There's no discharge when the.. When the door is up. So we have seven doors along the front of that reception hall. Only one can open at a time and when that opens, we have air curtains to keep the odour inside and we run the building at a negative air pressure so that it is sucking the air our way rather than pushing it out.

Lynette Ellis (LE): And it is facing north west

AB: Yeah

LE: So when the nor'west blows, it will just blow back up straight back in the door.

AB: Yeah

CA: Can I just ask a question? You said something before about a large patch of waste, but you said something about organic waste as opposed to food waste. How do you propose to separate them?

AB: So we're not separating them. So with your.. I don't know what colour your bin is. Green bin.

So in that green bin you're allowed to put food waste and green waste?

So that is naturally separated through when it goes through our screening system. So what we're separating is by size, not by type. So any of the larger woodier material from say the green waste transfer stations is then separated to be chipped into a hog fuel and any of the smaller product goes through into our, is pumped into our tanks.

CA: I don't put food waste in my green bin at all now, I just wrap it up and put it in the red bin. Just absolutely stinks.

AB: But Reporoa is 100% food. We are only food waste in the north. In Reporoa there's no garden waste, we don't have any of that garden waste.

CA: So what do you do with your garden waste, it doesn't come to us?

AB: So a lot of the north island councils don't collect green or food scraps. So it's the resident's responsibility.

There are private subscription services where the residents pay to get their garden waste picked up and generally speaking it gets taken to a composting plant around the regions.

CP: Right, any other questions

VW: Insurance, well the last one was underinsured was it not?

GK: It's private business

CP: Alec, do you want to add anything from Council.

AM: No, no, we're happy with the progress. The plant, as we said before, when it opens, it'll open for commissioning over a six month period. So what you'll see is the green trucks will slowly decline coming into Bromley and increase going into Hornby. So that will start around April next year and that'll continue through to the end of September, October and then by October next year the green trucks will stop coming into Bromley and they'll all be going to Hornby.

But it will continue to operate for about another month after the last trucks dump their material, because we'll have to process it in the tunnels. And then once those loads are exported, then that's the end of that as an operation. And then the next stage then is to decommission or decontaminate the site, basically. To clean the building and then we'll get into what the labour is going to be afterwards.

So by October next year. That's the current timeline for the operation to effectively cease.

BK: Only five years too late. That's better than never.

How many CLG's is there?

CP: How many of these (meetings) is there to October next year? About five, I'm going to be sad when that happens.

Yani Johanson (YJ): Thank you. Can you talk a little bit about what different materials people will be able to put in their green bin?

AM: No, nothing changes initially. We'll let the plant get up and running before we consider any additional materials.

And then maybe in year two of the operation we might consider things like flax and cabbage leaves and things like that. But at the moment, the specification for the green waste is no different than it is at the moment.

YJ: The other thing you talked about when we visited the site was the resilience and the redundancy. Do you want to just give, you know, the community a bit of an understanding of, if something goes wrong, extra difficulty, you have to deal with something not working?

AB: There's two parts to what you've just asked Yani. So the first one is around our bugs. So in Reporoa, we've been operating for four years. The bugs are very resilient. They've been fed a whole lot of different stuff in those four years. So we can introduce a new feedstock, and we have no issues around a potential upset. And when we get a bug upset, it just means that much like us, if all of us in the room ate a really hot curry, some of us would be fine, some of us not so much. Okay, so different tanks react differently. And that's why we keep a bit of headroom, so we can cross transfer to cover that here.

With our pre-processing equipment inside the reception hall we have two shredders and screens that can either operate individually or they can operate together. So if one is down for maintenance, the other one can process all of the product that's there. They're designed to process the product with the quantity with one, but we have two. So we have some redundancy in our process with all of our tanks. Every tank has three pumps, and the tank can operate one.

So we have three to allow for more mixing, better transfer. But we can operate every tank one and every tank's pumps are identical. So if one tank loses two pumps, I can take a

pump off another one, push it across. So we have some internal redundancy to make sure that for whatever reason and that, you know, like if one or two goes down on a single tank, we have the ability to make sure our operation continues.

Andrew Walker (AW): Where are your pumps sourced from?

AB: Our pump contractor was just in the report earlier is the same as the one we have in Reporoa. So our transfer pumps are Landia. So there's a New Zealand, there's a Christchurch based contractor and an Auckland based contractor. And then our mixing pump is from a European anaerobic digestion designer but are serviced by a company in Christchurch. I think it might be Lyttleton Engineering.

AW: So everything's available if you need to.

