

news from

Transwaste Canterbury

Thumbs Up programme

Canterbury Waste Services (CWS) has initiated the "Thumbs Up" programme in Canterbury in conjunction with the NZ Police, which teaches safety around trucks for school-aged children. It uses CWS drivers and trucks in the schools and is focused on the primary schools located on CWS transport routes. This is the first time such a programme has been used in the South Island.

In the two years since commencement of operations, the Thumbs Up programme has been undertaken in the following schools along waste transport routes;

- Woodend Primary School
- Leithfield Primary School
- Amberley Primary School
- Wainoni Primary School
- Tuahiwi Primary School

The programme is to be offered to other schools on CWS waste transport routes, and repeat programmes will be run on a regular basis to ensure new pupils have the opportunity to participate.

New safety initiatives

The CWS waste transport fleet probably has the most comprehensive array of safety features of any fleet operating in New Zealand. However, CWS is not sitting on its laurels. It plans to introduce Drivecam video cameras into its trucks during 2007/08. These cameras record activity on the road in front of the vehicle. They also record driver behaviour, and are a useful tool for ongoing driver training.

CWS is also trialling real-time in-cab monitoring of truck tyre pressures during 2007/08. This system will immediately alert drivers to any changes in tyre pressures outside their normal range, so that remedial action can be taken long before tyre damage could affect vehicle behaviour.

Awards

The past 12 months have seen national commendations for the Kate Valley Landfill and companies associated with its development and operation. In late 2006, Transwaste together with CWS and its construction alliance partners, Fulton Hogan, and landfill designers, Tonkin and Taylor Ltd, won the prestigious New Zealand Engineering Excellence Award for Infrastructural Utilities and Networks for the Kate Valley Landfill.



In their citation, the judges commented:

"Kate Valley Landfill's sheer scale and approach to waste and environmental problems represent world best-practice engineering, and it improves the quality of life for the communities of the Canterbury region... The regional landfill has been developed to the highest international standards and includes many innovative features. It represents an effective, low-impact solution to a very high profile environmental issue."

The New Zealand Engineering Excellence Awards are sponsored by the Institution of Professional Engineers (NZ), the Centre for Advanced Engineering (Canterbury University), the Electricity Engineers' Association of NZ Inc, and Ingenium (formerly the Association of Local Government Engineers NZ).

In August 2007, the Kate Valley Landfill project was awarded a second prestigious national award: the 2007 Gold Award of Excellence from the Association of Consulting Engineers NZ (ACENZ).

The award was announced at a ceremony held in Napier on 11 August. The Honourable Clayton Cosgrove, Minister of Building and Construction, presented the award to representatives from Tonkin and Taylor, the landfill engineering design consultants, and Canterbury Waste Services, the landfill operator.

The judges, in their citation, noted:

"The advanced containment and site-specific seismic-responsive design of the liner system puts Kate Valley on a par with the best facilities of its type anywhere in the world."

On 13 September 2007, CWS was awarded the Champion Canterbury Award 2007 for the medium/large service/retail category. These awards are run by the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, and recognise business excellence in the Canterbury region.

Community Trust

The second annual round of funding from the Kate Valley Landfill Community Trust has resulted in more than \$76,000 of funding for 15 worthy community projects in the Waipara region.

Trust Chairman John Shepherd says there was a good quality of applicants for the second round of funding, which was provided by Transwaste Canterbury.

“We had 43 applications seeking grants for this round of funding. While this made our job particularly difficult, there were a number of stand-out applicants whose community based projects were first rate.”

The Kate Valley Landfill Community Trust was created to provide funds for activities that are beneficial to the community in the Waipara area.

Six trustees are appointed for a term of up to three years to run the Trust. Of the four trustees, three reside in the Waipara area and one in Amberley, while the two Transwaste representatives live in the Waipara area.

Applications for the next round of funding will be called for in February 2008. Transwaste has advised that it will provide \$80,000 to the Trust for the 2007/2008 year funding round, meaning \$240,000 will have been gifted to the community in the first three years of operation of the Trust. The Trust will meet to consider applications in March 2008.

The community groups to receive funding in 2006/07 were:

The Amberley Toy Library
Amberley Combined Sports Club
Amberley Girl Guides
Amberley Soccer Club
Amberley Swimming Club
Glenmark Play Centre
Glenmark Plunket
Glenmark Reserves Board
Glenmark Netball Club
St Pauls Church Committee
Sure and Steadfast Development Trust
Scargill Cricket Club
Scouting Glenmark
Waipara Fireworks Committee
Waipara School

Community Liaison Group

Transwaste has a Community Liaison Group which consists 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 Transwaste.

