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**ORDINARY MEETING**

**OF**

**TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD**

**MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

Time: 7.00pm  
Date: Thursday, 10 March 2016  
Venue: Tawa Community Centre  
5 Cambridge Street  
Tawa  
Wellington

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**Business**

**Page No.**

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**2.7 Members' Reports**

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| 1. attachment 1 - spicer landfill handout | 2 |
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## **1 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL'S STRATEGIES**

1.1 The issues in this paper contribute to the strategic priorities of:

- A healthy and protected harbour and catchment;
- A growing, prosperous and regionally connected city; and
- A great village and city experience.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Most complaints about odour attributed to the Spicer Landfill were from residents in the western hills of Tawa, although some complaints also came from residents within the Linden area and from the eastern hill suburbs.
- 2.2 If an “offensive and objectionable” odour is traced back to the landfill, it could be a breach of the landfill resource consent. Officers from the Greater Wellington Regional Council, after investigation of a complaint, determine whether or not an odour is “offensive and objectionable”.
- 2.3 In October 2015 representatives of the JV Committee met with the Tawa Community Board to brief them on actions being undertaken to address the odour complaints attributed to the Spicer Landfill.
- 2.4 A Joint Venture Committee meeting was held on the 14 Dec 2015 in the Tawa Community Board chambers. At this meeting an independent review of the odour issues by Beca was tabled.
- 2.5 The following updates the Committee:
- a) on the frequency of odour complaints, and
  - b) on the progress of actions underway to reduce the risk of odours, including those recommended by Beca in their report of December 2015.

## **3 DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

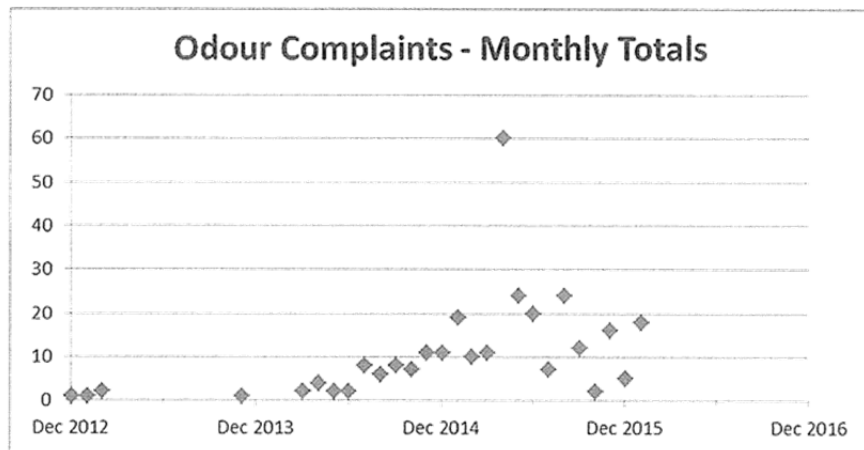
### **Update on the frequency of Odour Complaints**

- 3.1 The table below shows the number of odour complaints received by Council per week for the last five months (from 4 October 2015 to 29 Feb 2016). Eight complaints were received for the week of the Xmas/New Year holiday, possibly because more people were at home at this time. Excavation works were underway to install new gas pipework in December and January that coincided with some complaints. Ten complaints were received on the evening of 22 February 2016. Although both the landfill operator and GWRC investigated in Tawa that evening, the source of the odour could not be confirmed, and there were no unusual activities underway at the landfill.
- 3.2 There was an average of 2 complaints per week. Although none of the odours were considered by GWRC to be a breach of the consent, addressing odour complaints and minimisation of odour risk is an ongoing focus of landfill operations. Actions underway are described later in this report.

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Week	Dates	Number of Complaints
1	October 4 – 10	5
2	October 11 – 17	4
3	October 18 – 24	0
4	October 25 – 31	2
5	November 1 – 7	2
6	November 8 – 14	0
7	November 15 – 21	0
8	November 22 – 28	0
9	November 29 – December 5	1
10	December 6 – 12	5
11	December 13 – 19	1
12	December 20 – 26	4
13	December 27 – January 2	8
14	January 3 – 9	0
15	January 10 – 16	1
16	January 17 – 23	1
17	January 24 – 30	0
18	January 31 – February 6	4
19	February 7 – 13	2
20	February 14 – 20	1
21	February 21 - 27	11

3.3 Also shown in the graph below is a longer term view. The graph shows the number of complaints per month since December 2012. The incidence of complaints has declined from a high in mid-2015, but there is still an average of 2 complaints per week.



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**Update on the progress of actions underway to reduce the risk of odours**

- 3.4 In table 6 of its report, Beca identified recommendations to reduce the risk of odours. Actions implementing these six recommendations, and other actions underway, are discussed below.