AB: Replacements we have to carry out. So our parent company is Pioneer Energy because they are used to wind, hydro, thermal where you have a very robust asset management plan. So I have to carry a lot of critical spheres. So anywhere where there is either only two points of failure, I have to carry a complete spare component for those so that if the holes of the Swiss cheese line up and both of those two things go down, I have something in the shed to put it in. Yeah, cost us a lot of money to do it but it's part of the accreditation that we have around asset management.

GK: So when do you think you'll be up and running and Bromley close?

AB: What Alec just said, we will be taking small amounts from February, March onwards and every four weeks that Steps up. So divert a few trucks to start with and then it might be 20% of the trucks, 40% of the trucks and we'll slowly. Yeah, so we'll be fully commissioned by October?

BK: 17 months to go

AB: We're hoping to bring that forward but we just, we have to act cautiously because if we get a bug upset during transition.

CP: How many Bruce?

BK: 17

CP: Five meetings. We'll have sausages at the last one.

GK: We can wait. We can wait 18 months; we've waited 18 years.

CP: Nothing more from you Alec?

Any more questions for Andy?

VW: Sorry I've got one. You said about briquettes?

AB: Yeah.

So the easiest way to explain our biomass fuel. So in the north island we have reticulated natural gas. So we, our plant in the north island uses the biogas that we produce, and we upgrade it to biomethane. Basically take away the CO₂ and the nasties and inject it into the gasket. Down here we don't have that luxury. But because of the green waste that's going into our process, we're going to get a lot more fibres out and those fibres look like wet lawn clippings that have been sitting in a pile for a couple of weeks. So we're going to use our biogas to dry those fibres and then we're going to hydraulically press them into a briquette that looks about the size of a Cheerio. And then that Cheerio is a very high quality wood chip.

So it's just under the quality of a small pellet that the likes of Fonterra use at Cloudy Bay. And so we are going to sell that Cheerio or that biomass briquette through a local supplier into the market here in Canterbury. So Christchurch Hospital is going to be one of our plants that is going to be burning want zero waste from our process. That's the whole point.

VW: Does that turn it into a carbon negative situation?

AB: Yeah, when it's taken away, it's a zero emission fuel.

YJ: Anyway, so I was just going to ask on the next steps for the future use of the site, do we give it time?

AM: No change since last time.

CP: Right, so there will be an update in June

AM: Yeah, we'll bring a paper through the system to Council in June/ early July

YJ: It's just that I think the community needs to get visibility of the process and the timing so they can kind of follow the milestones of how. How those decisions are going to be made.

CP: So that will be through Council and Community Board:

AM: Yeah

CP: Right, Jaco

Jaco Kleinhans (JK): Thank you very much.

So, as usual you'll just start with dust. So no complaints during this period that's received related to the site. Dust monitoring is ongoing. We spoke last time about the lab, so nothing like that in this past period. You can though see that the background dust levels is elevated. So looking too Bruce's point that's on the next page, the green line, just a total. The total background gas, sorry dust from the along Dyers Road and the others. If

we look at odour, the odour assessment that's ongoing and still with our staff, it remains within. They still have their calibration, it's still selective. There were no non-compliance reported during this quarter. We then look at site operations. So we're doing 14 days in tunnels at this stage. We expect that to now start increasing as the volumes drops off. See a little bit longer period in tunnels.

The truck loading is still happening daily although the truck movement intervals will start reducing because we've got. There's volume there moving up. The same with the volume reduction and just the ongoing extra carbon is being added to make sure we maintain the C:N ratio and the effect of microbes and no materials being stored outside on site. I spoke about the number of trucks, the decommissioning, that works ongoing and we'll probably pick up a little bit of pace there as we start moving material out of the screening shed and start breaking that down. And then the biofilter. The last point there, last time we said May, just going to push it up to June waiting for those volumes to drop off and then give us time. So quite a bit of work to be done in biofilter that will remove all that. Take all of that off and then replace all of that. Try and do that as quickly as possible. But the contractor's been appointed and they have already started carting carbon in. So what you want to do is make sure you've got enough material there to immediately replace it as you take it up.

CP: So there could be a lift in odour risk when doing this?

JK: It could be as we do work around that you remove the biofilter media. That is possible.

CP: So a big question for me in that is given what we've heard. If you've got a known planned event coming up, would you be able to make sure the residents are informed of the dates of it happening in advance, so they don't get taken by surprise?

JK: Yeah. So what we'll do first is we'll bring enough of the carbon in all the. All the material so we can. We can replace all of that and then we'll give a plan through, a detailed plan through to council to communicate.

