

# news from Transwaste Canterbury

## Landfill Construction Progress

Since the last newsletter in May 2004, construction of the Kate Valley Landfill has proceeded at pace. The very wet end to 2004 slowed progress, but the work is still expected to be completed on time.

Transwaste is aiming to have the Kate Valley Landfill completed and ready before the existing regional landfill at Burwood in Christchurch closes. Burwood's resource consent requires that it must shut on or before 31 May 2005.

Two large earthmoving companies are engaged on the main landfill construction work. Taggart Earthmoving from North Canterbury and Taylors Contracting from Nelson are undertaking the major earthworks on the project, which involves moving around one million cubic metres of material.

Fulton Hogan Canterbury is contracted to complete the internal roading and services on the landfill site. Works Infrastructure was awarded the contract for the reconstruction of Mt Cass Road. Hopkins Engineering won the contract to build the new bridge on Mt Cass Road. Other contractors have been engaged for site buildings, liner placement, communications, fencing, and drainage works.

The total cost of the landfill construction work is expected to be around \$21.6 million.

## Landfill Machinery

A major investment in the latest technology has been made to maximise both the economic and the environmental performance of Kate Valley Landfill.

The landfill will be the first in New Zealand to have the new generation Caterpillar 836H Compactor. This massive 55 tonne machine, costing around \$1.5 million, is to be used to compact waste as densely as possible.

The compactor will be supported by a new Caterpillar D7 bulldozer, specially set up for waste operations, and a new Caterpillar D6 bulldozer for



soil cover operations.

The operation will also involve new Volvo 30 tonne and 14 tonne excavators, a Volvo Dump Truck for hauling cover material, and up to four Mercedes 8 by 6 tipper trucks to empty waste containers. A wide variety of smaller machinery items will also be used on the site.

The site machinery will be owned by Canterbury Waste Services Ltd (CWS), as landfill operator.

## Landfill Management

The senior management team for the landfill has been appointed. All landfill staff will be CWS employees. CWS is responsible to Transwaste for operating the landfill.

The Landfill Manager is Martin Pinkham, formerly the Development Engineer for CWS. Martin is an experienced civil engineer with a wide-ranging background in major project construction, consultancy and local government. He will report directly to CWS General Manager, Gareth James.

Colin Cockburn has been appointed Landfill Operations Engineer. Colin hails from Scotland, and has extensive experience in the mining industry in both New Zealand and South-East Asia.

The Landfill Compliance Engineer is Rangi Lord. Rangi has a geotechnical engineering background, with substantial recent experience in compliance management in mining and other major projects such as the Manapouri Tailrace Tunnel.

## Landfill Staff

CWS has launched a recruitment campaign to find staff for the landfill and waste transport operations.

General Manager Gareth James says, “given the major investment the company has made in the highest quality vehicles for the landfill operation, it is looking for staff of a high calibre.”

Eleven experienced and highly skilled plant operators are required to work in the landfill team, operating a wide range of hi-tech expensive equipment.

CWS will also be looking for a number of experienced and qualified drivers to operate the new Mercedes truck and trailers that will take waste from transfer stations to the landfill.

CWS maintains strong Health, Safety and Environmental policies, which all staff must comply with, and is committed to a drug-free and smoke-free workplace.

