

3. CORRESPONDENCE FROM RT HON JENNY SHIPLEY ON LANDFILL ISSUES

Mayors of all territorial local authorities in Canterbury and the Chairman of Transwaste Canterbury Ltd had received a letter from Rt Hon Jenny Shipley commenting on matters relating to the selection of a landfill site in Canterbury. Councillor Denis O'Rourke, as Chairman of Transwaste Canterbury Ltd replied noting that Transwaste Canterbury Ltd had adopted a robust process in assessing options for landfill sites in Canterbury. Objective assessments were being made following a thorough investigation by teams of experts contracted by Canterbury Waste Services Ltd.

The Prime Minister's references to the option of an incineration of the region's waste stream was taken up by Subcommittee members. Mayor Janice Skurr noted that the option of incineration had been excluded during the early investigations because of the comparative costs when compared with landfill options. She proposed that the option of an incineration plant for the whole of New Zealand be taken up with the Prime Minister. Problems with dioxins, disposal of toxic ash and other pollution made this option untenable for local authorities.

Councillor Denis O'Rourke's letter to the Prime Minister as Chairman of Transwaste Canterbury Ltd was tabled. The Subcommittee has asked that a report be provided setting out the reasons why the Canterbury territorial local authorities have not proceeded further with the option of an incinerating plant. The information contained in the letter from Transwaste Canterbury to the Prime Minister be received.