VW: How long does it take to totally replace it?

JK: The last time it took us five days to replace all of it. We're doing a little bit more work this time. So for material, I would say two weeks.

VW: Two weeks

JK: Obviously we'll. We'll do it as quickly as possible. I think two weeks is. That's what they gave us at this stage.

LE: Will they leave anything open? But if they take some off and they replace it straight away, will they leave anything? Will it be taken off overnight or will.

JK: It just sort of be through the process?

So that spent material goes through the tunnels.

LE: No, I just mean will they leave anything, Any of the biofiltered. Unfiltered,.

JK: That will happen during the process. So they'll. They'll empty out an area and they'll replace it, but by the time they need to empty the area properly and then start filling back, filling it for that period it will be.

LE: Uncovered. Got it, small portions right through.

JK: Yeah

LE: Because the biofilter is so large they like to do it from there.

JK: Yes

GK: Won't make any difference.

CP: Proof will be in the pudding.

Cool, anything else you want to add? Living Earth

Over to you ECan. Page No of your report please.

Marlein Vos (MV): Page 48.

So I guess the main thing.. I guess the main thing to say from the report was that obviously we've seen a massive influx in complaints over the last few months through the app. And that has caused us to having to adjust our process because we got a volume of a few thousand over the span of a few weeks and it was simply not feasible to process each of those individually. When you think about it, even if it takes 10 minutes, which is quite conservative, for one report to process accordingly, if you've got 4,000 of them, that's not going to. That's going to take weeks, if not months, which is why we kind of batch them.

And I guess one thing that we found out later on when going through the data was that it did result in batching. A few of the complaints that specified only odour that would have compost characteristics were also bunched within all the complaints that were in relation to the wastewater treatment. So for that reason we have not really been able to add wastewater to the odour complaint, only notifying those characteristics over this period. Yeah, again, we apologise for that. We have adjusted our methods after accordingly, but it was literally just a matter of not being able to. Not having capacity to deal with the complaints that came in.

From the analysis of the complaints that we received in terms of odour that there would have been three that were at a relatively close similar to living earth, that only included compost characteristics and none of those have been substantiated.

CP: Questions?

GK: Three thousand complaints over this?

MV: No, no. This was just all. All smells and complaints. So it was pretty much everything that really.

YJ: Thank you. I just want to say thank you for picking up on the dust issue. I think I'm really heartened to hear that you're actually taking that seriously and you're working with council around a more proactive response. I mean, as you can hear, like long overdue from those of us who have been worried about this issue, but grateful that it's happening now. I'm just wondering, is there any further information you can give the community about what you're doing and what the best way to ensure that the dust issue can be taken seriously? And I don't know if you're looking at like additional monitors or obviously you want people to continue to report, but is there anything else that people should be aware of in terms of that campaign or that collaboration that would help you take more enforcement?

MV: Reporting is always the main thing that helps us. And I know, yeah, as I said earlier, I sense a bit of scepticism from understandable. But when we do receive a dust complaint, we've received one over the last period specific to one site and we did attend that on the same day. So it's just to reiterate that we do actually respond to these. I guess what we've been doing so far is pretty much just have a drive around the block and identify sites that visibly have, well, a model loose sediment laying around. Often, you'll see tracking out on the road as well, which is quite often a good indicator.

And that's one of the main reasons as well why we have teamed up with Christchurch City Council, because I'm not sure how, if people are aware, but there's quite a difficult overlap between responsibilities between both councils. So when odours actually, when dust is actually airborne, it is an Environment Canterbury issue, but as soon as it tracks out onto the road, it's part of an infrastructure issue and then refers to CCC. So that's kind of why we have to find that joint approach and why we have to take shared responsibility. Yeah, yeah, absolutely. But that's why we're kind of trying to, okay, as soon as it's in the air, we're out to respond. But when it actually sits on the road and therefore basically creates a risk of becoming airborne as soon as a truck drives over, that is for CCC.

So what we've been doing is both of us, CCC and ECan have been driving through the neighbourhood, have been identifying sites where we don't see a lot of tracking onto the road, because that's quite often also an indicator of dust directly leaving site boundaries. And we've been engaging with these site owners and looking at how we can minimise this, both, like watering down sites, maybe adding shaker grids that might prevent further tracking onto the road, all those types of things. And that is currently in process. And like I think mentioned earlier today that we actually happen to attend that site today as well and identify that as potentially a cause for increase.

