

Friday, 20 September 2024

He hui e whakahaeretia nei e Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga
Administered by Hastings District Council
Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting

Kaupapataka

Agenda

Te Rā Hui:
Meeting date: **Friday, 20 September 2024**

Te Wā:
Time: **1.00pm**

Te Wāhi:
Venue: **Council Chamber
Ground Floor
Civic Administration Building
Lyndon Road East
Hastings**

Te Hoapā:
Contact: **Democracy and Governance Services
P: 06 871 5000 | E: democracy@hdc.govt.nz**

Te Āpiha Matua:
Responsible
Officer: **Waste & Data Services Manager - Martin Jarvis**

ŌMARUNUI REFUSE LANDFILL JOINT COMMITTEE HEADS OF AGREEMENT – Terms of Reference

The Heads of Agreement for the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee have presented with minor amendments for Council’s consideration on 8 December 2022 and are incorporated into the Committee & Rural Community Board Register of Delegations.

1.	Parties	Hastings District Council and Napier City Council (the Councils)
2.	Nature of Relationship	A Joint Committee between the Councils who already own a property at Ōmarunui as tenants in common in the following shareholding percentages for refuse disposal purposes: Hastings District Council: 63.68% Napier City Council: 36.32% The Councils recognise the connection of Ngāti Pārau Hapū to the site.
3.	Objectives	To jointly develop and operate generally for the benefit of the Councils a refuse disposal facility (including any ancillary activities) in compliance with resource and regulatory consents.
4.	Participation of each Council	Each Council shall participate on the basis of the following shareholding percentage: Hastings District Council: 63.68% Napier City Council: 36.32% (subject to any specific provisions following) The Councils also provide for one representative from Ngāti Pārau Hapū to be a voting member of this Joint Committee.
5.	Joint Committee	
5.1	Omarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee (Joint Committee):	This Committee shall comprise four elected members of the Hastings District Council and two elected members of the Napier City Council and one representative from Ngāti Pārau Hapū or the alternates of those members and an alternate when acting in the place of a member shall be deemed to be a member. The functions of this Joint Committee shall be to determine policies to ensure the objectives are achieved and to monitor the implementation of those policies by obtaining reports from the Facility Manager or any other persons involved in the refuse disposal operation.
5.2	Administering Authority	The Hastings District Council shall be the Administering Authority. It shall provide technical, financial and secretarial services and shall be the employing authority for staff required in the administration and conduct of the refuse disposal operation. The Administering Authority shall make any information required by the Joint Committee available to that Committee.
6.	Joint Committee General Powers	<p>1.1 Subject to Clause 6.2 the general powers of the Joint Committee shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Except as provided in Clause 6.3 all such powers as shall be necessary to develop and operate the refuse disposal facility in compliance with the resource and regulatory consents already obtained including, if necessary, the power to seek further resource and regulatory consents. To construct buildings, purchase and dispose of plant, equipment and materials. Arrange insurance cover to ensure that there is comprehensive insurance in respect of the establishment and operation of the refuse disposal facility. To indemnify any Council or Council representative acting on behalf of the Councils pursuant to this agreement in connection with the development or operation of the refuse disposal operation after the execution hereof. To fix and recover fees and charges payable by landfill users. The licensing of users. To recommend to the Councils the raising of loans. For the purpose of loan raising the ‘Administering Authority’ shall undertake all loan raising on behalf of the Councils. To enter into contracts within the estimates it being acknowledged by each of the Councils for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002 that the Joint Committee shall be delegated power to enter into any contract limited to such an amount as may be fixed by the Councils from time to time unless the prior written approval of each Council shall have been obtained. To use any part of the Ōmarunui property not required for refuse disposal for any lawful purpose including leasing thereof. Such further specific powers as may be delegated to it as agreed by the Councils. <p>1.2 The Joint Committee shall operate within budgets approved by the Councils. In the event that over expenditure is anticipated or incurred the Joint Committee shall immediately report that fact to the Councils.</p> <p>1.3 The powers delegated to the Joint Committee shall not entitle that Committee to sell or otherwise dispose of on behalf of any Council any asset owned by that individual Council or to sell the Ōmarunui land or any other land administered by the Joint Committee for refuse disposal purposes.</p>

	1.4	Subject to Clause 6.2 and 6.3 all decisions made by the Joint Committee pursuant to its delegated powers shall without confirmation of the Councils bind each of the Councils as if it had been done in the name of each Council.
7. Joint Committee Procedural Matters	7.1	Each member or the alternate of such member shall have one vote.
	7.2	The members shall elect a Chair and Deputy Chair.
	7.3	Quorum at meetings shall be four elected members including at least one elected member from each Council. The parties note that this conflicts with the provisions in clause 30 (9) (b) of schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. To avoid any possible doubt the parties shall operate the committee based on the specific requirements in this agreement at all times.
	7.4	All meetings may be attended by officers of the Councils but officers shall not be entitled to vote.
	7.5	Meetings may be requisitioned by any two elected members who shall state the nature of the business and the Administering Authority shall convene a meeting (giving notice of the business) and Councils shall ensure that at least one of their elected members attends.
	7.6	Annual meetings shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year and the business of such meeting shall include the financial accounts for the previous year.
	7.7	Budget estimates for the following financial year shall be prepared and supplied to the Councils no later than 31 January in each year for their approval.
	7.8	Meeting procedures shall be in accordance with NZS 9202: 2003, or such other version of standing orders as mutually agreed between the parties, except to the extent that specific provision is contained herein and is not contrary to law.
8. Joint Committee Financial Provisions	8.1	The Joint Committee shall provide financial and management accounting records and reports which provide sufficient detail to enable the committee and the Councils to assess performance of each separate business activity within the Landfill.
	8.2	The administering authority shall circulate a draft budget prior to the meeting at which the Joint Committee is to consider the estimates for recommendation to the Councils.
	8.3	Surpluses and deficits shall be received and borne by the Councils in the following shareholding percentage: Hastings District Council: 63.68% Napier City Council: 36.32%
	8.4	All amounts payable by each Council shall be paid within one calendar month of notification of the amount payable. If any Council shall consistently fail to make payments as required by this clause the Joint Committee may impose a penalty on the defaulting Council which shall be met by such Council.
9. Duties of the Individual Councils	9.1	To comply with the resource and regulatory consents relating to the operation.
	9.2	The Councils shall make bylaws to ensure the efficient operation of the refuse disposal facility and set and adopt fees and charges and licensing procedures.
	9.3	To establish and operate transfer stations and to adopt charges in relation to such transfer stations.
10. Changes in Participation	1.1	The establishment and operating costs of the Councils up to the time of any Change in Participation shall be safeguarded as far as possible.
	1.2	The addition or withdrawal of any party shall require agreement of the Councils.
11. Staff Appointments	11.1	Where any Council is involved in the provision of staff or services, such Council shall be reimbursed for the cost of such persons or services.
	11.2	It is recognised that it will be desirable for the staff required to be employed by one of the Councils.
12. Facility Manager	12.1	The Facility Manager appointed by the Administering Authority shall be a suitably qualified person who shall report to the Joint Committee and attend its meetings and will be responsible for the day to day operations at the landfill site.
	12.2	During any further development the Facility Manager, as appointed by the Administering Authority, shall be considered to be the officer responsible for all development activities unless otherwise directed by the Joint Committee.
13. Secretarial Services	13.1	Secretarial and Accounting services shall be provided by the Administering Authority.
	13.2	The functions to be fulfilled shall include: a) Convening of meetings. b) Keeping of minutes. c) Preparation of estimates and accounts. d) Keeping the Joint Committee informed. e) The recovery of fees and charges. f) Such further specific powers as may be delegated by agreement of the Councils.
	13.3	All documents to be signed on behalf of the Joint Committee shall be signed by the Chair (or in his absence one elected member of that Committee) together with such other person authorised by the Administering Authority.