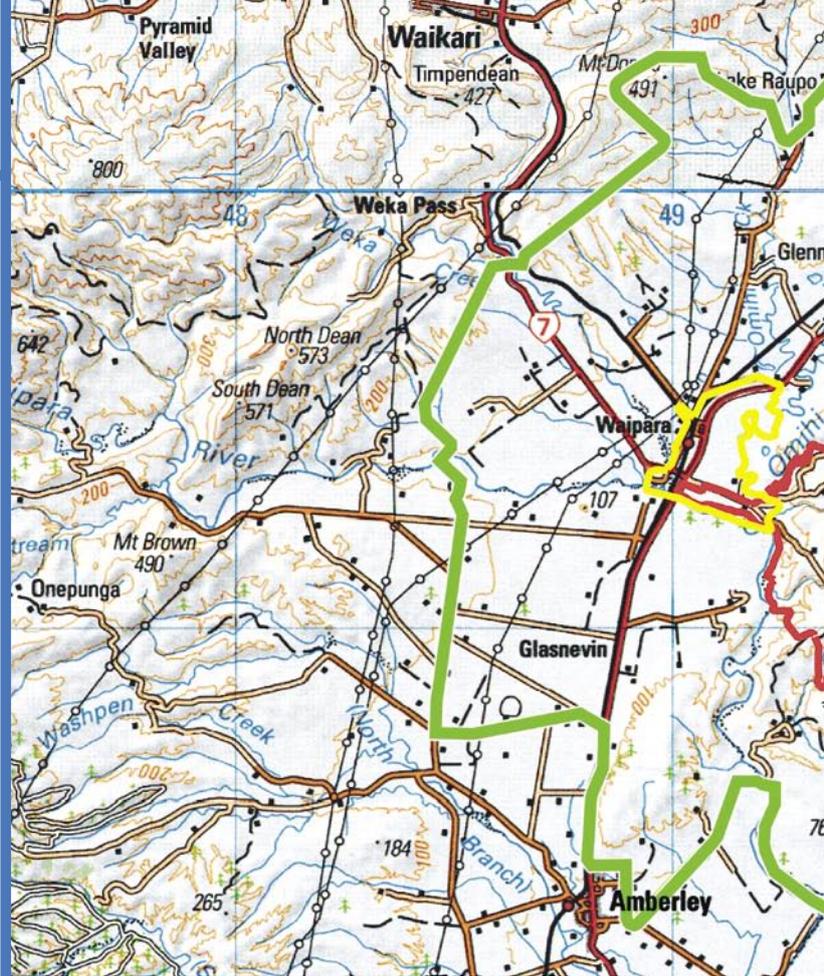
## Community Liaison Group

Landfill Manager Martin Pinkham plans to hold a public meeting before May 2005 to set up a Kate Valley Community Liaison Group. This group will assist with communication between the landfill management staff and local residents.

Transwaste offered to set up this group during the hearing process. That offer was made a condition of approval in the Environment Court decision. The relevant resource consent condition reads as follows;

*“The Consent Holder shall, prior to the landfilling of any waste, advertise (by way of a local mail out and community advertisements) and hold a public meeting to offer local residents the opportunity to establish a Community Liaison Group.*

- (a) *Any such Community Liaison Group shall consist of a maximum of three representatives of the property owners of the Waipara/Omihi area; two representatives of the property owners of Mt Cass Road; and one representative of the Consent Holder.*
- (b) *A representative from each of the consent authorities shall be invited to attend meetings in an observer capacity.*
- (c) *The members of the liaison group shall be offered the opportunity of a quarterly site inspection, a quarterly meeting opportunity, and provision of any information to which the Councils are*



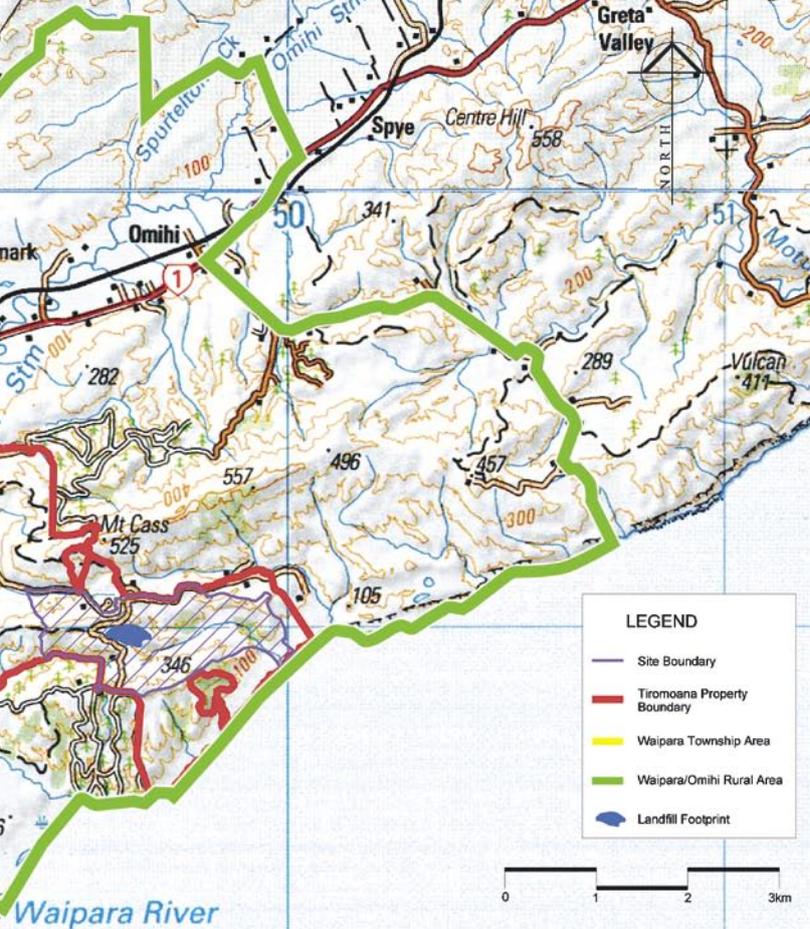
*entitled by virtue of these conditions regarding the development and operation of the site, at the Consent Holders expense.*

