

# **Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting**

## **Minutes 16 August 2022, 6:30pm**

**Venue - Waikura Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Boardroom, 180 Smith Street, Woolston.**

### **Attendees**

**Facilitator** - Carl Pascoe

**Christchurch City Council (CCC) Staff** - Jane Davis, Lynette Ellis, Ross Trotter, David McArdle

**CCC Councillors** - Yani Johanson (Linwood), Phil Mauger (Burwood)

**Environment Canterbury (ECan) Staff** - Ruth Sarson, Sophie Harland

**ECan Councillors** - Nicole Marshall

**Living Earth** - Jaco Kleinhans

**Community Members** - Alexandra Davids, Andrew Walker & Vickie Walker, Bruce King, Carol Anderson, Don Gould, Geoffrey King, Jackie Simonds, Margaret Macpherson, Michael Williams

**Minute Taker** – Mary O’Leary

### **Introductions and Welcome**

The facilitator welcomed everyone and acknowledged there were no apologies and that hard copies of the previous minutes were available on site.

### **Discussion Around Previous Meeting Minutes**

The facilitator requested confirmation that the minutes were correct and confirmed that action had been taken at the end of the last meeting to ensure that Geoffrey King had correct contact details to communicate any alterations to minutes directly to him via text or email as required.

### **Discussion around Environment Canterbury & Living Earth Reports**

**Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Spoke to the confusion around the reporting of incidents at the previous meeting and reiterated that the report focused on the Bromley area as defined on the map and complaints specifically regarding compost odour coming from the Living Earth site over the period from May to July 2022. It was noted that ECan had been hampered during the reporting period due to staff availability because of Covid and flu.

There were a total of 65 incidents logged during the reporting period; it was noted that there could be multiple Smelt-It odour reports assigned to each particular incident. The number of Smelt-Its had increased significantly since the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) fire in November but these had dramatically reduced over the last three months. There were 399 Smelt-It submissions where the reporter mentioned compost along with multiple other odour

sources, but for the purposes of the report, only submissions specifically stating compost had been included, resulting in 29 assessments being carried out. Odour from Living Earth was substantiated beyond the property boundary at a low level on 8 occasions. As this was not occurring on a regular basis, it was not deemed to be offensive or objectionable. A breakdown of Smelt-Its and Snap Send Solve reports was included in the report.

There were two Notices of Non-Compliance (NONCs) issued during the reporting period to Living Earth. Officers had ruled out other sources when carrying out their assessments and Living Earth had been confirmed as the source on both occasions.

ECan was asked to report on the time it took to reach an incident and this was estimated to average approximately half an hour.

The report spoke to the issue of dust monitoring and one incident that was reported by a resident relating to a fine, yellow gritty dust. However the officer assessing the site did not observe any dust of the nature reported during their assessment.

During the reporting period, there was a desktop inspection to check compliance with the conditions of consent via reports and data sent electronically versus onsite inspections. Compliance was confirmed with the exception of condition number 27 relating to the discharge of offensive and objectionable odour beyond the boundary which was graded as significantly non-compliant. There were no other non-compliance issues noted during the reporting period.

It was important to note that dust was not observed beyond the boundary during any of the 24 assessments.

**Carol Anderson - Community** - Spoke to the incident of the yellow gritty dust which she had reported and stated that nobody came to look at it.

**Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Replied the officer did an assessment via their usual 360 dust assessment whereby they take different variables into account which included reviewing the photos Carol supplied.

**Carol Anderson - Community** - Expressed that she would not bother to send in any further photos.

**Bruce King - Community** - Commented he had checked the rain water at times when the sewerage odour was strong and that the readings indicated that they were potentially experiencing something close to acid rain due to the chemical reaction when hydrogen sulphide mixed with water. Referencing Carol's complaint, he observed that it turned yellow when it dried and changed into sulphuric acid. He suggested that the CCC was not prepared for the long term outcomes.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - What do ECan intend to do about the significant non-compliance referenced?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - The matter is under investigation and as such ECan are unable to make any comment.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - Might legal action against Organics Processing Plant (OPP) be a potential outcome?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Reiterated that ECan could not comment while the matter was under investigation as it could cause prejudice.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - Is there a timeframe for an outcome?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Under the Resource Management Act, Regional Council or local authorities had a period of 12 months to take enforcement action. Generally speaking, once any enforcement action was taken, it would be passed on to the District Court for determining the outcome.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - When was the significant non-compliance?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - We have been recording significant non-compliance against the consent for the last two to three years.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - Asked for clarification.