YJ: Can I suggest one learning from this group for 18 years is that ECan had the ability to review the consent, but never did. I think if you're looking at these companies who, like, have got track records of infringement or, you know, have been issued previous abatement notices, I would just hope that, or just encourage that Council and ECan actually look at the resource consents, look at the conditions, review them and make sure that.. That they're being met and that if they're inside us, if they're insufficient, that you actually put new conditions in, if you can, to mitigate the harm that's been caused to the community. Because for so many years, as was said, you know, this group around the organics farm, he can never review the consent when it had the power to do so.

And the community faced a lot of harm as a result. So I really appreciate the work that you're doing. I just wanted to pass that request on because I think it's inherent that people don't get away with causing harm to the community any longer than they should.

CP: Is Deon going to respond? It's also good Deon to see the elected reps back

Deon Swiggs (DS): Yes, I totally hear that.

And that is difficult. Something to take into the future. We were looking at compliance now. Compliance is likely to move into a centralised, Wellington based compliance operator in the near future. This is going to be very interesting, especially as the RMA will not allow for public engagement and resource consensus in the near future as well. So this will be a very interesting place for us all to navigate through. But one from Yani as well from the other side is that we need to be thinking when we move into spatial planning, reverse sensitivities where land use consenting is. So, you know, I'm not trying to find fault anywhere here, but we. There's lessons to be learned and one of the lessons here in this space is the reverse sensitivities of residential and heavy industrial.

And we need to be very careful when we're doing the land use planning that there doesn't happen in other parts of the city that we've got.

CP: Can you say that first bit in simple plain English, reversing whatever thing.

DS: Reverse sensitivity is where you put a big, you know, you put a big, heavy, smelly, dusty activity right next to where somebody lives and when you do your district plan, you put a line down a map and you say that side you can do that and this side you can't. It's very tricky to then try and manage the through consent conditions when it's almost nearly impossible because you've got that inherent tension that's always going to exist. So we need to all do things better and I hope that the new system that we have moving forward will allow that to happen. But they are going to be for short sediment. We need to be very.

CA: I may be wrong with this, but can anybody here on council or wherever tell me if it's still something that truck companies are required to do if they have a load of shingle or anything that's likely to cause dust, Are they still required to cover their trucks?

AB: No

CA: I know they had to do it when they were coming through the Lyttleton Road tunnel, they had to cover anything that could have created or caused dust. They were required to cover their trucks in the tunnel during, you know, traveling through the tunnel.

DS: Only if it is hazardous material.

CA: No, this was just purely like if you're driving down the highway or the motorway behind a truck that's loaded with shingle and stuff and you've just got dust flowing.

DS: That could certainly because under the RMA you're not allowed to emit dust. But how you're supposed to prevent that from happening.

CA: But anyway, you know, I mean, I see trucks going illegally down St. John street every day.

BK: Yes. A certain person rings up ones that come and put things illegally in and they get told off. Like, we had a tiny house put on a section next door to us, and someone complained that somebody had been down there and had legal business to do it, didn't they?

Carol?

CA: I didn't do anything like this.

CP: Okay, we're not going. We're not. No, no, hang on. We're not going into. No, we're not going. We're not going into the neighbourhood.

So are there any other questions.

BK: Right, yes, I'd like to have a talk there about the resource consent. The first given to Living Earth, it said there on the 30th of June, I think, was the review date. And I actually presented that in the ECan council at least twice, if not three times, that they've never done it. I virtually got laughed off talking about it. And that's how we got treated.

And while I've been looking at the resource consent, this resource consent, people who issue the resource consent of their own place, which is absolutely **language moderated** ridiculous, as this plant has disproved that it doesn't work, they meant to place their own consent. Now that consent down there says no dust or odour off the property and it's been doing it virtually every day that it's been operating. And when you say that, tell the people who are meant to be policing it, oh, that doesn't happen. They call us. Virtually lies to our face. So it's a load of BS. And I definitely, if you go back on record, when the commissioners were in there, I presented that case about the date and.

Yeah, and another time I presented it to the council about why aren't they reviewing this where it says every year it can be reviewed and if they did not meet the conditions, they could have their operating license rejected and not once would anyone pick it up on it.

So I hope that the ECan, this takes a bit out of the City Council people now who have changed their ideas and do agree with us how We've been treated poorly over the years and not like ECan, still taking its stance that things don't happen. Yep.

CP: So there's a. One of them. You've taken us nicely into the next piece.

GK: The way we've been treated by ECan because they can't do anything properly. Has been abysmal.