14. Commencement and Duration	14.1	This Joint Committee shall commence from the date of this agreement and shall continue thereafter until terminated by agreement of the Councils.
	14.2	On termination of this agreement the assets shall be applied, first, in the repayment of all debts, second, in the repayment of any capital contributions, advances or sums of money that may have been made or may be due to any of the Councils, third, the surplus, if any, shall be distributed between the Councils in the following shareholding percentage: Hastings District Council: 63.68% Napier City Council: 36.32%
	14.3	In the event of a short-fall on the termination of this agreement the Councils shall contribute in the following shareholding percentage: Hastings District Council: 63.68% Napier City Council: 36.32% To such short-fall, with any necessary adjustments being made to reflect any amounts due by or to any individual Council at termination.
15. Arbitration	15.1	In the event of any dispute relating to this agreement the same shall be referred to arbitration pursuant to the Arbitration Act 1996 and each Council who is a party to the dispute shall be entitled to appoint an Arbitrator.
	15.2	The Arbitrators before embarking on the Arbitration shall appoint an umpire whose decision shall be final in the event that the Arbitrators are unable to agree.
16. Substitution	16.1	This agreement substitutes and revokes the previous Heads of Agreement dated 4 October 2010.

Friday, 20 September 2024

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council

Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting

Kaupapataka

Agenda

Heamana

Chair: (Vacancy)

Deputy Chair: Councillor Chad Tareha (NCC)

Nga mema o te Komiti

Committee

Members:

Councillors Ana Apatu, Kellie Jessup, Simon Nixon and Kevin Watkins (HDC)

Councillor Richard McGrath (NCC)

Councillor Hana Montaperto-Hendry (HDC Alternate)

Councillor Nigel Simpson (NCC Alternate)

Ngāti Pārau Appointee: - Alice Hughes

Ngāti Pārau Alternate: - Darren Tareha

Tokamatua:

Quorum:

4 - including at least one elected member from each Council

Apiha Matua

Officer Responsible:

Waste and Data Services Manager - Martin Jarvis

Te Rōpū Manapori me te

Kāwanatanga

Democracy &

Governance Services

Christine Hilton (Ext 5633)

Te Rārangi Take

Order of Business

Apologies – Ngā Whakapāhatanga

- 1.0** An apology from Councillor Watkins has been received.

2.0 *Conflict of Interest – He Ngākau Kōnatunatu*

Members need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to scan the agenda and assess their own private interests and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be perceptions of conflict of interest.

If a Member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the relevant item of business and withdraw from participating in the meeting. If a Member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the General Counsel or the Manager: Democracy and Governance (preferably before the meeting).

It is noted that while Members can seek advice and discuss these matters, the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

Confirmation of Minutes – Te Whakamana i Ngā Miniti

- 3.0** Minutes of the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting held Friday 21 June 2024. *(Previously circulated)*

-
- 4.0** **Election of Chair** **9**

-
- 5.0** **Wairoa District Council Solid Waste Disposal** **11**

-
- 6.0** **Health, Safety & Wellbeing Update** **19**

-
- 7.0** **Ōmarunui Joint Landfill Annual Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2024** **25**
-

8.0 Minor Items – *Ngā Take Iti*

9.0 Urgent Items – *Ngā Take Whakahihiri*

Friday, 20 September 2024

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council: Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting

Te Rārangi Take

Report to Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee

Nā:
From: **Christine Hilton, Democracy and Governance Advisor**

Te Take:
Subject: **Election of Chair**

1.0 Purpose and summary - *Te Kaupapa Me Te Whakarāpopototanga*

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to draw members' attention to the need to elect a Chair for the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee.
- 1.2 Now that the vacancy that had existed in the Committee has been filled, following the retirement of Cr Ann Redstone last year, there is a full membership to enable an election to be held.
- 1.3 The Waste and Data Services Manager will assume the Chair at the commencement of the meeting and call for nominations for the position of Chair of the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee.
- 1.4 The newly appointed Chair will then assume Chairmanship of the meeting.

2.0 Recommendations - *Ngā Tūtohunga*

- A) That the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee receive the report titled Election of Chair dated 20 September 2024.
- B) That be appointed as Chair of the Ōmarunui Refuse landfill Joint Committee for the remainder of the 2022-2025 triennium.

Attachments:

There are no attachments for this report.

Friday, 20 September 2024

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council: Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting

Te Rārangi Take

Report to Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee

Nā:
From: **Martin Jarvis, Waste and Data Services Manager**

Te Take:
Subject: **Wairoa District Council Solid Waste Disposal**

1.0 Executive Summary – Te Kaupapa Me Te Whakarāpopototanga

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee that the Wairoa District Council (WDC) is seeking approval to dispose of up to 4,000 tonnes per annum of their solid waste at the Ōmarunui Landfill on a short-term basis. The length of term being sought is up to three years.
- 1.2 The length of term being sought will enable the WDC to complete the consultation and decision-making process with regard to the future of the Fraser Street Landfill. A period of three years will also enable the WDC to re-apply for consents and construct a new cell should the decision be made to continue landfilling at the site.
- 1.3 Out of district loads received at the Ōmarunui Landfill typically tend to be one-off loads and have mostly involved special wastes (i.e. asbestos). The most significant acceptance of “out of district” waste occurred in 2002 when the landfill agreed to accept Gisborne District Council waste for a period of time. During that period 11,000 tonnes of waste were transported from Gisborne to Ōmarunui.
- 1.4 This report concludes by recommending that the Committee approve the request from the WDC to accept up to 4,000 tonnes per annum of their solid waste for a period of up to three years, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, Hastings District Council to complete negotiations on mutually agreed terms and conditions for accepting this waste.

2.0 Recommendations - Ngā Tūtohunga

- A) That the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee receive the report titled Wairoa District Council Solid Waste Disposal dated 20 September 2024.
- B) That the Committee approve the request from the Wairoa District Council to accept up to 4,000 tonnes per annum of their solid waste at the Ōmarunui Landfill for a period of up to three years.
- C) That the Chief Executive, Hastings District Council (administrating authority of the Ōmarunui Landfill) be delegated authority to complete negotiations on mutually agreed terms and conditions for accepting Wairoa District Council solid waste.

3.0 Background – Te Horopaki

3.1 The matter of WDC solid waste coming to the Ōmarunui Landfill was the subject of a report to the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee on 20th February 2024. At that meeting the WDC also gave a presentation to the Committee outlining their situation in terms of managing solid waste in Wairoa. However, it was envisaged that any long-term arrangement would preferably require the approval of the parent Councils (HDC/NCC) and not just the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee.

The relevant wording of the resolution (Part “C”) from the 20 February 2024 Landfill meeting was as follows:

“That the Committee is open to the possibility of accepting Wairoa District Council solid waste at the Ōmarunui Landfill on a short-term and/or long-term basis and that any confirmed request to accept Wairoa District Council solid waste would be the subject of a separate report to the Committee and/or the parent councils (Hastings District Council and Napier City Council)”.