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - You may recall that we have taken enforcement action in terms of an Abatement Notice issued, a number of Infringement Notices had been given in previous years. When the Abatement Notice came into effect that made a new parameter in that we had to prove that there was still an issue post the Abatement Notice deadline, therefore we had to take a period of time to determine whether there were still non-compliances. We have taken that time and we are still grading the consenters as non-compliant, significantly non-compliant.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - How typical it is for a regional council to have a significantly non-compliant issue arise in the community?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Replied she would have to check to provide an exact answer, but that grading an offence as significantly non-compliant was not unusual.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - How many complaints were there during the reporting period?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Referred to the graph and reiterated that the incidents only referred to Bromley and excluded the WWTP and the graph related exclusively to compost odour.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Questioned the large discrepancy in terms of 399 incidents in total with only 29 having been investigated.

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Explained they were not responding to WWTP complaints or any other odours and that they were responding specifically to complaints that related to compost odour because ECan were specifically checking compliance with the Abatement Notice.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Are ECan communicating that complainants should be sure to separate their complaints to avoid the issue of their complaint not being investigated?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - There had been a lot of communication when the WWTP fire happened which had given the public the opportunity to make specific submissions and it had been discussed in this forum as well, however, they had to be careful of the message going out to the broader community due to the potential risk that people would think they were being asked to report as a matter of course

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Commented that it was unfair that many complaints were not being followed up on due to the issue of the complainants mentioning different odours

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Agreed that this was a problem.

**Vicki Walker - Community** - Commented that she was sick of how long it was taking.

**Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Acknowledged the frustration and explained that many of the assessments were now being carried out in a proactive manner relative to wind conditions and other factors but that due to the fact that many complaints came in after hours and other factors such as being short staffed during Covid, it meant that not all investigations could take place.

**(Q) Bruce King - Community** - The Smelt It app doesn't always work and half of his reports don't go in. Are we going to have anything happen before the Resource Management Act (RMA) is changed?

**(Q) Geoffrey King - Community** - Queried whether there were 65 days out of 90 days, and noted that it was not good enough that this was happening. The Resource Management Act, The Clean Air Act clearly states that this City Council entity is breaching the law, and ECan is to blame as much as the City Council for not policing it, for letting it start in the first place and not shutting it down. We had a Council vote about

a month ago and it was 7 to 8, it only needed one councillor to change their vote, Les Donaldson, Sarah Templeton, trendy lefties, wanted to keep it open. It affects the constituents in their wards but they want to keep it open.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Can the annual report from ECan be shared with the community in order to provide an opportunity to see what has happened over the course of a year and provide an overview of the number of complaints etc.

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Absolutely

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Is it true that you've been doing a lot more reporting?

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - I don't think so, I think we have just been a lot more proactive.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Regarding the dust monitoring, I saw the Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) report for the year 2020-2021 which came out in March 2022, is that still the timeframe, i.e. will we see the next report in March 2023?

**(A) David McArdle - CCC** - Clarified the report was updated in March 2023 for public release, but it was originally completed and submitted to ECan after the end of the financial year it was reporting upon.

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Trigger limits have not been established beyond the property boundary. Often trigger limits within the consent require reporting but it doesn't mean it's an actual breach of the consent.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Regarding the PDP report, ECan have until March to change consent conditions, so I think it is really important the community can see that report and give feedback to ECan, and if there are concerns around the dust then that would be the opportunity to consider changes.

**(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan** - Replied suggesting CCC could provide the PDP report and the Annual Environmental Monitoring report.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - How many years and how many non compliances would it take to actually shut the plant down?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Replied that ECan do not have the authority to shut down a lawfully operating business under the Resource Management Act; they can only address the impact of non-compliance. Ruth reiterated that the issue was under investigation, noting that enforcement action has been taken in the past and that ECan were currently at the next stage of the process.