CP: One of the things that I think is about the lived experience, learning stuff, and it's still happening, lived experience, learning stuff is that if you want to retain credibility as an agency or as an institution, if you. If you have an enforcement requirement inside an act or inside a consent, do it. That's been at the heart of much of the anger and frustration.

GK: It's still happening

CP: We see an end of this project on this side of town.

When you're looking back and over year 14 or 15, 16, 18 years of this and you go back right at the beginning, and you were looking at it today, what is the first learning you took out of this that you would say, if we're doing it again, do this, don't do this.

GK: Move it out into the country away from everybody.

BK: I would like to see that more community involvement was taken before the consent was even talked about. Sorry. As in the stages have been talked about. Because when this original consent was issued, only 12 people objected. And what I find disgusting is that no one can find my original complaints my wife and I put in, and no one can find the letter I got sent back. So I find the disgusting bookkeeping of what's happened. So there was my wife and myself who did the complaint, the people who owned the storage unit, the husband and wife. So there's four of us.

CA: I didn't know about it.

BK: See, there's another community, never knew about it because it wasn't talked about or discussed where it was going to affect. And that is disgusting. And it's been treated the same way all the way through by the various CEOs in ECan, the various chairman of the board. It's just a joke. Sorry. It was how it was once run when the commissioners were in charge.

GK: Lies, deceit and deception. And it's still going on.

CP: So one of the things, Bruce, from what you're saying, is that what I hear in the. At the beginning of a project, it is an oppositional process, almost Right. Community objectives versus proposes versus whatever. If you actually work collectively? Would that have changed it if you'd felt like your voice was part of the mix of the planning? Consenting.

CA: As long as they listen.

DS: Listen, can I offer a bit of caution?

And I don't mean to be the bearer of negativity here, but the Resource Management act is changing. You're saying that there's some learnings here and they're learning that might and I take these on board. But in two, three months' time we will have a new Resource Management act which will be the Natural Built Environment act and the Spatial Planning Act. Under the Planning act, there will be no community consultation. And so we can, we can say we are learning lessons here. We are learning lessons. Don't get me wrong, don't get me wrong, I'm hearing this, but our communities across New Zealand need to be very clear that from once the plans are in place, which might be another year's time, who knows?

But once those plans are in place, when the Ecogas wants to go and put something down in H, if it's consented under the plan or if it's allowed under the plan, we won't need to go to the community for consultation. That's private property rights first. And if it fits within the envelope of the land use, which is where those lines of the draw, the community won't have an option to object.

So this is where coming to the next. So we need to be saying the lessons that are being learned in this process. We, when our council and the City council and other councils do the spatial plan, we need to take these lessons to the spatial plan committees and workshops there to say, be mindful of where you put things and make sure that you don't have the inherent tensions which we are experiencing with the plant here. That's about the limit of what we will be able to do. We need to be careful and we need to make that very loud and clear to who's on the spatial planning committees.

But that's where we need to take these lessons and write these up in an appropriate way so that they are lived and they are real. Because those plans, when they are drawn up, will be the enduring plans that exist for quite some time. So caution, but there's opportunities there. The way that we take these lessons and present them into the future. So I just wanted to put that on the table. That's what this group would add valued into that next step.

BK: According to Nicola Willis today the government's going to save money by using AI. So there's your answer.

CP: I think this. I take your point Deon that there is at the regulatory, legislative, structural level all these things go on. There is another level that existed in this place and that's being a good neighbour. Don't think about just the rules and regulations but if your Ecogas guy for example or an operator being a good neighbour if you have issues, if you had started much earlier potentially for the community you might have got some different things happening above and beyond the regulatory stuff Regardless of that RMA act.

CA: Being changed and everything else surely the council and ECan or whatever is going to happen. Surely, they can all be as Carl said, better neighbours and think about the community before they just charge ahead and go oh, we'll just chuck that over there, that'll be fine Bruce so.

BK: We're going to end up like the fertiliser plant out of Hornby was it originally all the neighbours around there used to get their windows replaced every five years because of the rotting away. We're going to end up with things like that again around the place and the best organised people I've seen about going against the consent were those from Prebbleton who got these tyre shredding parts stopped. They were really organised because they had people with money behind us instead of. They weren't the lower socio economic area because those places when people were moving out there were worth money because I helped do the subdivision out there so I know a bit about that area Right.

So we are going to end up with those days again like Kempthorne Prosser replacement windows and they were used to do something about the paint and the iron on the houses. So we're going to end up with big flights like that again so we're going to becoming say more constitutions of industry around the place.