- (d) *The prime purpose of the quarterly meetings with the Community Liaison Group will be to:*
  - a. *Explain the progress of the landfill operation;*
  - b. *Listen to, and discuss as far as practicable any community and cultural concerns with the landfill operation;*
  - c. *Present and discuss the complaints register and results of any monitoring and/or reporting as required by the conditions of regional and district council consents.”*

The definition of the “Waipara/Omihi area” is that which was offered by Transwaste as part of its evidence to the Environment Court. A map of this area is shown above, and is the area bordered by:

- Reeces and Jurys Roads in the north.
- Glenmark Drive, the base of the foothills in the vicinity of State Highway 7, and Mt Brown Road in the west.
- Racecourse Road in the south-west, Double Corner Road and the Waipara River in the south-east.
- The coast in the east.

Landfill Manager Martin Pinkham plans to establish the Group before landfilling commences.



Census meshblock areas (2001) covering Waipara/Omihi area

## Kate Valley Landfill Community Trust

Transwaste is setting up the Kate Valley Landfill Community Trust to manage and distribute funds from a levy on waste disposed. These funds are to be used for charitable purposes that are beneficial to people who live in a defined area in the general vicinity of the Kate Valley Landfill.

A Trust Deed has now been developed which provides for Transwaste to appoint the initial Trustees to

get the Trust up and running. Half of these Trustees will retire at the end of the second year of Trust operation, and the rest after the end of the third year. They will be replaced by up to four Trustees elected for three-year terms by the people in the area of benefit. Transwaste will also continue to appoint two other Trustees.

There are laws that set out the ways the funds can be used, but they are reasonably flexible as long as the money is being spent on things benefiting the defined community. Similar funds have been used elsewhere to establish or maintain domains and parks, the maintenance of local roads, or the beautification of areas. The money can also be gifted to local organisations like libraries, museums, day-care centres and schools, and does not have to be spent in the defined area of benefit.

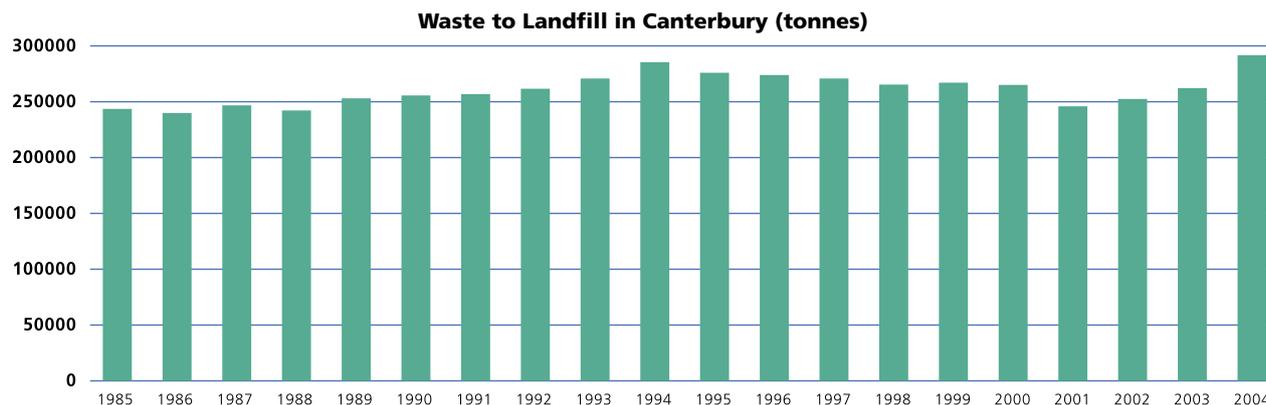
Since the Environment Court identified the “Waipara/Omihi Area” as the appropriate area for Transwaste to use for electing community representatives to the Community Liaison Group, Transwaste intends to use the same defined area as the area of benefit for the Community Trust.

