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Seriously impressive machines at work in Kate Valley Landfill

The delivery of a new Komatsu bulldozer, valued at over \$1 million, to the Kate Valley Landfill is the latest in a series of recent acquisitions of specialised equipment required to operate the landfill, says Canterbury Waste Services (CWS) Regional Manager Rangı Lord.

‘The Komatsu bulldozer is the third big toy we’ve purchased recently’, says Rangı Lord. ‘It joins a Komatsu 40-tonne excavator and an Astra 8-wheel drive Italian-built off-road truck used to hoist and transport containers into the landfill. These are seriously impressive machines that require equally serious and motivated drivers.’

The arrival of new vehicles means CWS is often on a recruitment drive to find more suitably qualified staff to operate these machines. A minimum requirement is for people who have experience with ‘wheels, tracks and rollers’ and heavy truck operations. Lord says people with heavy machinery operating skills could begin a successful career as CWS provides extensive on-the-job training.

‘Our current staff are experienced and dedicated to working with these machines, and that’s what we look for in new recruits’, says Lord. ‘We’ll provide extensive training on all our machinery and depending upon people’s skills they can become more specialised with one or more vehicle. We also train staff on health and safety as operating these machines requires constant focus and attention.’

Employment opportunities are also being created by the landfill gas produced when organic waste decomposes in the landfill. The gas is extracted from the landfill through a reticulation system that delivers it to a series of Jenbacher generators that burn the gas and turn it into electricity. Lord says he needs staff to work at both ends of the gas management process.

‘We need a field technician to work in the extraction side of the gas operation’, says Lord. ‘We also need a technician with mechanical or electrical qualifications and experience to work in the generation side of the business. That person will require both the necessary skills and a real aptitude for working with complex machinery.’

Employment opportunities at the landfill are rare, as staff tend to stay with the company for years on end. Several staff have been with CWS for over fifteen years, so vacancies don’t appear very often. In addition to the opportunities to work in the landfill, Lord says he’s always looking for truck and trailer drivers.

‘All Canterbury’s non-recyclable waste needs to be transported to Kate Valley’, says Lord. ‘That’s why we’re always keen to hear from trained truck and trailer drivers with a Class 5 licence.’

CWS operates the Kate Valley Landfill on behalf of its owner Transwaste Canterbury Ltd.

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