DS: There's going to be some pretty tight health limits, environmental limits within the but they are all to be delivered and that's where the learnings from this and everything that's gone by needs to feed into those processes.

BK: We've got health limits and stuff under a new act that was put in about five years ago and they won't even **language moderated** enforce it down there about the way the dust and the way things come off that property. No dust the latest thing that became the Health and Safety Organization, was it? Geoffrey, you tried to get the people to come down and talk to us and they wouldn't come. They won't. They don't even enforce those rules. So what's it going to be like when you go, at least here we could complain to you.

GK: When it's a **language moderated** government, we can't do anything. And what are you people doing about the 204 Environment act and the 215 work safe?

BK: Actually, that's the one I was thinking of.

GK: You're supposed to police that. But since this failure happened in 2009, we've had two CEOs.

AM: I just wonder if we want to bring Gary into the conversation about the project.

CP: We were saving him towards the end.

YJ: Just, just before you move on, can I just respond to the point that Deon made? Because I guess I'm unique in that I'm the only councillor that was on council when this decision was made in 2007. And, you know, council basically delegated to staff the decision between going out to the country or going here. They didn't have any odour

monitoring, any odour modelling around the impact on local residents like that to inform that decision. And the documents that we've discovered since the contract was awarded had backed that up.

When the consultant was raising these concerns, there was a waste management plan that was consulted on and I think one of the key lessons has to be that council needs to be very clear around its proposals when it consults on strategies and implementation plans and they need to involve the community in those processes and decisions, not do it in secret and then dump it on a community when it's too late to change anything. And the other thing was that in the report that went to council, it said very clearly that the. And I'll just find the wording, but basically the key attributes of the processing contract are contractors responsible for meeting resource consent conditions, which never happened.

No accountability, no liability, no recognition. So the contract and the legal advice that council gets around these contracts needs to be reviewed because this was set up to fail from the start without any clear accountability to those who are responsible for the risk and the harm that happened.

LE: Can I add to that? Sorry, you know, to what Yani says, I don't just keep up agreeing with him. There is, you know, there's still accounts of requirements to understand what the community impacts are. I think we've moved a long way, and we do want to be good neighbours, so we do need to talk to you and we understand that. The other thing I'd like to see us being better at is better at writing in whatever form it will be in the future. There will always be something that gives us conditions to work under and how do we write them better so that they are achievable, measurable and that everyone knows and less woolly, if that makes sense. So there are a lot more. The boundaries are a lot clearer.

And I think some of this. I'm really hoping some of this conversation will help us think better about how we do that in the future as well. For all sorts of projects, not just a Bromley composting site.

Gary Watson (GW): I'm on the new community liaison for the wastewater plant. And part of me being here. It's a new role. I think I'm doing all right at the moment. Wouldn't you say Vickie.

VW: Oh, not bad.

GW: But talking to Abi, who was at the last meeting, you all talked about how you would like the story recorded or how you would like the process done. So I've really come tonight just to have a listen to the ways you think that would best done and give some feedback on what it is. What I would say is we want it to be your story and we want it to be so. And when I say useful, I mean it's useful for you and it's useful for us. And so we're interested. I'm interested. What that looks like is that. And let me throw some strange

things out. After the earthquake, we had a photo booth, and people went in and told their story and those were collated and it became like that.

There's ways where we can bring people in to hear your story, have your story written. I'm always a little nervous about paper. It can, you know, park on bookshelf a little easy, but it's really what you want.

We're interested. I can't say we're going to do exactly what you want at the moment, because I don't know what that is, but it's your story and the best way to get it across. If we think about the site, is there something on the site? And I don't mean a memorial, because that looks like someone died, but. But a reflection about the journey you've been through. Is there other ways to do this? So really, it's. I'm here to hear what you're thinking. It's come from you, the idea. I'm just Interested in what that looks like.

CP: Geoffrey could be the leading film star. You could.

GW: He knows a fair bit about rugby. I've been following his comments. So it's all right. You can do on the rugby.

GW: So building on that, what sort of medium, what sort of, you know, is it that works for you, are you comfortable with. Do you want to have it? Just be able to talk and do a recording device. You want to be filmed?

CA: I don't do that. I like writing things down.

GW: You like to write things down? Would you like someone to help you if they could write what you were saying to them?

CA: I think I can do this; I can do that.

GW: So you'd like to write your own story?

CA: Yeah, pretty much. With the earthquake. Yeah, it was actually kind of uncomfortable because I got a very good space at that time. But where did they keep those recordings?