Various members of the community expressed that this keeps going on year after year.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - If ECan can't shut down a lawfully acting business, if the residents want redress, the redress would seem to be that the residents need to take this to the District Court for them to order the plant to be shut down.

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Private residents have the ability to apply for their own enforcement order under the Resource Management Act.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - As such, the residents wouldn't need to do an investigation as they already have evidence that they could present to allow the court to make a decision and seek their own legal opinion and bring a case.

**(Q) Bruce King - Community** - We took legal advice a few years ago and were told we needed a minimum of \$300,000 to take the matter to court - it is unlikely we will raise this. While the business may be a legally operating business, they do not meet the consent that is issued and the issuing body for the consent is ECan so they should have the ability to close the plant down.

**Carl Pascoe - Chair** - That is the point, that there are limits on their ability to do so.

**Bruce King - Community** - If I build a house and it doesn't meet consent, it is pulled down. This is the same kind of basic stuff, this plant is not even built to the plan submitted to get the consent.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - When we've had NONCs served to Living Earth before, there has been a comment 'no action required' - what does this mean?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - On all the notices issued there has been action required, which has been to cease the offensive and objectionable odour beyond the property boundary.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - Within what time frame?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Within the compliance of the Abatement Notice. The action was to cease the odour and I have to admit I am in a difficult position because I can not make any comments on what those further actions are

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - But that is with the compliance investigation team at ECan who are looking at all options?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Correct

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - I was confused about the last response, because if a private citizen can get an enforcement order to cease an activity, surely ECan can do the same?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - Yes they could

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - So why don't they?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - I can't make any comment

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - I'm still really confused about the dust, in the report that we have seen previously, it stated that we had a high level of non compliance with the requirements of 33B, that experience in 2019/2020 said that 19 of the 31 exceedances were recorded at onsite monitoring locations, so I presume that means about 12 exceedances were recorded off-site monitoring locations. How many exceedances and non-compliances have there been with regard to dust over the last year?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - There have been no breaches of the consent in relation to dust.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - So the PDP report will say that?

**(A) Ruth Sarsons - ECan** - I will need to get back to you on that, but I think we mentioned in the last report that there were a few exceedances when the material was being taken off site to be relocated, that is covered off in the Living Earth report.

**(Q) Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor** - I think one of the issues is that the language in the PDP reports is quite different to the reports that this committee gets from ECan and Living Earth. The PDP report uses clear language that is easy to understand yet we struggle to get that information in a way that the community can understand it. I wonder if there is a way to simplify this?

**Carl Pascoe - Chair** - Clarified that Yani's request was being directed to ECan to use a simpler reporting style in the PDP reports on dust.

**Geoffrey King - Community** - Stated he wasn't getting at Ruth personally, but at ECan. The consent says the dust should not exceed 4 grams per metre squared in 30 days, but we've got 10 grams per metre squared across a period of three months which is contrary to what was just said, so we have to breathe that in every day when it is blowing North East. In 2006/7 there was an agreement for the build of an organic plant detailed in a legal document from Simpson and Greerson. ECan, under Bill Bayfield, allowed it to open before it was finished, the biofilter is third world yet it is still allowed to operate. The legal document is breached 24/7.

Ruth announced that this would be her last Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting and acknowledged that her 4 years were nothing in comparison to what the residents had been putting up with. She assured the group that she had been doing everything she could and thanked everyone for their support and persistence over the years, especially throughout the Bromley Odour Pilot. She introduced Sophie Harland, who manages the staff who respond to the calls and confirmed she would continue to support Sophie from behind the scenes once she took over at the next meeting.

**Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - Talked to eight gauges monitoring dust, specifically those shown in the graph located in Dyers Road, one at the pump station and another just North of Metro place. During the period a lot of changes had taken place on site and water misters were utilised, there was an increase to the boundary between the tailings and the fenceline is constantly increasing as material is being moved off site, all of which had helped to bring the dust readings down. There was a plan to move the water misters to electric units. The dust review was completed and is currently with PDP with an answer from them expected imminently. Boundary planting requirements were ongoing and were expected to take place within the next few weeks or in September. Ongoing odour assessment takes place via PDP as an independent odour assessor as part of ECan's monitoring. Progress had been made with removal of the remaining surplus tailings onsite, however it was noted that July weather had hampered some activity. There was an updated picture within the report, but quite a few more tailings had been subsequently removed.

