



*Media release – 26 June 2023*

## ***Community Liaison Group meets at Kate Valley landfill***

Representatives of the Waipara-Omihi community got an up-close look at the operations of the Kate Valley Landfill this month when the Community Liaison Group (CLG) held a quarterly meeting on-site at the landfill.

The CLG was set up to enable regular and effective communication between residents in the Waipara-Omihi area, adjoining landowners and Transwaste. The CLG meets on a quarterly basis to discuss any community or cultural concerns relating to the Landfill, and receives updates on the development and operation of the Landfill, and Tiromoana Bush and walkways.

Gill Cox, Transwaste Chairman, says the CLG are the eyes and ears of the local community.

‘Since 2005 the CLG has provided valuable insight into the expectations of the local community for the landfill’, says Mr Cox. ‘We’ve aspired to be a responsible business operator in the Waipara community and the participation of the CLG has ensured that any concerns have been resolved.’

Meetings are held on-site and CLG members are given free access to the operations of the landfill to see first-hand how the region’s waste is being managed. The CLG are able to suggest activities they’d like to see at the landfill, such as public open days and visits from community organisations and schools.

Long-serving community representative Alec Baxter has been the Chair of the CLG for several terms, and says being a member of the CLG has provided a thorough education on all the different aspects of waste management and even native forest restoration.

‘The Kate Valley Landfill is so much more than just the last resting place for the region’s waste’, says Alec Baxter. ‘Over the years I’ve been involved with the CLG I’ve seen the development of the gas to electricity generation that’s extracting clean energy from methane gas captured from decomposing waste in the landfill. We’re witnessing Waipara emerge as a location for green electricity generation, which is a win for the local community and the environment. The restoration of Tiromoana Bush and provision of public walkways through the regenerating native forest is of enormous benefit to our local community, made possible because the landfill is here and funds the restoration project. Participating in the CLG has allowed me to understand and appreciate there’s so much more to waste management than burying rubbish in the ground.’

The CLG consists of three representatives of property owners in the Waipara-Omihi area, two representatives of property owners along Mt Cass Road, a representative from each of Environment Canterbury and the Hurunui District Council, and one representative from Transwaste. Elections for the community representatives are held every three years, and fall due in July this year. Details of the election process will be announced early in July.