- 3.2 The WDC has traditionally taken the view that it should manage its own waste, however in recent years this has become more difficult due to the timing of recent major flood events and the impact that it has had on the remaining space at their Fraser Street Landfill. The current landfill cell, which was approaching capacity prior to accepting the extra flood related waste, will now run short of space before the decision making and planning processes for managing their future waste needs can be completed.
- 3.3 Generally, the Ōmarunui Landfill does not accept “out of district waste”. Waste originating from outside of Napier City Council (NCC) and Hastings District Council (HDC) boundaries requires specific approval from the “Facility Manager” (as defined in the Joint Heads of Agreement) to be disposed of at Ōmarunui. While this is a self-imposed rule, it is one that the landfill has operated under since opening in 1988 and adhered to with relatively few exceptions. One of those exceptions was when solid waste from the Gisborne district was accepted for a period.
- 3.4 On 27th August 2024 a formal request (attached to this report) was received from the WDC asking that the Ōmarunui Landfill accept solid waste from the WDC on a short-term basis. This arrangement would be for up to 4,000 tonnes per annum for a period of up to three years.
- 3.5 In light of the limited time and volume requested by the WDC, this report seeks approval from the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee to accept this waste. As the HDC is the administrating authority for the landfill (under the landfill heads of agreement between the HDC and NCC), it is also recommended that the Chief Executive of the HDC is delegated authority to complete negotiations on mutually agreed terms and conditions for accepting Wairoa District Council’s

request. The outcome of any agreement with the WDC would then be reported back to the Committee.

4.0 Discussion – *Te Matapakitanga*

- 4.1 As part of the WDC presentation to the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee on 20th February 2024, the WDC advised the Committee that it would be looking to deposit 3,000 tonnes per annum should they formally request use of the Omarunui Landfill. This amount has since increased to 4,000 tonnes per annum so that any anomalies, such as the 2024 flood event, are allowed for. However, the WDC are expecting the amount of solid waste to be in the order of 3,000 tonnes per annum and not necessarily 4,000 tonnes.
- 4.2 The Ōmarunui Landfill is currently receiving around 95,000 tonnes of waste per annum which is substantially more than the 3,000 tonnes typically received by Wairoa, or even a peak of 4,000 tonnes per annum in the case of a natural disaster or emergency event in the Wairoa District.
- 4.3 From a technical viewpoint, Ōmarunui has the capacity to accept 4,000 per annum from the WDC without impacting the overall life of the landfill to any great degree. The landfill is currently constructing a new area of the site (Area B) which will take 30 years to fill at a rate of 100,000 tonnes per annum. This new area will open mid-2025.
- 4.4 Ōmarunui does have an additional area (Area C) at the site and if this was to be developed it would provide space for a further 40 to 50 years life at 100,000 tonnes per annum. In this regard Ōmarunui is in a good position to manage solid waste in the region and accept WDC solid waste should it choose to do so.
- 4.5 As the movement of solid waste around NZ has become more common, and involved larger distances, the technical aspects of Wairoa transporting and disposing of their waste at Ōmarunui are all manageable. However, aspects of this would need to be discussed and agreed to as part of any mutually agreed arrangement.
- 4.6 Regarding the calculation of a charge rate for WDC solid waste, it is envisaged that this would be based on the “Municipal Refuse” rate plus a margin to cover the cost of capital that is currently being incurred by the HDC and NCC in expanding the site.
- 4.7 Hazardous or “special” wastes may not be accepted from Wairoa; however, this will depend on the nature of the waste in question and can be discussed in negotiations with the WDC when establishing the terms of any agreement. This would include the setting of appropriate charge rates.
- 4.8 Charge rates for WDC solid waste entering the site would need to be reviewed each year following the annual Full Cost Accounting Model review of all charge rates at Ōmarunui.
- 4.9 As a point of clarification, the request from the WDC concerns access to the Ōmarunui Landfill and not for the Ōmarunui Landfill and/or the parent councils (HDC and NCC) to take ownership/responsibility for Wairoa’s waste. As an example, if the Ōmarunui Landfill were to close because of an abatement notice or fire, the WDC would need to make alternative arrangements for their waste and at their own cost.
- 4.10 The possible approval for the WDC to use the Ōmarunui Landfill is not currently being offered to other parties residing or producing waste in the Wairoa District.

5.0 Options – *Ngā Kōwhiringa*

Option One - Recommended Option - Te Kōwhiringa Tuatahi – Te Kōwhiringa Tūtohunga

- 5.1 That the Committee approve the WDC request to accept 4,000 tonnes per annum of their solid waste for a period of up to three years at the Ōmarunui Landfill:

Positives

- The Wairoa district has close ties with the Hastings and Napier region and this option could provide a solution to the challenges and time constraints now faced by the WDC. The Ōmarunui Landfill has previously assisted the Gisborne District Council and this request could be considered in the same vein.
- In future the Ōmarunui Landfill could well be looking for additional waste if existing volumes reduce because of legislative changes, competition by new landfills and/or new disposal technologies. Solid waste received from Wairoa could well help the Ōmarunui continue to be a financially and economically viable operation well into the future.

Negatives

- By possibly receiving this waste, it does slightly reduce the life of the Ōmarunui Landfill.
- Controls on the condition and content of the solid waste being received from Wairoa would need to be introduced so that it would not result in any breach of consent for the landfill.
- This option does go against the historic position of the landfill to not accept out of district waste as a general rule. There is the possibility some members of the Napier and Hastings wider community would prefer not to see solid waste from another region coming to Ōmarunui.

Option Two – Status Quo - Te Kōwhiringa Tuarua – Te Āhuetanga o nāianeī

- 5.2 That the Committee doesn't approve the WDC request to accept their solid waste at the Ōmarunui Landfill:

Positives

- Controls and acceptance processes for receiving WDC solid waste would not have to be considered and managed.
- The life of the Ōmarunui Landfill will be marginally longer.

Negatives

- The WDC will need to find another landfill that will accept their solid waste until a permanent solution could be put in place. Due to the limited number of appropriately sized and constructed landfills remaining in the central region of the North Island, this would involve significant travel distance and associated cost for the WDC.

6.0 Next steps – *Te Anga Whakamua*

- 6.1 Should the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee adopt the recommended options, the next step would be for the WDC and Ōmarunui Landfill managers to undertake negotiations on mutually agreed terms and conditions for accepting WDC solid waste. These terms and conditions would then be presented to the Chief Executive HDC, for consideration and approval should he see fit.

Attachments:

- 1↓ Letter - Temp Access to Ōmarunui Landfill - signed CG-17-20-00030

Summary of Considerations - *He Whakarāpopoto Whakaarohanga*

Fit with purpose of Local Government - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te Rangatōpū-ā-Rohe*

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by (and on behalf of) communities, and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

Link to the Council's Community Outcomes – *Ngā Hononga ki Ngā Putanga ā-Hapori*

The Ōmarunui Landfill is a regional (HDC and NCC) asset and as such takes a position of responsibility for solid waste disposal over a wider area than that of single council activity. The discussion of waste disposal options with the Wairoa District Council aligns with “working with others” but on a broader and more provincial basis.

Māori Impact Statement - *Te Tauākī Kaupapa Māori*

The significance of impact was discussed by the Committee members on 20th February 2024. At the time it was felt that a formal request to accept Wairoa waste on a long-term/permanent basis would require wider consultation, engagement, and consideration. It was appreciated that in the Committee's decision that it was open to the possibility of taking Wairoa waste, extensive consultation would not be necessary for accepting waste on a short-term arrangement.

Sustainability - *Te Toitūtanga*

No impact at this time.