Transwaste will call for nominations from the defined community for the initial trustee positions in the next few weeks. It is hoped that the Trustees will be appointed and the Trust operational by the end of May 2005.

While waste levy funds are not due to be paid into the Trust Fund until after each year of operation of the landfill, Transwaste plans to make an advance payment into the Trust Fund in July. Transwaste’s current expectation is that around \$80,000 will go to the Kate Valley Community Trust Fund from the first year of landfill operation.

## Canterbury Waste Volume in 2004

The economic boom underway in Canterbury has been reflected in the increase in waste volume going to landfill generated in 2004. After several years of reducing waste volumes, due to the initial impact of recycling and waste reduction schemes, waste volumes have climbed in the last two years. This is despite record volumes of recyclables being recovered in the same period.



## Mt Cass Walkway

Transwaste is working with the Waipara Promotion Association to establish a new public walkway to the summit of Mt Cass. The Promotion Association has been keen on the idea for some years, and secured some funding from the Walkways Commission in the late 1990s, but previous landowners were not enthusiastic. New landowner Transwaste is backing the concept, and the two organisations are currently finalising the route, with a view to having the track open next Summer.

## Tiromoana Bush

Following consultation with Hurunui District Council, DoC, and the QE2 Trust, Transwaste has appointed the Tiromoana Bush Advisory Group to develop the management plans for the proposed native forest restoration and conservation area in lower Kate Valley.

Transwaste is setting aside and protecting forever a 410-hectare area of land in the middle and lower Kate Valley, to be known as Tiromoana Bush. This area is extraordinarily rich in scenic and natural values. It has been farmed as part of the Tiromoana Station for decades, but retains substantial areas of native bush and wetlands.

Associate Professor David Norton from Canterbury University will chair the Group. David is one of the main architects of the Tiromoana Bush concept, and is the primary advisor to Transwaste on native forest restoration.

Murray Davies from Forest Research, a Crown Research Institute, has been appointed to the Group. Murray has specialist knowledge in disciplines that will be needed at Tiromoana Bush.

The Department of Conservation representative is Anita Spencer, a Biodiversity Ranger in the North Canterbury area office, an expert in native birds, fish and plants.

The Hurunui District Council has appointed staff member Greg Bennett to the Group. Greg has had a close involvement with the successful coastal restoration projects in Hurunui.

The QE2 Trust has put its local representative, well-known nursery operator and botanist, Miles Giller, on the Group.

The Group is rounded out by Andrew Mackintosh who represents the site's immediate neighbours, and current Transwaste representative Gareth James.

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The Group is planning to have its draft management plan for the initial five years of bush development to Transwaste by mid-year. This plan will include the location of public walking tracks, and plans for their development in Spring 2005.

## Who is Transwaste?

Transwaste Canterbury Limited is a joint venture company with 50% owned by six Canterbury Councils and the balance by Canterbury Waste Services Ltd (CWS). The six Councils currently involved are Christchurch City, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Banks Peninsula and Ashburton Districts. CWS is itself a joint venture company, formed by the two leading waste companies in New Zealand, Waste Management NZ Ltd and Envirowaste Services Ltd.

Transwaste has eight directors, four appointed by the Council shareholders, and four appointed by CWS. The current Chairman is Denis O'Rourke.

CWS is managing the project for Transwaste, and is responsible for the construction and operation of the Kate Valley Landfill.

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