The Community Liaison Group meets quarterly with landfill operating staff, with the prime purpose of the meetings to:

- Outline and explain the progress of the landfill operation;
- Listen to, and discuss as far as practicable, any community and cultural concerns with the landfill operation;
- 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 Community Liaison Group Chairman is Alex Baxter, who can be contacted on 03 314 5807.



Landfill visits

The demand for visits to the Landfill by community groups is ongoing. In 2005/06, around 55 people per week visited the landfill. CWS has recently employed a tour guide to handle the demand. A booking system is used to manage site visits, and the available spots are booked out many months in advance. Bookings can be made by contacting the CWS Office on 0800 66 33 44.

Woodend School Goodwill Agreement

In 2005, Transwaste signed a Goodwill Agreement with Woodend School on the main waste transport route, as part of the School's accreditation with the World Health Organisation as a "Safe School", a New Zealand first.

The Agreement is a mutual undertaking for both parties to work together for safety. One outcome is that the CWS waste transport drivers have agreed to observe a 40 km/hr voluntary speed limit on State Highway One in the vicinity of the school.

A recent meeting between Transwaste, CWS drivers, Woodend School staff, pupils and parents reviewed the Agreement, and all agreed to renew the Goodwill Agreement in October 2007.

Transwaste to sell land

In July 2000, Transwaste purchased the 2,757 hectare Tiromoana Station from Southern Capital Ltd. In October 2003, the adjoining 570 hectare Mt Cass Station was purchased and has been incorporated into the Transwaste farming operation.

Of the approximately 3,300 hectares currently owned by Transwaste, only approximately 1,000 hectares are to be retained long term. This area to be retained contains the Kate Valley Landfill, the entire Kate Valley catchment, the Tiromoana Bush native forest restoration and conservation area and public walkway, and a forested area to the west of Kate Valley.

The balance of the land is to be sold through a staged process, with three primary components:

- The West Farm will comprise approximately 1,350 hectares of high quality farmland, situated generally to the north and west of Kate Valley.
- The Wash Creek Area of approximately 300 hectares lies to the extreme west of the property, close to Waipara, and contains land with potential for lifestyle residential and vineyard development.
- The Coast Farm is an approximately 410 hectare property along a five kilometre coastal frontage, to the east of Kate Valley.

The West Farm and Wash Creek Area are planned to go onto the market late in 2007, with handover to purchasers in mid-2008.

Coast Farm proposal

The Coast Farm is located in the coastal hill country of North Canterbury, approximately 10 km to the north-east of Amberley and approximately 7 km to the south-east of Waipara townships. The Coast Farm overlooks 7 km of Pegasus Bay coastline, and adjoins the Tiromoana Bush Native Forest Restoration Area and a Department of Conservation Scenic Reserve. The Coast Farm contains spectacular landscapes, with coastal cliffs, bush-clad slopes, and forested gullies.

Transwaste has recognised that the Coast Farm has exceptional and unique landscape features and ecological values that offer the potential for a wide range of relatively rare and high value public uses.

As a first step in looking at the future sale of the Coast Farm, Transwaste invited its Council shareholders to consider the potential for the land to be retained for permanent public use. After full consideration, the Council shareholders have advised that they will not pursue this idea.

Over the next few months, Transwaste will continue to work to see whether there are other viable options that retain the public use concept.

Mt Cass wind farm

Following MainPower recently advising Transwaste that they intended to proceed with a wind farm development, Tiromoana Station Limited has reached agreement with MainPower to sell approximately 160 hectares of land on Mt Cass Station. The land covers that part of Transwaste's property intended to be developed as a wind farm.

The sale of the land intended to be developed for the wind farm to MainPower is seen by Transwaste as a sensible step for both parties. It simplifies the wind farm development process for MainPower, and it clarifies the land use and ownership issues for Tiromoana Station Limited, which will continue to farm the balance of the property until it is sold. Transwaste sees the development as being very positive for the area, and sees potential to work with MainPower when the Kate Valley Landfill starts generating electricity from landfill gas in a few years time.

Mt Cass walkway

Transwaste has worked with the Waipara Valley Promotion Association to establish a new public walkway to the summit of Mt Cass, on land owned by Transwaste. This walkway provides views over much of Canterbury, and access to the unusual limestone landscape near the summit. The Mt Cass Walkway was officially opened in November 2006.