Financial considerations - *Ngā Whakaarohanga Ahumoni*

None at present.

Significance and Engagement - *Te Hiranga me te Tūhonotanga*

This decision/report has been assessed under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as being of minor significance at this point in time.

Consultation – internal and/or external - *Whakawhiti Whakaaro-ā-roto / ā-waho*

No consultation required due to the relatively short term of the request and small volume of solid waste concerned.

Risks

Opportunity: No implications.

REWARD – <i>Te Utu</i>	RISK – <i>Te Tūraru</i>
N/A	N/A

Rural Community Board – *Te Poari Tuawhenua-ā-Hapori*

No implications.

Friday, 20 September 2024

Item 6

Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga

Hastings District Council: Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting

Te Rārangi Take

Report to Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee

Nā:
From: **Jennie Kuzman, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Manager**

Te Take:
Subject: **Health, Safety & Wellbeing Update**

1.0 Purpose and summary - *Te Kaupapa Me Te Whakarāpopototanga*

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform and update the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee about Health and Safety at the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill.
- 1.2 The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) requires the elected members of this Joint Committee to exercise due diligence by taking reasonable steps to understand the operations of the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill and its Health and Safety risks, and to ensure that these Health and Safety risks are managed so that both the Hastings District Council and Napier City Council meet their legal obligations.
- 1.3 The attached report (**Attachment 1**) provides information to enable all Joint Committee Members to undertake due diligence, by providing information in relation to Health, Safety & Wellbeing for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

2.0 Recommendations - *Ngā Tūtohunga*

That the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee receive the report titled Health, Safety & Wellbeing Update dated 20 September 2024.

Attachments:

1↓ HDC Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report - Omarunui HR-03-8-2-24-231
Landfill - 1 April to 30 June 2024

Friday, 20 September 2024

Item 7

*Te Hui o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga***Hastings District Council: Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee Meeting***Te Rārangi Take*

Report to Omarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee

Nā:
From: Martin Jarvis, Waste and Data Services Manager

Te Take: Ōmarunui Joint Landfill Annual Report for the Year Ending 30 June
Subject: 2024

1.0 Executive Summary – *Te Kaupapa Me Te Whakarāpopototanga*

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update and inform the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee on the physical performance aspects of the Ōmarunui Landfill for the 2023/2024 financial year and provide a commentary on other significant events and impacts.

2.0 Recommendations - *Ngā Tūtohunga*

- A) That the Ōmarunui Refuse Landfill Joint Committee receive the report titled Ōmarunui Joint Landfill Annual Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2024 dated 20 September 2024.
- B) That the Committee receives the unaudited Ōmarunui Joint Landfill Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 and attached as Appendix 1 (CG-14-27-00073).

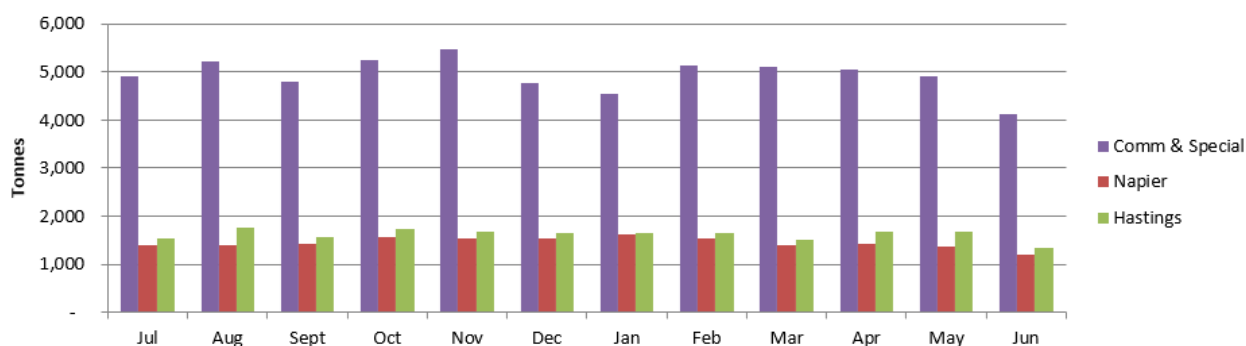
3.0 Tonnages and Finance

- 3.1 Records of the various categories of waste disposed of at the landfill are recorded in the landfill's weighbridge software system. The estimated tonnages are compared to actual tonnages in the following user categories.

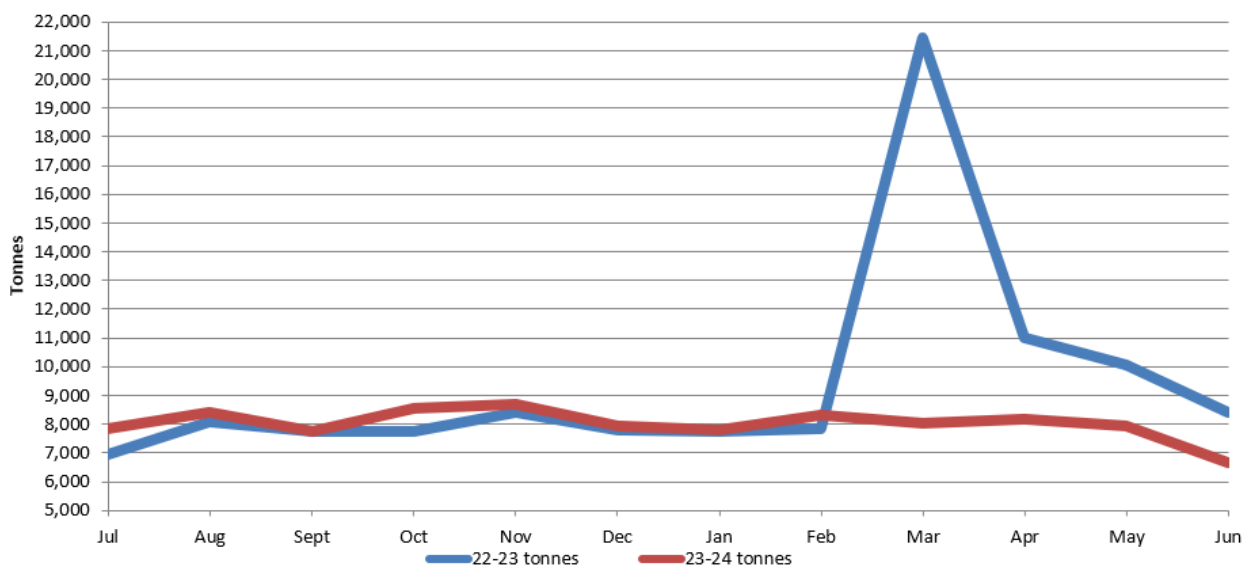
	2022/23 actual (tonnes)	2023/24 actual (tonnes)	2023/24 estimated (tonnes)
Commercial	47,768	45,033	39,000
Special	14,878	11,071	17,000
HDC	31,078	22,601	20,000
NCC	19,499	17,369	17,000
Total	113,223	96,074	93,000

- 3.2 The overall tonnage is 3.3% higher than estimate, with Napier City 2.17% above estimate, Hastings District 13% above estimate, commercial 15.5% above estimate and special 34.9% below estimate.
- 3.3 Overall tonnages are 15.1% lower compared with last year’s tonnages. Napier City has decreased 10.9%, Hastings District a 27.3% decrease, commercial a 5.7% decrease and special a 25.6% decrease.
- 3.4 The category “Commercial” includes all waste brought directly into the landfill by private waste operators and excludes transfer station waste.