CP: At the University

GW: The other thing, I guess is you're the core group and you have been a core group for a long time. There's a lot of other people in that community that we need to talk to as well, to understand what everyone's journey was. And then there's also the journey around this meeting and how it started, where it's got to, how it's been. So there's lots of journeys in here, but I am really interested to find out what the best way for you to deliver what you want to deliver that will make you feel like you've been listened to and that we can learn from. Geoffrey, you must have some ideas.

GK: There wouldn't be a book big enough.

The thing that really annoys me is the malfeasance from those at ECan and the City Council in the past. Since **name redacted** got involved, it's been good. He's been good. **name redacted** been good. **name redacted** been good, **name removed** been good.

GW: Those are really good to hear, though, because that's all part of the journey as well.

GK: One of the elements is that there are some, regardless of the institution, it's been down to some individuals who happen to occupy a role for a period of time.

GW: Comes back to your question, though, what medium you don't have to answer it tonight. But if we put it up as a question for next time, if you could think about how you want to have your stories multiple because they are multiple recorded, kept as a history lesson.

And I might want to come back to you before the next meeting because I don't want to lose it. I don't want it to. To be after this is over. Yeah.

GK: **name removed** mentioned the name **name redacted**. And after she left, she did exactly what the people at the top, the woman at the top at present and **name redacted** before her said what to say.

BK: That's right. You can actually find your story. It's recorded on the City Council. She gave a 10 minute thing, something of how poorly we've been treated by both the city council and ECan over the years. And she'd actually told me long before she said that her hands were tied and that we're fighting for a good cause, but she couldn't do anything because her hands were tied.

CP: So there's a recording of that, would it be useful to have it played at the next meeting?

BK: It would because some of what I've said at the City council is playing around today on **language moderated** Facebook again.

GK: And here's another name, **name redacted**. He was there. He was on our side. He understood. He left. Went down to the Invercargill to the regional council. Now he's back here doing exactly what **name removed** did.

BK: Yep. He couldn't trust them as far as you could throw them because the Chair of ECan changed and when **name redacted** was there, she was the one that appointed **name removed** to do the investigation for us. And when she went, the things changed again. So that's what happens now. I haven't had any dealing with you, Deon, so I can't say that. But you know, that was what happened in those times. Jenny was very approachable and that's what she appointed Paul. And then ECan spent a fortune over those lockdown times. There were people flying down from the north island and spending a week out in our street. And I know because I used to go and talk to them and they spent probably three or four weeks with a **language moderated** sniffer out in the Bromley in the Bayswater Reserve. And the guy was trying to tell me how it worked. And I could tell

him how it worked because I knew more about it than he did. So that's the type of stuff we've had from people trying to bullshit us. They know the technology and they don't know that the people out in the world worked with it before.

GW: Ok, so it's definitely got a theme.

And I actually had it before I got here but I'll let it be. I guess really what I'm. What if you can have a think about and probably in a couple of weeks, I might throw you all an email just to see how we would do this how. How you would feel pleased to know and carol you've talked about writing your own story. That's one option and we could compile that stuff.

The other thing I've seen used in local communities that's really effective is actually like woman crafting and doing embroidery and other things. So most people go to digital and sound and written word. But different kinds of lens of grading and capturing can also give you a visual means but also include legal.

CP: And we have a verbatim record of all these minutes over years.

GK: This is how corrupt the whole system is. The city councillors ECan councillors went by bus, City Council bus, red bus to the OPP to smell and understand what we're complaining about. Somebody from ECan rang up Living Earth and said the councillors are coming. Turn everything off.

So they turned all the pumps off and the air councillors get out there's no smell. All right. And they wonder eh.

And that was a regular occurrence.

I don't bother ringing up and posting a complaint there because a. It would take four hours for somebody to get there. And the **language moderated** smells of Invercargill. The other thing. They would ring up Living Earth and tell them to turn the stuff off. We're coming out to investigate the odour.

And this is what we had put up with okay. For 18 **language moderated** years.

LE: I think I just want to add in the context of new factory planning and one of the things to consider and I've seen this play out in other locations but you. You end up just having people, you know neighbouring properties. What happens is that on the neighbour properties you put a covenant on. That doesn't necessarily mean that actually for human health it's the right thing for someone to live there.

And in terms of odour and impacts of people there's context around from a planning perspective around whether or not and someone I had a community member say to me saying that even though there was a covenant on it that place should have been red

zoned. That was the way they felt about it. And so you just need to check with what's coming. There's also the consideration about how you make it. Even though you can put a covenant on it for the health impacts.

