

## 9. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FUND REVIEW

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Water and Waste Manager	<b>Author</b> Zefanja Potgieter, DDI 371 1271
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The purpose of this report is to recommend that a Community Participation Fund for the proposed Kate Valley site not be put in place.

### BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on 16 November 1999 a community participation fund was approved for the Trig site to assist the Selwyn community in researching community issues that may have not been addressed in the Canterbury Waste Services Ltd investigations on the Trig site. Specific funding guidelines were established to be administered by an independent fund administrator, with the fund intended to operate in the 1999/2000 and 2000/01 financial years.

### UPDATE

Since the decision to establish the Community Participation Fund for the Trig site, the situation has changed. The changes are as follows:

- The "Trig" site has been abandoned due to discovery of a secondary fault in the footprint.
- The Kate Valley site is much further down the investigation path than the "Trig site".
- Consultation is also much further advanced at Kate Valley than it was at Trig. The consultation process at "Trig" had hardly commenced when the site was abandoned.
- There was widespread public concern about the perceived potential for a landfill at "Trig" to affect valued "downstream" groundwater aquifers. A major basis for the local request for public funding was this specific concern. This issue does not arise at Kate Valley, as there are no aquifers downstream.
- A recent household survey of all households in the Waipara/Omihi Valley has indicated that most people are very well aware of the investigation process underway at Kate Valley, and have a strong understanding of the resource management process that must occur before Kate Valley could obtain resource consents. This was not the case at "Trig".
- The new central government source of funding to assist community groups with applications under the Resource Management Act was not in existence when the Community Participation Fund for Trig site was approved in 1999. The Ministry for the Environment, during 2000 introduced a new fund to help environment, community, iwi and hapu groups to participate more effectively in resource management processes by providing groups with funding to help prepare, resolve (e.g. through mediation) and to present cases before the Environment Court. The fund is available to any non-profit group that has a recognised legal status, i.e. the group is a body corporate. This includes incorporated societies and non-profit trusts. A maximum of \$20,000 per group per case applies.

### SUMMARY

The Community Participation Fund set up in 1999 for the specific situation at Trig has been superseded by subsequent events. The situation at the Trig site was vastly different from that which applies at the proposed Kate Valley site, in terms of investigation advancement, community understanding and knowledge, and issues of concern. The introduction of a government-funded scheme for applications under the Resource Management Act means that the Councils need no longer provide ratepayer funds for such a use.

**Recommendation:** That a Community Participation Fund for the proposed Kate Valley site not be put in place.

### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.

(Note: As this is an item relating to the operation of Transwaste Canterbury Ltd in terms of clauses 3(a) and 11(a) of the Constituting Agreement only those councils holding shares in the company may vote on this issue.)