**(Q) Vicki Walker - Community** - Queried whether the tailings were what was being dumped by the Bridge Street ponds.

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - Explained this was compost.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - What are we actually smelling and what sort of equipment is in place to understand those odours?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - Onsite management uses the same equipment as ECan. We are also trialling a handheld unit that can pick up a variety of gases which gives a sensitivity reading to odour etc.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - What capacity is the plant and what is its growth potential? I asked the Council and they responded that it is expected to grow 11% year on year over the next couple of years, which is another 25% of content coming to the plant for processing, and I am wondering whether it needs to go or whether it needs to be scaled back. What I am not understanding is what the actual capacity is.

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - The plant was consented for 90,000 tonnes of kerbside material with an additional 30,000 tonnes of green waste.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - Last time we had a meeting, there were 20,000 cubic metres of tailings there, how much of that has gone?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We've moved approximately two thirds of it.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - When they are all gone, is it correct that there will be no dust? And apart from the biofilter, there will be no odour as there will be nothing outside. Is the biofilter being worked extra hard?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We don't windrow outside anymore. We process and handle the material inside more regularly and the system is working harder, we also had a busy last season and will probably have the same again this upcoming season.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - Can you confirm that all the additional green waste is being sent out to Oxford?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We use the green waste from the transfer station next door as we need it for porosity and to achieve the optimal carbon nitrogen ratio for the composting process.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - Can I just clarify that you need about 3,000 tonnes of tailings for operational purposes, when do you think you will be down to 3,000 tonnes?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - It is going well, it depends on transport and availability along with the weather and other logistical challenges, but I'm loading up as quickly as there are resources available.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - How do Living Earth feel about the effect on the quality of the material being provided by the community due to the amount of plastic that ends up in compost. Has the banning of plastic bags helped?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We end up with an enormous amount of plastics but we work closely with CCC to educate the public that segregation at source is the solution.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - How often do things need to be reprocessed in terms of exceeding the resource consent relating to odour when working with the tunnels?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - The product coming out of the tunnels has its odour assessed before it can go outside. The procedure is that it goes back in the tunnel if it is odorous, however, over the last six months I could probably count the number of times this has happened on one hand. The technologist and technical assistant onsite do this monitoring.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - Would it make life easier if you could leave things in the tunnel for longer?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - As a simulation, that is what we have right now. Because it is low season, I can run it in the tunnels for longer and I just keep on reprocessing it.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - Is there a point where we bite the bullet as a Council and in order to avoid you being overloaded, that we send them elsewhere?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We are working on this and I will be giving feedback on this to David when we meet later in the week. We are going into this next season with less product than we did last season. The less I have to reprocess, the better it is.

**Bruce King - Community** - You say that your biofilter is working at 90% of its capacity, it works on the bacteria attaching itself to the odours as the air goes through, the faster the air goes through, the less time it has to be in contact with the bacteria that destroys the odour. Given we know the tunnels are working, the only place the stink can be coming from is the biofilter, which suggests the biofilter is probably totally inefficient and probably third world technology. I haven't been able to get hold of anyone who is prepared to call themselves an expert on compost. If you are going to keep operating the plant for the next two to five years (as we are being told), it might be blown up by then.

**Carl Pascoe - Chair** - Suggested that this comment was a hypothetical rhetorical statement, and Bruce agreed stating that it might blow itself up due to the gases forming inside of the tunnels, noting that it happened before at the Gelatine factory when ECan had been powerless to do anything and an arsonist had fixed the issue.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - What can we do to reduce the odour in the interim? How is the biofilter going to be monitored if it is the cause of the odour? Can we see a graph over the next few months that can monitor the biofilter? Do you understand the monitoring of the odours?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - Biofilters are maintained on pH, pressure, temperature and humidity. All we can do is maintain the biofilter in its current design.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - What is your opinion of the odours?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - I do not find the odours offensive.