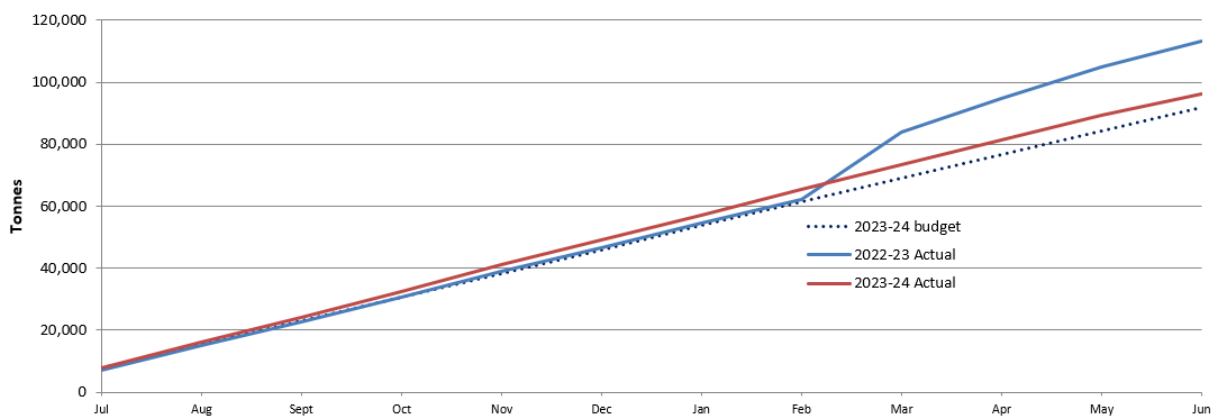
Landfill actual tonnages by month



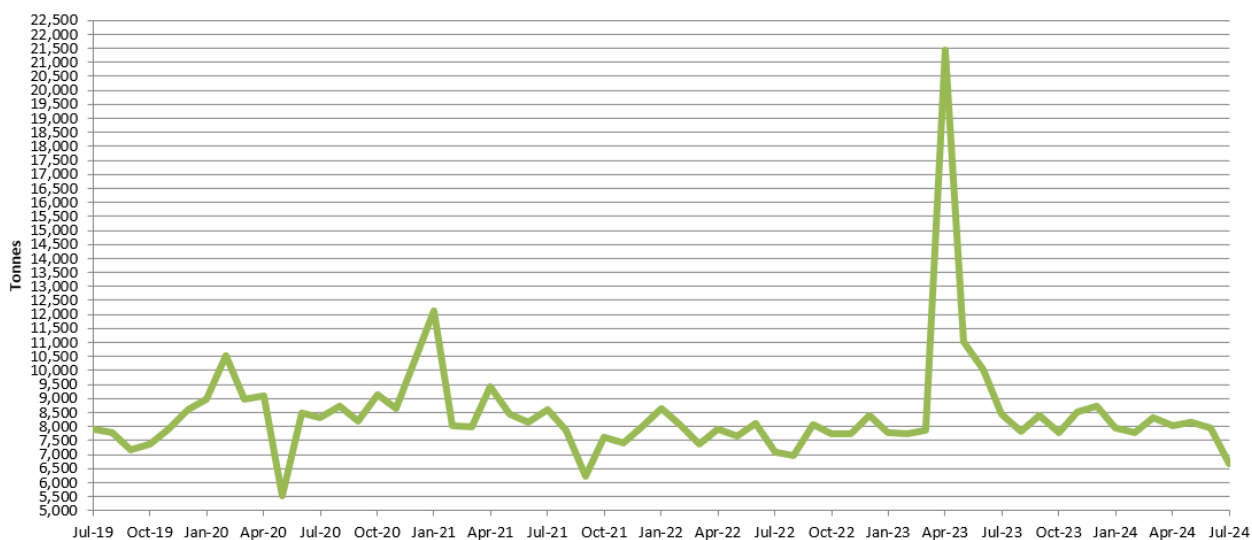
Omarunui Landfill - Tonnages by Month



Omarunui Landfill - Waste Disposal Tonnages



Omarunui Landfill waste disposal trend 2019-2024



- 3.5 The Landfill reported a surplus of \$6,975,346 for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. This is supported by the Ōmarunui Landfill Joint Committee Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 (**Attachment 1**). The financial statements have not been audited by Audit NZ yet, this is scheduled for late October. The surplus of \$6,975,346 was \$3,005,743 above budget and is summarised as follows:

2022/23 Actual	Financial Position	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Variance	% Variation
20,131,809	Total Revenue	21,596,026	18,407,568	3,188,458	17.3%
17,158,236	Total Expenditure	14,620,680	14,437,964	182,715	1.3%
2,973,573	Surplus before adjustments	6,975,346	3,969,604	3,005,743	75.7%

- 3.6 The actual compared to estimated expenditure* in operations is as follows:

EXPENDITURE	Actual \$	Budgeted \$	Variance \$	Variation %
Maintenance - Landfill	1,612,399	631,125	981,274	155.5%
Other refuse disposal	1,196,068	1,056,859	139,209	13.2%
External plant hire	1,265,438	800,000	465,438	58.2%
External plant hire escalations	216,626	100,000	116,626	116.6%
Leachate Treatment/Disposal	256,524	147,000	109,524	74.5%
Kiosk Charges	22,515	37,800	(15,285)	-40.4%
Ground & Surface Water Testing	185,911	39,080	146,831	375.7%
Gas to Energy	0	1000	(1,000)	-
Revaluation Decrement	27,767		27,767	
Farm operations	14,251	12,100	2,151	17.8%
Rates	21,219	23,400	(2,181)	-9.3%
Overheads - Administrative	21,125	500	20,625	4124.9%
Depreciation	2,014,808	1,929,100	85,708	4.4%
Total	6,854,650	4,777,964	2,076,686	43.5%

*Excludes revaluation, waste levy and ETS

NOTE: The budgets shown above were all set prior to Cyclone Gabrielle and never took into consideration the follow-on impact of that event. This is one of the consequences of having to determine gate charges and operating/developing costs so far in advance of the actual year of operation. The positive is that revenue was above budget and offsets the negative variance in expenditure.

4.0 Maintenance

- 4.1 Maintenance costs exceeded budget due to the ongoing Cyclone Gabrielle repair work and impact of additional waste volumes entering the site. This involved the capping and remediation work in an older part of the landfill (Area A) that had to be re-opened. The overspend was \$981,274.

5.0 Refuse Disposal

5.1 This was slightly higher than budgeted. The overspend was \$139,209 against a budget of \$1,056,589. The extra costs mostly related to greater than anticipated waste volumes entering the site and changes that were required at the tip face.

6.0 External Plant Hire

6.1 External plant hire is \$465,438 higher than budget due to the work required in managing additional volumes of waste and the capping work related to older parts of the landfill (areas A and D) that were re-opened after Cyclone Gabrielle. This capping work is still to be completed.

6.2 Additional costs were also incurred when the landfill's compactors were out of action for repair/maintenance and extra plant was hired to cover that operational work.

7.0 Leachate Treatment

7.1 Costs relating to leachate disposal were over budget by \$109,504. The landfill typically spray irrigates leachate on the landfill cap by way of irrigation pods. However, this method of managing leachate is not so effective during winter (less evaporation) or during wetter weather (the cap becomes too wet). As a result of wetter conditions and events such as Cyclone Gabrielle, the landfill has not been able to spray irrigate as much as it would have liked.