CP: Coming to you to wrap this up.

GW: So thank you. So I'm going to take a photo of all the. How do we record all the emails? I'll come back to everyone. Give me two weeks. Well, I'll give you two weeks if we can get some idea of how you would like this recorded. I know what you want recorded. I'm very clear on that. And then we'll have to do some work with some other people who aren't in the room around getting their story as well. I'll be really interested to talk to someone who's 18 or 20 now, growing up through this whole thing, you know, and even to have, you know, a conversation with someone like that, not. Not excluding what you've been through, but for a young person, how it's been for them. Can't play outside. So. But it's more how we do it.

CA: Some people have moved. Not all my kids are grown up, so

GW: Give me two weeks.

CP: If you wanted the community board session to follow this, you know, to talk about dust or whatever. Is there anything else that anyone wants to raise before we call it over?

BK: Climate effect and environment effect that's going through there. They're going to make it illegal to go back and do. Can this virtually come under that. Because it's to do with our. A living environment. So therefore it can be virtually chucked out now.

And we're just stuck with having to put up with the crap Again.

DS: I understand that for various activities there will be a standard that is expected to be met for that activity and that standard. So at the moment conditions are individualised to each individual activity, whereas the intention is to come up with here's the standard that needs to be met and those would protect human health, those would protect the other waterways.

But there'd be a standard and then. And then for the local site it's customised. If there's extensions, that's my understanding of what it's proposed.

But they require very robust national environmental standards and national policy standards. Anyway, the one thing from this that would be quite useful is an advocacy piece on improving the NES or the national environmental standards or air quality because they are woefully inadequate. They're 20 years old. They do not. They're not fit for purpose. I don't want our compliance people to do half the compliance that we need them to do. I'm pushing hard to get that redone from the Ministry for Environment which will now be another Ministry's name. But we have to be at. If this issue is to not through

the new planning system and if we're not going to see repeats of this, that standard for national environmental, standard for air quality has got to be improved.

We've got a whole lot of World Health Organisation standards that have come out since and have come out very recently. This is not just odour but it's also for dust. But the tools that any compliance, whether it's regional council and unitary council or a centralised thing from Wellington, the first standards are that.

BK: A few years ago there was a person appointed to do all the environmental dust in this country, and she wrote a report and she did an interesting presentation at Lincoln that Hope. Lincoln College that Geoffrey and I went out to. And of that report I have not seen a lot of the stuff that was meant to be recommended actually put into effect, into force. So why do we have these things done? They're a waste of money and she spent a year doing it and probably six months writing a report and all her crew and nothing ever comes. And it was very particular about the particulate size of the dust in the atmosphere and that comes from that plant every day.

DS: This is where we need to. We need to add that national level when there's new plants having things come through. We really do need to work on that. This will speak community voices really.

YJ: I mean the irony is that the government's forced us to chlorinate a beautiful water and yet something like this can go on for nearly 20 years and they've done nothing about it.

But I think there is a question around the Medical Office of Health New Zealand

And then there's also a lesson that needs to apply to decision makers. I've counted out about five or six decision points that council had to do something more around addressing this issue.

Remember the 2015 BECA report, the post-earthquake repairs, the initial decision and then the decision to not move it but to put a roof on it. That didn't go because of community. Yeah. So I think there's also a reflection that needs to happen from a decision making point of view that, you know, what do we learn from that decision?

CP: Bruce, you get the last word.

BK: What I would like is ECan and the City Council to present to the people in this area that have been mainly. And trying to force the enforcement of the act and.. And the consent. The money that ECan and the City Council have spent. Now, they had a guy from Australia that came over here during the lockdown, did a report on everything. Beca, report was done twice and both those Beca reports, the first one was done on suggestions that I made to Carlene Edwards. All that money that's been spent, which would probably run to probably two or three million dollars, if not more. I would like that to get given back to the people who have been trying here to make the place liveable for the people.

Just to share, I know that having those people come from Auckland every week would have probably cost three or four thousand dollars, if not more. And they came down here for weeks and weeks. And then they had the guy from Australia that flew over in the lockdown periods. What did he cost that held in hotels in Christchurch in the lockdown period? You know, millions of dollars that could have gone. Shutting the **language moderated** thing down and shifting it somewhere else and we had Daniel that sat across from us and said no, we're not.

GK: What about the pro. Because it was not insured. Yeah. Earthquake.

CP: Anyway, thank you, folks. See you in three months. Yeah, look forward to it and think through how to keep it all recorded. Thank you very much. Have a nice evening, folks.

END.