Tiromoana Bush walkway

The second and final stage of the Tiromoana Bush walkway has been completed. The walkway now has a round trip option which takes walkers across Kate Creek and traverses the southern side of lower Kate Valley. The route takes in native bush, wonderful coastal views, and skirts the new bird-filled wetland in the middle valley.

The walkway re-opened on 1 October after the completion of lambing. An official opening ceremony for the Tiromoana Bush Walkway is likely over the coming summer.



Tiromoana Bush website

Transwaste has developed a website providing detailed information about Tiromoana Bush, including walkways, conservation programmes, and Advisory Group reports. The website at www.tiromoanabush.co.nz went live on the internet in July 2007.

Oil exploration

The search for oil deep down below the ridge on the south side of Kate Valley is likely to commence in late 2007. Greengate Limited plan exploratory wells to see if any oil or gas is trapped beneath the siltstone blanket that lies below Kate Valley. This impermeable siltstone layer is what makes Kate Valley an ideal location for a landfill, ensuring liquids cannot travel downwards into deeper layers. The very same property provides the potential to trap oil or gas below the layer, particularly where it curves to form a dome-shaped structure. This type of structure is what is thought to be below the Kate ridge.

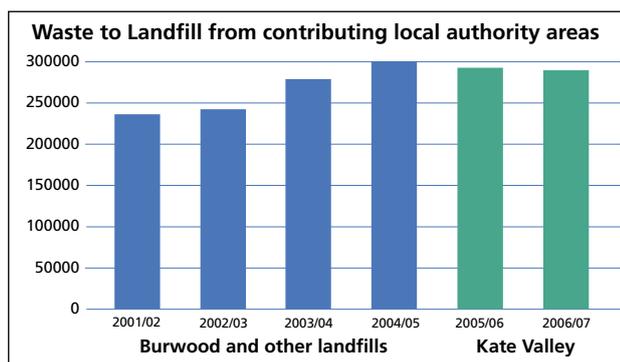
Transwaste local economic impact

In its first two years of operation, Transwaste and its associated companies, CWS and Tiromoana Station, have spent approximately \$9.3 million in the area north of the Waimakariri River. This amount has been split relatively evenly between the Hurunui and Waimakariri districts.

The expenditure is made up of staff salaries, payments to contractors and suppliers, donations, sponsorships, and council rates and charges. Of the staff employed by the companies, 70% live north of the Waimakariri River. Transwaste is the third largest ratepayer in the Hurunui District, behind Transpower and MainPower.

Waste Volumes

Waste going to landfill from contributing local authority areas has decreased since the Kate Valley Landfill opened in June 2005. The first two years of operation have seen a small reduction from the peak of 300,000 tonnes reached in the 2004/05 financial year at Burwood Landfill. This reflects the increased recycling and recovery efforts of Transwaste shareholders and others in recent years.



Truck numbers

In early 2006, Transwaste applied for a change of consent condition or cancellation of the original consent condition governing landfill heavy vehicle traffic volumes, after confusion arose over the interpretation of the original condition.

To obtain clarity on the matter, Transwaste applied for a revised consent that would allow a peak volume of up to 800 heavy vehicle trips to the landfill per week, of which 459 were expected to be waste haul vehicles. The other heavy vehicle trips were made up from gravel trucks, contractor vehicles, leachate trucks, visitors and farm and forestry vehicles.

In October 2006, the Commissioner granted a change of consent condition. The heavy vehicle limits now apply only to waste haul vehicles, and 450 waste haul vehicle trips per week are allowed. This is close to the number of waste haul vehicle trips sought by Transwaste, and has provided the clarity needed.

The Commissioner also introduced a new limit on the total number of waste haul vehicle trips to the Landfill each year. The original consent did not have any such limit. The condition allows 16,000 waste haul trips per year. There were just under 15,000 such trips in the 2006/07 year.

During the hearing, Transwaste indicated that it was prepared to undertake maintenance of that part of Mt Cass Road used by its vehicles, for the life of the Landfill. Transwaste is already maintaining the road at its expense for three years under an agreement with Hurunui District.

The Commissioner also decided that the annual waste haul trip limit can increase to 17,500, provided Transwaste reaches agreement with Hurunui District to maintain at its cost the section of Mt Cass Road for the life of the landfill plus five years, and undertakes some minor landscape work on a property adjacent to the road. Transwaste is working with Hurunui District and the landowner on these matters.

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