7.2 The other method of managing leachate is for it to be carted off site for treatment and disposal. This is a more expensive method of management but is the only current alternative to spray irrigation at Ōmarunui. The additional costs associated with carting leachate off-site are covered by the landfill's leachate reserve which is funded by a charge built into the gate rate. The amount the reserve is funded by the gate charge has now been increased from \$2 per tonne to \$3 per tonne to cover additional offsite disposal costs.

7.3 The transfer of remaining funds in the Waste Tyre Reserve fund (no longer required) to the Leachate Reserve was the subject of a report to the committee on 20th June 2024. This resulted in the transfer of \$488,133 to the Leachate Reserve which had been depleted over the previous few years.

8.0 Ground & Surface Water Testing

8.1 Costs were significantly higher than budgeted due to additional work relating to the new Area B and contract escalations. Future budgets for this work will need to be adjusted to include all the monitoring, sampling, and testing work now associated with Area B. This includes the watercourses on the north-eastern side of the site.

8.2 Additional one-off costs have also been incurred as the sampling and testing work was migrated to the same software system that the Council's Three Waters group use.

9.0 Revenue

9.1 Total revenue was 15.9% up on budget. This is mainly due to higher tonnes and the sale of some of the surplus carbon units that were no longer required.

REVENUE	Actual \$	Budgeted \$	Variance \$	Variation
Commercial Operations	6,574,599	5,518,000	1,056,599	19.1%
Hastings District	1,861,406	1,548,000	313,406	20.2%
Napier City	1,470,297	1,462,000	8,297	0.6%
Other Revenue	1,400,328	26,266	1,107,930	4,218%

Rentals (Farm)	10,777	9,302	1,475	15.6%
Leachate	192,124	184,000	8,124	4.4%
Total	11,509,531	8,747,568	2,761,963	31.6%

10.0 Development Expenditure – Areas A and D

10.1 The development costs for the Ōmarunui Landfill for the 2023/2024 year were as follows:

Actual \$	Budget \$	Variance \$	Variation %
\$3,855,419	\$2,160,275	1,520,144	70.4%

11.0 Development Expenditure – Areas B and C

Actual \$	Budget \$	Variance \$	Variation %
\$7,435,259	\$6,922,000	513,259	7.4%

12.0 Development Construction Update

- 12.1 The construction of Stage 3A in Area D was carried out by Fulton Hogan and included bulk earthworks, clay liner construction, the installation of plastic (HDPE) liner and geosynthetic clay systems, as well as the leachate collection system. Stage 3A was finished in August 2024 and rubbish is now being placed in that part of the landfill.
- 12.2 Stage 4 of Area D (yet to be completed) was originally programmed to be construction before Stage 3A. Unfortunately, these two stages had to be swapped around as Stage 3A is larger and provides the landfill more capacity to accept waste in the short term. The downside is that it's a more expensive project and this resulted in an over expenditure of the Area D cost centre. This will eventually be offset by the less expensive Stage 4 work in the future.
- 12.3 Another contributing factor for the over expenditure in both Area D and B development work is the cost of constructing the clay liner. This has come about due to the lack of suitable clay liner material onsite. As previously reported to the committee, clay is now being imported to the landfill from other sites in Hawke's Bay. Currently material is being sourced from a location near Ocean Beach
- 12.4 The development of Area B is required so that the landfill continues to have adequate space for the region's waste beyond 2025. This is required as the current filling area (Area D) will be full by late 2025 to early 2026 depending on tonnages received. Work on this project has been brought forward due to the extra waste received at Ōmarunui post Cyclone Gabrielle and as anticipated in the future. Due to this phasing change, development expenditure for Area B was greater than originally anticipated for the 2023/24 year.
- 12.5 Work in Area B has included the completion of the enabling works and the start of Stage 1 construction. The enabling work contract work was carried out by Fulton Hogan and was completed in January 2024. This work included the following:
- Environmental Controls
 - Stripping and clearing
 - Construction of wetlands
 - Sediment Retention Pond
 - Stormwater reticulation
 - Toe Key Undercut (earthworks)

- Toe Key Construction (earthworks)
- Access Tracks

12.6 The Stage 1 construction contract was awarded to Goodmans/Gairs and this work started in February 2024. This work includes substantial earthworks and clay liner construction. Stage 1 construction is scheduled to be completed by mid-2025.

12.7 Work on Stage 1 has progressed well throughout 2024 and at the time of writing this report all earthworks have been completed and the clay liner is now being installed. This work remains on track in terms of completion date.

12.8 As required by the resource consent for Area B a peer review panel (PRP) has been established. The two appropriately qualified and experienced engineers selected for the panel are Peter Askey (WSP NZ) and Nigel Mark-Brown (Environmental Context Ltd). This panel was required to be established and maintained so that the design, and other related matters, were meeting the resource consent conditions,

12.9 The PRP engineers have reviewed the design, specifications, and plans/drawings, as well as visiting the site on three occasions (the last being 4th April 2014). The work to date has been met with their approval. All queries raised by the PRP were answered to their satisfaction. As part of their obligations the PRP have prepared an annual report that has been submitted to Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

13.0 Operations

13.1 The main tipping area is currently larger than preferred due to the distance between the tip face and the Stage 3A filling area and the need to push the waste further before compacting it.

13.2 A new tip face and access road are being constructed and will be fully operational by October 2024. This will enable waste to be tipped closer to where it will be finally placed and compacted in the Stage 3A area.

13.3 Due to the distance between the point where refuse is currently unloaded and where it is finally placed and compacted, our plant management contractor has been required to use additional plant (bulldozer) to help push waste into the new landfill area for compaction. This has resulted in some additional operational costs. The new access road into the new Stage 3A area will enable the tip face to be relocated into Stage 3A and therefore reduce the distance waste needs to be pushed. This will reduce the cost of operating the tip area.

13.4 The decision to use two compactors has been of significant benefit to the site. Better compaction is being achieved and the landfill is also able to deal with larger peak volumes of waste. However, it is unfortunate that the older compactor is now requiring significant amounts of maintenance and repair work to keep it operational. Landfill Committee approval (conditional on price) has since been granted for the replacement of the older compactor and staff are currently working through the procurement process to acquire a new machine. It is important to note that once a machine has been selected the lead in time to get it on site is approximately 12 to 18 months.

14.0 Education Centre and Office

14.1 Another project associated with the Area B development involved the construction of an education centre and office that overlooks the new landfill area.

14.2 The completion of this project was slightly delayed because of Cyclone Gabrielle but has otherwise progressed well, and without issue. A feature of this project was that 45% of the materials used in the build were destined to be dumped at the landfill but were able to be diverted and used on the project.

- 14.3 A Karakia/blessing of the Education centre and office was held on 27 September 2023 and staff moved into the building over the October/November period. The education part of the building also became operational soon after that.

15.0 New Kiosk and Weighbridge

- 15.1 A new kiosk has been constructed to replace the one that was flooded by Cyclone Gabrielle. The kiosk was built by Atkin Construction as a variation to their contract to build the new education centre and landfill office.
- 15.2 The new kiosk was blessed on 26th February 2024 and became operational soon after that.
- 15.3 The cost of the new kiosk was partly funded by the insurance pay out received by the landfill for the damage to the previous kiosk. Some of the materials used in the construction of the building were also diverted from being landfilled.
- 15.4 The design of the new kiosk was such that a second weighbridge could be installed on the other side of the kiosk and still leave room for the slip road. This means that one weighbridge can be used for vehicles entering the site and the other weighbridge used to weigh trucks leaving the site. Additionally, this allows maintenance work to be undertaken on one weighbridge while the other is still operating and therefore allow the site to always remain open and operational. The second weighbridge has since been installed and commissioned.

