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Regional rubbish crushed by 56-tonne compactor

Waste is no match for the latest acquisition at the Kate Valley Landfill. The new German manufactured 56-tonne compactor is only the second of its kind in New Zealand, bought to shred and squash waste in the regional landfill owned by Transwaste Canterbury Ltd (Transwaste).

At \$1.4 million dollars the compactor is one of the most expensive machines at the landfill. It's a significant investment, though Transwaste Chairman Mr Gill Cox says the new compactor ensures the landfill can accommodate as much waste as possible within the smallest practical space.

'The weight of the compactor combined with the design of its 7-tonne wheels ensures waste is shredded and squashed into the smallest space', says Gill Cox. 'With this new machine we can fit the maximum amount of waste into the space available, making best use of the landfill. Expanding the landfill with new contoured and lined cells is an expensive process so the more waste we can fit into an existing cell represents a huge saving. The new compactor is also very fuel efficient reducing carbon emissions which was a factor in the decision to purchase it.'

The new German manufactured compactor has wheels designed to shred and compact waste as it runs over the landfill. It's capable of compacting around 1500 tonnes of waste every day. Design improvements include a bonnet that opens hydraulically to allow easy access to service the engine, and an air filtration system in the cab to keep out dust from the landfill.

Hayden Leach, Regional Manager Canterbury Landfill and Energy, says the new compactor is a very sophisticated piece of purpose-built machinery.

'The compactor arrived without its wheels, which had to be fitted separately by a specialist from the supplier who took two days to get the compactor fully assembled ready to operate', says Hayden Leach. 'The team who will operate the compactor then required two days of dedicated training from the supplier before they could operate this extraordinary machine.'

Transwaste is a regional collaboration between Christchurch City, the District Councils of Ashburton, Hurunui, Selwyn and Waimakariri, and WM New Zealand. Transwaste is trusted managing our community's waste at the award-winning Kate Valley Landfill, to the highest international engineering, safety and environmental standards for the benefit of the Canterbury community.