**Nicole Marshall - ECan Councillor** - I just want to congratulate you and your team on the massive clearance of the site and your positive attitude in engaging with the community at these

events and I want to thank you for your efforts doing your bit for the community to improve things. I really appreciate what you and your team have done.

**Carl Pascoe - Chair** - Moved to proceed with the CCC CLG update.

**(Q) Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor** - How many dust exceedances are there in the Living Earth report in this reporting period?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - We have had no exceedances. We report on the on and offsite dust monitors which are independently measured by a third party which means that I'm comfortable with whatever we are doing as it is working.

**(Q) Don King - Community** - Is there anything we could do as the community that could advocate to help you even more?

**(A) Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - The community has concerns around odours, but I believe the good news story around resource recovery has got lost. So I believe we need to work on segregation and promoting the good news story.

**David McArdle - CCC** - Spoke to the following;

- **PDP AQMesh real time air quality monitoring trial completed;**
  - Data was collected over 17 days from a monitor being trialled on the south-western boundary of Living Earth's site
  - The monitor recorded particulate matter, PM, of size PM<sub>10</sub>, and smaller from the site. PM is microscopic matter suspended in air or water. PM is measured in microns with a micron being one millionth of metre in length or less
  - The higher PM concentrations came from the west and PDP believe it is likely they can be associated with vehicles on Dyers Road or smoke from domestic wood burners
  - In summary, the trial was a success. PDP were able to distinguish between Living Earth effects and other sources. The concentration of particles produced by Living Earth are lower than other sources and do not appear to result in particulate concentrations that exceed the NESAQ PM guidelines.
  
- **Removal of Tailings Surplus to Operational Requirements from Site;**

To date 5,884 tonnes of tailings have been removed from site and work is ongoing to meet the project completion date of 30 September 2022.
  
- **Otautahi Christchurch Organics Processing Solution procurement process;**
  - As per the newsletter from 30 June, a procurement plan looking at alternative locations for the OPP was approved by Council. The procurement plan is commercially sensitive therefore is not available for public release at this time.

- The first stage of the procurement process is a Request for Information which was released to the market through July and the responses have been reviewed.
  - The subsequent stage is an Expression of Interest which will include an interactive element where we will engage with respondents to work through potential solutions. Staff are currently reviewing this document before it is released to the market at the end of the month.
  - Following this stage, one or more prospective suppliers will be invited to tender.
- **Spreading of compost at the paddocks of the WWTP;**
    - As previously communicated, this programme of work is for soil improvement ahead of the planting of native trees and plants to help Christchurch reduce its carbon emissions and ease the midge problem in the area, by providing a natural barrier between the oxidation ponds and nearby homes.
    - Environmental assessments completed to date have not found offensive and objectionable odour in the area with the material being stabilised within two weeks of application. Living Earth regularly visits the paddocks and is conducting an ongoing monitoring programme.
    - We are continuing to engage PDP for ongoing proactive monitoring which includes the areas where the compost is being spread.
    - Since November 2021 approximately 20,000 tonnes of maturing compost has been transported to the WWTP which has a capacity to receive over 100,000 tonnes, roughly the equivalent to three years of output from the OPP.
    - To clarify, the WWTP is buying a product from Living Earth and this is a medium term solution for the output of the OPP.
    - Living Earth has approached the market to develop further end markets and initial feedback has been positive. Living Earth is working with AssureQuality to support this.
    - We are currently developing a bird management plan with a CCC Ecologist as native birds appear to be nesting in the area.

**(Q) Bruce King Community** - Can you tell us what size they are measuring down to?

**(A) David McArdle - CCC & Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth** - Responded PM□□.

**(Q) Alexandra Davies - Community** - Regarding the procurement plan, you were \$20 million short of what the market required. What have you learned so that we will actually get a solution this time?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - It has been put out to the market with a view to finding a solution, knowing the concerns that are out there. Last time it was more about upgrading the site, this time it is not. So we are not as prescriptive, we've said that the outcome we want is to be able to process this material and divert it from landfill.

**(Q) Alexandra Davies - Community** - So you are focused on the outcome this time rather than the budget?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - Yes.

