

2. CORRESPONDENCE - TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Lee Burdon and Mr Ashley Harper, District Services Manager, Timaru District Council, attended and at the commencement of the meeting tabled a letter to the Joint Standing Committee advising that the Timaru District Council had not at this stage passed the appropriate resolution re-establishing the Canterbury Joint Standing Committee and appointing a representative as required by the constituting agreement.

The reasons for this were explained in the memorandum from the Timaru District Council and in particular their concern that the current structure of the Joint Standing Committee exposed their council to some element of risk in respect to the regional landfill and to administrative processes that were not necessary.

The Timaru District Council wished to continue to strongly support and participate in region wide hazardous waste and waste minimisation initiatives and would like to see this function of the Joint Standing Committee continue.

The opportunity was taken to discuss this matter with representatives from the other councils who were not shareholders in Transwaste Canterbury Ltd, ie Waimate, Mackenzie and Kaikoura District Councils who indicated support and understanding for the position adopted by the Timaru District Council and for its concerns on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes at 10.25am to allow for discussion with the Christchurch City Council's Legal Services Manager regarding the Canterbury Joint Standing Committee and withdrawal by non-shareholder members.

At the recommencement of the meeting at 10.35am Mr Harper, in response to a question from Councillor Wright, explained more fully the concerns of his council which related to the fact that the Canterbury Joint Standing Committee and the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee receive confidential information relating to Transwaste Canterbury Ltd, both of which are involved in the appointment of directors and receipt of business reports and he felt that their involvement heightened the risk of confidential information being released and also perhaps exposed his council to litigation in respect to the regional landfill. It was indicated to non-shareholder councils that they should seek their own legal advice in respect to any possible liability in regard to the joint venture company and the regional landfill but it was felt that this risk was extremely small.

It was noted that the agenda for the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee meeting included an item on the review of the constitution and that this process might allow for the concerns of non-shareholder councils to be met. Councillor Burdon indicated that she felt that the Timaru District Council, which was the only council which had not passed the appropriate resolutions, would probably do so and look to participation in the review of the constitution as a means of addressing its concerns. As previously advised to members should any non-shareholder councils wish to withdraw from the Joint Standing Committee then this could be achieved by their councils passing an appropriate resolution and conveying this to the CJSC.