

### 3. STANDARDS FOR NEW ZEALAND LANDFILLS

The Subcommittee considered a report from Zefanja Potgieter, Resource Planner Solid Waste, Christchurch City Council, concerning the preparation of a future report to Central Government on the need for national landfill standards in New Zealand, including reviews of the consents for existing sites.

The report noted the current disparity in standards between residual disposal sites in New Zealand and that in respect of older sites, as well as having lower environmental standards, waste could also be attracted to them away from higher standard facilities by their lower fee structure.

The report suggested a joint approach to the Ministers for the Environment and Commerce following the preparation of a further more detailed report to the Subcommittee outlining the law relating to the review of consents for existing landfills.

The matter was discussed by the Subcommittee and it was noted that the Ministry for the Environment had already undertaken some work on landfill standards and the implications in terms of the Resource Management Act and URS Ltd had been engaged by the Ministry as a consultant in this regard.

Mr Gallagher commented that in respect of the Redruth landfill, operated by the Timaru District Council, conditions for this had been set in the early 1990s, which were those currently operated on, but a detailed study was now being undertaken on the southern part of the landfill which could be expected to serve the region for the next 20-25 years. Tonkin & Taylor Ltd had been commissioned to undertake this review which would be on the basis of best practice. He did not anticipate, therefore, that any future review of landfill standards would present a problem to his Council.

The issue of resourcing for the study was further discussed and it was agreed that staff would report back to the Subcommittee if any additional resources were required. In addition it was suggested that elected representatives give further consideration to the matter of Central Government support for waste minimisation and provide ideas on priorities to their staff who could then forward them to Zefanja Potgieter at the Christchurch City Council to be included in the report to the October meeting of the Subcommittee.

In addition it was agreed that staff check the closing date for papers to the Waste Management Institute Conference to be held in November 2002 to see whether it might be possible to present a paper on this topic at that conference.

The Subcommittee **resolved**:

1. That a meeting be sought with the Ministers for the Environment and Commerce, seeking mandatory minimum landfill standards with a target compliance date for existing landfills; and that Canterbury MPs also be invited to attend.
2. That a report be prepared for the Subcommittee outlining the law relating to the review of consents for existing landfills, who can initiate such reviews, and any other relevant issues.
3. That the Subcommittee also give consideration to identifying its top priorities for Government reform of solid waste disposal to minimise the volumes being sent to landfill.