**(Q) Phil Mauger - CCC Councillor** - When we do shift it, will we start accepting all the green waste that is going to Oxford to wherever the new site is?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - That depends on the outcome, we are not guaranteeing anything.

**(Q) Geoffrey King - Community** - How far advanced are you with finding this new site?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - We are not looking for a new site, we are looking for a solution to achieve this, part of this is a site, part of it is a methodology for processing the waste material. That is underway, to find a solution.

**(Q) Geoffrey King - Community** - How long has that been going for?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - It went out to the market in July and has now closed. We have been engaging with interested parties and are moving to the next phase of the process to find a complete solution, including a site.

**(Q) Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor** - The initial report from Jacobs looked at a number of alternative sites. One of the key takeaways from that report was that the methodology would shape the decisions regarding site suitability. As I understand it, staff are looking at a range of options around methodologies, possibly some new sites are being considered in addition to the existing dozen or so and they want to make sure that they refine the technology for the most appropriate site.

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - Expressions of Interest have closed and Stage Two is about to start; staff have committed to go back to Council by February 2023 with the outcome. We are hoping to have more information before Christmas to indicate where we are at but everything depends on this process.

**Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor** - Suggested that there was a good case for Central Government to fast track consent.

**(Q) Michael Williams - Community** - Confirmed that methodology referred to processing the compost and suggested that surely there weren't that many options available for a city the size of Christchurch. Why is it such a long and drawn out process? How many options are there?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - We have multiple options ranging from anaerobic digestion to aerobic digestion, which is windrows, i.e. with air or without air. What has changed recently is that the government has signalled an intent to have organic processing across the country, i.e. curbside organic collection nationwide, particularly in major metro areas which means this won't just be about Christchurch, it will be the wider Canterbury region and probably the South Island. This changes the market for bigger players to come to New Zealand to set something different up. A lot of the existing organic facilities are typically aerobic windrow based facilities, but we are really keen to explore the possibility of bringing in the technology to move to anaerobic and that is what this process enables.

**(Q) Carol Anderson - Community** - Does it have to come from overseas? Why can't we develop it?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - We are not restricting it, we are talking to local and offshore providers, this is a procurement process that is out there.

**(Q) Vicki Walker - Community** - But the anaerobic process makes methane?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - That is correct so those are all the considerations that will be put on the table, the CO2 emissions is a big issue with our Council, so that's a consideration along with cost.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - Would it be fair to suggest that previously we have thought that we can do this cheaper than what the reality is?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - We are not restricting ourselves, so for example, there could be an arrangement with the private sector so the ratepayer isn't paying the full cost. We are aware that rates are significant, so the cost has to be a consideration. We are keeping our options open and thinking more broadly than we have in the past, for example, how we might partner with Central Government, other councils, and the private sector.

**(Q) Don Gould - Community** - Do we have to look at paying for this through cuts elsewhere?

**(A) Lynette Ellis - CCC** - We do have to look at cost effectiveness, so that means we might have to be more creative.

**Carl Pascoe - Chair** - Moved to close the meeting, noting the importance of the conversation becoming more civil across the last few meetings. Although it had been 14 years, the community was having an impact on the decision making process of a Council that was starting to move faster in the right direction for the community. Thanks to this advocacy, changes had been made to the way the plant operated and it was improving its operations progressively and

often incrementally. A new plant was on the way in some form as a result of this advocacy and Carl expressed gratitude to the attendees for this.

**Nicole Marshall - ECan Councillor** - Thanked Carl for his role in facilitating the meetings and helping to set a better tone. She advised this would be her last meeting as she was not standing, noting she had enjoyed working with everyone and seeing the progress that had been made.

**Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor** - Acknowledged the contribution from Ruth and Nicole and their advocacy for taking the Community's concerns seriously, noting that more progress had been made during the last three years than in the past decade. The Council had made budget provision and the Community could rest assured that money wasn't driving the process as it was accepted that the plant needed to be moved, enough harm had been caused to the Community and that Councillors wanted to do the right thing and find the best solution and move it to the best possible location. A lot of the frustration stemmed from the inefficiency of the regulatory framework, the RMA was inadequate and ill equipped to deal with the harm caused to the community, but he was feeling very optimistic.