

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON TRANSWASTE BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2002

The Board met on 25 September 2002.

In discussing the minutes of the last meeting, the Board noted that the attack by various parties on the MOU had subsided since the general election. It appears that talk of a select committee inquiry into the MOU was just election puffery. Nevertheless the Board would encourage the meeting by CWSC members and local MPs to discuss the MOU and related issues.

The Board received a report by the General Manager CWS, in which consultation with DOC, Transit NZ and Ngai Tahu was discussed. It was also noted that ECan and HDC have confirmed that they will not be making any requests for further information in respect of the consent applications which have been filed by the company for the Kate Valley project. It was noted that this is quite remarkable for this type of project, and reflects well on the standard and depth of the work done by our team in preparing the applications.

Issues relating to the consent application hearings were also discussed, including the nature of some of the submissions, the location of the hearing, and the composition of the hearing panel. Possible issues likely to be raised by submissions in opposition were also discussed, and preparations were made to obtain appropriate information with which to reply to these submissions during the hearing. Property issues were also briefly discussed.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the programme for the completion of consent hearings, and the design, construction and commissioning of the landfill. The Board is concerned to minimise delays having regard to the substantial cost of the intended programme if it has to be extended in time. Nevertheless, the Board feels that even the worst-case scenario would see the project "reasonably close to being operational" (per the MOU) well before the frustration date currently approved (31 December 2004).

The Board also reviewed the monthly financial report together with a review of the Transwaste financial model.

The annual report was also discussed and final issues were resolved including all audit issues. The board adopted the report and confirmed the date for the annual general meeting (22 November 2002). The statement of corporate intent incorporating amendments by both CWSC and CWS was also finally adopted.

Gerry Clemens gave a very positive verbal report on the supervision of the Tiromoana station farming operation over the last month. Favourable weather is giving confidence that farming budget performance will be achieved. Mr Clemens also outlined how planning was proceeding to integrate farming operations with the need to prepare the land for the commencement of landfill construction and the cessation of farming.

The Board received a report from its legal adviser concerning the applications which had been made to the Environment Court seeking to extend the time within which submissions could be made on the company's resource consent applications. The applicant had sought an extension to 2 December 2002. The Court dismissed the application; and an application for costs by Transwaste is to be considered.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.