16.0 Waste Levy

- 16.1 The waste levy was collected at a rate of \$50 per tonne during the 2023/24 year, however this increased to \$60 per tonne for the current 2024/25 financial year (starting 1st July 2024). It is also important to note that the levy charge attracts GST. The levy figures quoted in this report do not include the GST amount.
- 16.2 The NZ Government has recently announced that there will be further increases in the waste levy of \$5 per tonne each year for the next three years. Therefore, future waste levy charges at the landfill will be as follows:
- 1st July 2025 = \$65 per tonne
 - 1st July 2026 = \$70 per tonne
 - 1st July 2026 = \$75 per tonne

17.0 Emissions Trading Scheme (Waste)

- 17.1 The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has an impact on the gross charge rate for all waste accepted by the landfill. The additional charge to cover ETS compliance has been applied in a similar way to the waste levy and GST. Accordingly, the ETS charge is added to the base disposal rate as derived by the Full Cost Accounting Model and set by the Ōmarunui Joint Refuse Landfill Committee.
- 17.2 Over recent years the Government has implemented changes to the ETS that have had a significant impact on the landfill. These changes have resulted in greater compliance costs for the landfill. The ETS charge at Ōmarunui is now set at \$77 per tonne of waste.
- 17.3 In January 2024 the landfill successfully applied for a Unique Emissions Factor (UEF) under the provisions of the ETS. The UEF was granted in February 2024 and applies to the landfill's 2023 calendar year tonnages only.
- 17.4 The UEF needs to be reviewed annually and always applies to the previous years' ETS obligations (or tonnes of waste in the case of a landfill). Unfortunately, the ETS works on a calendar year which doesn't mirror the Council's financial year (1st July to 30th June). This factor adds to the difficulty in setting an appropriate charge at the gate that meets the financial requirements of scheme compliance.

- 17.5 The application of the UEF to the 2023 calendar year waste tonnages resulted in a surplus of NZUs (New Zealand Units required to offset emissions) held by the landfill. At the landfill committee meeting held on 21st June 2024 a report to the committee recommended the sale of surplus NZU's to reduce the total number held by the landfill. The committee approved that recommendation and the sale of surplus units. The sale of the NZU's was recorded against total revenue and a reason for the above budget result.
- 17.6 The Government is now proposing further amendments to the ETS and these will result in changes to how a UEF is calculated and applied. An announcement, and confirmation of the changes is expected before the end of the calendar year. It is therefore not known (at the time of writing this report) how the Ōmarunui Landfill will be impacted and what number of NZUs will need to be sacrificed for the current 2024 calendar year and future years. The number of NZUs sacrificed also depends on the amount of waste (tonnes) disposed of at the landfill which is also an unknown until after the fact. An additional complication relates to the fluctuating cost of purchasing an NZU which is influenced by supply/demand and changes made to the scheme by the government.
- 17.7 In summing up the ETS situation, the landfill will once again apply for a UEF in January 2025 with the purpose of minimising ETS obligations as much as it can, and at the same time hold enough NZUs to meet its obligations under the scheme. The number of unknowns will make it difficult to set a gate charge for the 2025/26 financial, however Council officers will endeavour to make the most accurate assumptions possible.

18.0 Landfill Gas

- 18.1 As the final cap is constructed over more of the landfill, additional vertical gas wells will be installed in these areas. All new wells are integrated into the gas collection network. This results in more landfill gas being captured and further reduces the opportunity of odour escaping into the atmosphere from the compacted rubbish. The additional landfill gas will in turn provide the gas to energy plant with more gas to process. Any excess gas is flared off. Improvements and maintenance work has also been carried out on sections of the gas pipe network that connects the wells to the flare and plant.
- 18.2 While the flare was only off for a few days following Cyclone Gabrielle, the gas to energy plant (owned by LMS) was unable to operate for an extended period. This was due to damage to the region's transmission grid and its inability to receive electricity from the plant. The plant only became fully operational again in August 2023.
- 18.3 A second flare has now been installed at the landfill. This flare is owned and operated by LMS Ltd (owner and operator of the gas to energy plant) under a long-term lease agreement with the landfill. Having two flares will enable one to be shut down for servicing while the other is still working.
- 18.4 LMS have also replaced the old Waukesha engine in the gas to energy plant with a higher rated and more efficient Caterpillar engine. The new engine will destroy a greater volume of gas and produce 20% more electricity.
- 18.5 The combination of the new engine and second flare will help the landfill destroy a greater volume of gas which will help control odour at the site and reduce Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) compliance costs.

19.0 Landfill Disposal Cost

- 19.1 The full disposal charge rate for general waste in the 2023/24 year was \$191 (ex GST) per tonne. This included the waste levy charge of \$50 and an ETS charge of \$55 per tonne. The full disposal charge rate for general waste in the current 2024/25 year is \$233 per tonne (ex GST). This includes the waste levy charge of \$60 and an ETS charge of \$77 per tonne. The Ministry for the Environment's "Full Cost Accounting Model" is used for calculating the base charge rate so that all costs associated with operating the site are recovered at the gate.

20.0 Cyclone Gabrielle

- 20.1 The landfill is situated in an area of Hawke’s Bay that was severely impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. This resulted in damage to the site and the need to accept extra waste at the same time.
- 20.2 Due to the extra flood associated waste received, development work on new areas of the site had to be brought forward. This resulted in additional development expenditure in both Area D and Area B.
- 20.3 In response to the event an older (closed) part of the landfill in Area A was reopened so that the landfill could accept additional waste. That area now requires re-capping. This work is continuing and is expected to be completed over the coming 2024/25 year.
- 20.4 The amount of waste received in 2023 has had an ongoing impact with regards managing waste at the site and the juggling of available space.

21.0 Skins/Pelts/Fleshings/Tannery Waste

- 21.1 The landfill continues to receive tannery waste that includes skins, pelts, fleshings and chromate sludge. Odour and airborne contaminants such as hydrogen sulphide and ammonia, continue to be something staff need to deal with. To gain more information on the matter, independent air quality specialists have been engaged to undertake testing at the site. This has been previously undertaken; however, it is something the landfill will need to carry out on a regular basis so that the extent of the issue can be monitored and managed.
- 21.2 Measures to manage and control the acceptance of these materials in the first instance have been introduced (as previously reported to the committee) and include limiting the amount of material coming in each day and the introduction of higher charge rates to reflect the extra costs associated with the management and impact of this waste stream. Over the last year we have seen a decrease in tannery waste coming to the site with one client being able to divert up to 90% of their tannery waste away from landfill.
- 21.3 In terms of protecting staff, customers, neighbours, and the environment other measures have been, and are being introduced. These include the use of personal gas monitors, the logging and monitoring of data from the personal monitors, the use of respirators by staff and contractors, and the requirement that all machinery working in the tip area have cabins with air filtration systems installed. Due to the high concentration of certain contaminants, the use of respirators by machine operators is still required in cabins that have not been retro fitted with higher quality air filtration systems. Fixed position air quality monitoring stations are also to be installed at several locations at the landfill. While exact positions are still to be decided upon, locations are likely to include the tip area and points along the property boundary.
- 21.4 While consideration of banning tannery waste is a possibility the landfill is trying to see how it can safely operate by mitigating all the negative impacts and therefore continue to accept this waste stream, albeit under controlled conditions. During the year the volume of this waste entering the site has decreased which has helped the situation. Along with the investment of new technology and equipment, the landfill has been able to manage the risks around accepting this type of waste more effectively. The site is therefore in a better position to continue accepting this waste under the newly established restrictions and conditions.

