



Media release – Friday 17 March 2023

Kate Valley on show for shareholders

Transwaste Canterbury Ltd (Transwaste) welcomed councillors and staff from council shareholders to a day of activities at Kate Valley on Monday 13 March.

The day was attended by mayors, councillors and staff from each of the five shareholding councils (Christchurch City, Ashburton, Hurunui, Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts) along with representatives of the Kate Valley Landfill Community Trust, the Kate Valley Community Liaison Group, and staff and students from Woodend School which runs education and transport safety programmes with Transwaste.

The event opened with a welcome from Transwaste Chairman Gill Cox who says the regular shareholder events are a great opportunity for councillors and council staff to see first-hand how their districts' waste is managed.

“The Kate Valley Landfill is where the municipal waste from Canterbury councils is sent so while we’re located in Hurunui District everyone from Ashburton to Amberley has a stake in this operation”, says Mr Cox. “The shareholder event gives mayors, councillors and staff a chance to see what happens to their district’s waste.”

Other speakers at the event included Canterbury Waste Services (CWS) Regional Manager Rangi Lord (who leads the operational team running the Landfill for Transwaste) and Transwaste Board Director Gareth James (who has been involved with Transwaste since its inception in the 1990s). Gareth gave a presentation on the development of the joint venture, the search for the landfill site, its construction and containerised transport operation.

The scene setting completed, the visitors began visiting four locations around Kate Valley to get a first-hand look at the operations of the regional landfill. Sites visited included the container terminal where full containers are dropped off by the waste truck fleet and empty containers collected for the return trip to the waste transfer stations in each council district. Visitors were taken to the gas platform where landfill gas powers four generators each producing 1MW of electricity, and to a viewing area to get an in-depth understanding of the disposal process at the landfill working face. The groups also visited a lookout site to view and learn about Tiromoana Bush, the ambitious 407-hectare bush conservation project.

“Many people’s expectations of landfills are shaped by their earliest experiences of going with their parents to drop off rubbish at the old dumps that used to operate around the region”, says Mr Cox. “Today’s landfills are nothing like the dumps of yesteryear. The precision with which we manage waste, the collection of methane for generating electricity, and the positive impact we’re having on the adjacent native bush are all aspects of our operation that pleasantly surprise visitors.”

Visitors were shown the monitoring systems used to track everything from the movements of waste vehicles across Canterbury to gas extraction rates and leachate management within the Landfill. For many visitors, particularly councillors elected in last year’s local body elections, this was their first in depth look at the Landfill operations. Hurunui District Mayor Marie Black says it’s interesting to return to Kate Valley to witness the development of the landfill.

“It’s great to see the growth and development of the site and how the quality of the land care impacts positively on the adjacent Tiromoana Bush”, says Mayor Black. “The integrity of how the landfill is managed is improving the environmental outcomes for the bush in an unexpected and inspirational synergy.”