

**6. TRANSWASTE APPLICATION TO THE HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
TO CANCEL OR CHANGE KATE VALLEY HEAVY TRUCK CONSENT CONDITION -
REPORT FROM MAYOR GARRY JACKSON**

1. As members are aware, Transwaste Canterbury Ltd have applied to Hurunui District Council to cancel or change consent condition RCO20069 limiting heavy truck movements to a maximum of 600 in any seven day period. The hearing took place June 19 through 21, heard by independent commissioner Philip Milne. A decision is expected in August.
2. 500 submissions were received, 4 in support of the application, and 496 in opposition. Supporting submissions by Ashburton District Council and Christchurch City Council were amongst those presented at the hearing.
3. This note is written independent of my involvement at the hearing as a submitter. (A copy of Mayor Jackson's submission is attached.) As the only member of this committee to have attended the full three days, I believe that there are aspects of the discussions that CWSC should be aware of.
4. In discussions regarding origins of the present heavy truck consent condition, Commissioner Milne indicated that the original panel was mindful of the amenity effects of heavy truck volumes on the local community, particularly those that could not be directly managed by other specific consent conditions such as noise and hours of operation.
5. Waste volumes going to landfill became a major discussion point, arising from the application's projection of 360000 tonnes per annum going forward, compared with the basis of 240000 tonnes in the original consent application, and the present levels of approximately 300000 tonnes per annum.
6. Discussion on waste volumes extended to the subject of the potential life of the landfill, prompted in part by comments by Transwaste that increased compaction densities being achieved would result in far greater capacity than originally proposed. At the end of the third day of the hearing, in response to questions from the Commissioner, Transwaste tabled a letter from their engineering consultants advising that the landfill now had a projected capacity nearing 15 million tonnes, or a landfill life of 47 years. The issue was raised with the Commissioner of whether or not such new data was significantly different to the AEE evidence at the time of the original application (9.7 million tonnes/35 year design life) so as to bring into question the ongoing validity of the original consent. Transwaste's legal counsel was requested by the Commissioner to review the evidence to the Environment Court in this respect and to advise the Commissioner and public submitters.
7. Irrespective of the discussions regarding the potential life of the landfill, the CWSC should be mindful that Transwaste's suggestions that if heavy truck movements are excessively restricted, the only option will be a second landfill most likely in the Hurunui area or further north (reference the final two paragraphs of Mr James' Statement of Evidence) has not been well received by the Hurunui community.
8. At some stage in the future, it is believed that the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee will need to focus its attention on some or all of the following issues:
 - CWSC's role and responsibilities to monitor waste volume trends, including:
 - Waste to landfill by TLA versus targets in the respective Waste Management Plans
 - Waste to landfill by Canterbury region in total
 - Waste diversion volumes, by TLA versus targets in the respective Waste Management Plans
 - Waste diversion volumes by Canterbury region in total
 - depending on outcome of landfill capacity and consent discussions as noted above, the time may arise when CWSC may need to open serious discussion regarding alternative (non landfill) disposal strategies.