22.0 Health & Safety

- 22.1 The Ōmarunui Landfill operates under the Hastings District Council’s Health and Safety Policy. The Council’s commitment under this policy is ***“to keep employees, volunteers, contractors and the community safe through living a strong safety culture”***.
- 22.2 Additional Health & Safety information, and matters relating to the performance of the landfill over the course of the 2023/24 year, are the subject of a separate report to this committee.

23.0 Landfill Fires

- 23.1 As stated in the Health and Safety report, there were six fires at the Area D tip face over the reporting period. These were all minor and were immediately dealt with by staff. A larger fire (not in the reporting period) occurred in the early hours of Saturday 17th August and required assistance from FENZ (Fire Service NZ) to extinguish.
- 23.2 It is often very difficult to determine the cause of a landfill fire due to the varied nature and composition of solid waste. However, the evidence we do have points to the growing number of lithium batteries found in the waste stream. During the winter months hot ashes in residential waste and fireworks at the time of Guy Fawkes can also cause fires.
- 23.3 In response to the growing risk of fire, staff are looking to introduce additional early warning systems near or around the Area D tip face area. Different alarm/warning systems are currently being assessed and it is hoped to have something in place over the next few months. At the time of writing this report the introduction of a thermal camera system was looking to be the preferred option.
- 23.4 The key to extinguishing a landfill fire is early detection and the need to prevent it becoming too deeply embedded in the waste mass. It is hoped that by intruding an early detection system the landfill can at least manage the risk as much as possible.
- 23.5 Other future improvements include the incorporation of fire detection and suppression systems into the design and construction of the new Area B part of the landfill. A detection system that overlooks the whole area will be installed along with fire hydrants.

24.0 ISO 9001 – Quality Assurance

- 24.1 The quality management certification of the landfill is part of the Hastings District Council Asset Management certification.
- 24.2 The Asset Management quality system was externally audited for certification on the 7th and 8th of February 2024 by Franz Assenmacher of Telarc SAI. The HDC's "AS/NZS ISO 9001 Standard" certificate has an expiry date of 20 March 2025.

25.0 Resource Consent Compliance

- 25.1 The landfill's objective is to comply with all consent requirements. Any non-compliance issues are reported to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) as per consent instructions and dealt with accordingly if they arise.
- 25.2 The most recent compliance report covered the period from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023 and included the Cyclone Gabrielle event which had a severe impact on the landfill. Full compliance was not achieved; however, these matters were assessed as low risk.

26.0 Complaints

- 26.1 Typically landfill complaints fall into two categories, that being complaints from (i) the public i.e. neighbours, and (ii) landfill customers. The public complaints traditionally concern odour, birds, insecure truck loads and litter blown from the site.
- 26.2 I am pleased to report that despite all that has happened over the last few years the number of complaints remains low. Only four complaints were received by the landfill over the last financial year. These were made by neighbours and concerned odour. All complaints are investigated by landfill staff as soon as they become aware of them. In two of the four cases landfill staff believe the landfill was not to blame for the odour complaint as the wind direction from the landfill went in a different direction. Wind direction is something the landfill monitors and records continuously.

27.0 Staffing

- 27.1 Staff turnover at the landfill has traditionally been minimal, however over the last few years it has proven to be harder to retain and recruit staff in a tight employment market. So far this calendar year I am pleased to report we have had a well performing and stable group of staff members.
- 27.2 During the reporting period Ty Cooper (previously the landfill's Solid Waste Operations Supervisor) resigned. Paul Webster has been appointed as the replacement to carry out this role.
- 27.3 Gagan Kooner has been appointed to the revised role of Landfill Technician. This is an important position that will help the landfill report on all its consent conditions in a timely and accurate way to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.
- 27.4 All other landfill positions have now been filled, this has included the appointment of Diana Reid to the Administrator role and Nathaniel Viajar to the Kiosk Operator position. David Cook, Adam Kerr and Alex Alves were all recruited over the reporting period to fill vacant landfill operator roles.
- 27.5 Lastly, we sadly acknowledge the recent passing of Henry Pene (Landfill Forman). Henry joined the team in 2018 and was a great asset to the Ōmarunui Landfill over his years of service. He was a very dedicated staff member and had a passion for learning and working within the waste industry. Henry was also a well-respected employee within the wider HDC and with landfill customers and contractors alike. We are all deeply saddened by his passing, and he is sorely missed.

28.0 Concluding Comments

- 28.1 This has been another challenging year for the landfill. Staff have been required to juggle available airspace so waste could still be received and that construction work in Area A and D continue as planned. The Area A and D development work needs to be completed as programmed so that the site doesn't run short of available airspace in the immediate future.
- 28.2 The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle continues to haunt the landfill as older parts of the site that were re-opened to take flood waste are still to be fully re-capped. The extra waste that was received has meant that the remaining space at the site is managed carefully.
- 28.3 Positives over the year have included the opening of the new kiosk/second weighbridge and obtaining a Unique Emissions Factor (UEF) under the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The kiosk and second weighbridge mark significant improvement to the site, while the UEF has helped the landfill reduce its compliance obligations under the ETS. Impending changes to the ETS will reduce some of the benefit of our UEF, however our financial position is still expected to be better than previously anticipated.
- 28.4 The new office and education centre are working well. Landfill staff are very much appreciative of the improved working environment.
- 28.5 The amount of waste coming to the landfill over the 2023/24 year was slightly greater than expected (by 3,000 tonnes) and it is anticipated that a similar amount will be received over the 2024/25 year.
- 28.6 The issue of air-quality at the tip face continues to be monitored and tested so that the work environment can be understood and safely managed.
- 28.7 Proposed central government changes and initiatives, will have an impact on the landfill. Changes to the Waste Levy and ETS will add additional costs to what was originally envisaged for the 2025/26 year. These costs will need to be factored into the gate charge in future years. Taxes on landfill waste account for over 50% of the gate charge and will continue to increase over time. To avoid the higher charge rates waste producers will need to seriously consider limiting the amount of waste they produce in the first instance or have other sustainable options for it rather than using a landfill.

Attachments:

Summary of Considerations - *He Whakarāpopoto Whakaarohanga*

Fit with purpose of Local Government - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te Rangatōpū-ā-Rohe*

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by (and on behalf of) communities, and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

Link to the Council's Community Outcomes – *Ngā Hononga ki Ngā Putanga ā-Hapori*

Reporting on an activity that helps create an environment that is appreciated, protected and sustained for future generations.

Māori Impact Statement - *Te Tauākī Kaupapa Māori*

No implications.

Sustainability - *Te Toitūtanga*

Reporting on an activity that deals with the safe disposal of residual waste. This information is for use in understanding the wider issue of sustainability within the Hawke's Bay region.

Financial considerations - *Ngā Whakaarohanga Ahumoni*

End of year financial information is presented in this report. Variances from budget and expected financial outcomes are explained.

Significance and Engagement - *Te Hiranga me te Tūhonotanga*

This decision/report has been assessed under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as being of minor significance.

Consultation – internal and/or external - *Whakawhiti Whakaaro-ā-roto / ā-waho*

Not applicable

Risks

Opportunity: No implications

REWARD – <i>Te Utu</i>	RISK – <i>Te Tūraru</i>
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N/A	N/A
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Rural Community Board – *Te Poari Tuawhenua-ā-Hapori*
No Implications.