Issues to Action		Action Taken	Future Action
1	Discuss with Wellington Water Limited (WWL) their ability to deliver sludge loads at more specific times and periodicities throughout the day.	WWL has changed the operation at the treatment plant so that sludge is not held in the bins overnight. The processing of sludge removal is now starting earlier so a load is just ready for transfer to the landfill shortly after it opens.	Development of a protocol for the delivery of the sludge to landfill so that its timing better matches the arrival of waste quantities at the Landfill. For example, Monday is a busy day for commercial waste at the landfill whereas Saturday and Sunday less so.
2	Establish more formal communications between the landfill operator and the WWTP operators so that any special requirements (plant outages, unusual biosolids etc.) are advised to the landfill early. Likewise if the landfill is having specific issues that could affect their ability to accept biosolids, they should be talking to the WWTP. It is understood WWL has developed some draft formats to allow this to commence.	Protocols have been established for communications between the two Council operations.  Landfill and treatment plant managers meet at least monthly.	The landfill operator, EnviroWaste Services Ltd, is reviewing the draft protocol and is due to respond to Council in March.

	<b>Issues to Action</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
3	<p>Consideration should be given to making the sourcing and maintenance of a suitable minimum stockpile of cover material, the sole responsibility of the landfill operator (resource consent condition 17 of consent WGN 940046 [21367]) to ensure there is always suitable material available on site to provide daily cover and blending material for the incoming biosolids.</p>	<p>Developed 12 month forecast for cleanfill requirements.</p> <p>A significant stockpile of cleanfill (circa 20,000 tonnes) has been built up over January and February.</p> <p>The contract conditions related to cleanfill have been collated and supplied to the landfill operator.</p>	<p>The existing contract conditions are being discussed with the landfill operator with a view to increasing the contractor's role in ensuring adequate cleanfill is always available.</p> <p>EnviroWaste Services Ltd is reviewing a proposal and is due to respond to Council in March.</p>
4	<p>PCC should target 100% compliance in all consenting reports. PCC should consider formal quarterly meetings with GWRC and WWL to discuss consent issues associated with WWTP and Spicer Landfill. Meetings should be minuted with actions assigned with agreed completion dates.</p>	<p>Wellington Water already meets with GWRC on a regular basis to discuss consent issues for the four waste water treatment plants.</p> <p>PCC provides GWRC with quarterly and annual reports updating it on landfill activities.</p> <p>GWRC currently regularly inspects the landfill with the contractor, PCC and the consultant, Tonkin &amp; Taylor.</p>	<p>A meeting with GWRC is due in early March to discuss GWRC's recommendations in its annual report.</p> <p>The outcome of this meeting, including any cost implications of implementing GWRC's wishes, will be reported on in a future report to the JV Committee.</p> <p>A regular meeting with Greater Wellington Regional Council will be sought to discuss consent issues, identify actions and monitor the implementation of actions.</p>



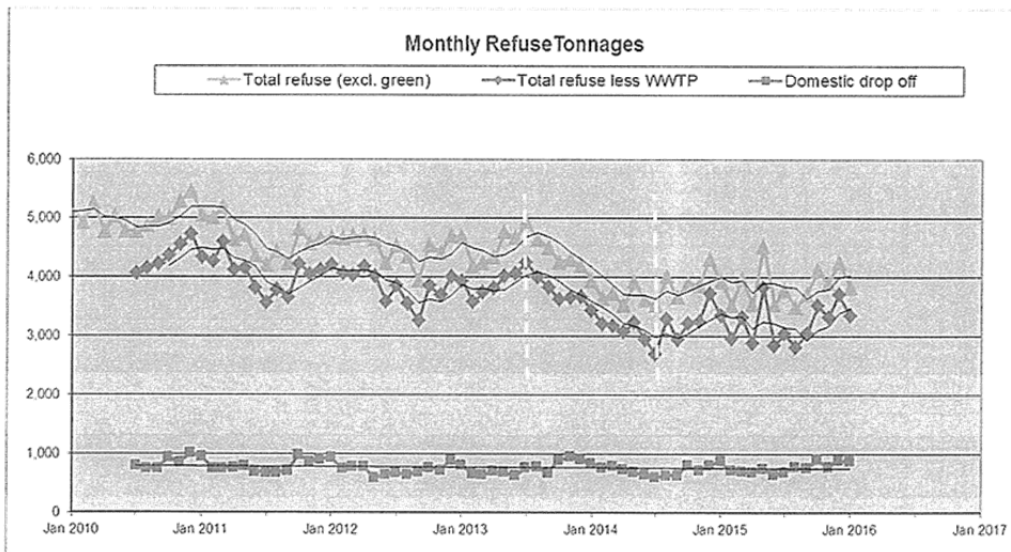
	Issues to Action	Action Taken	Future Action
5	<p>PCC should consider its pricing policy at Spicer Landfill. A pricing point more in line with the competing local landfills may see volumes return to pre 1/7/2013 levels and thus make the handling of biosolids at the landfill easier.</p>	<p>In July 2014 the five largest suppliers of waste to the landfill were offered a 10% price discount on additional quantities of waste to Spicer. Although this discount reduces Spicer's price for additional tonnage to below the list price of the other landfills in the region, take up of this incentive has been modest. Landfill tonnages and regional pricing is discussed in more detail in the sections following this table.</p> <p>Note that in recent months the volume of sludge has reduced, and the waste to sludge ratio is currently similar to 2011 levels. In the long term (2-3 years) it is expected that the treatment plants delivery of sludge will be reduced significantly once the planned drying plant is built.</p>	<p>Monitoring of quantities delivered to the landfill, the pricing of other landfills in the region and feedback from current commercial customers to better understand regional waste drivers is ongoing.</p> <p>Some regional waste data will be available in the near future as part of the Waste Assessment currently underway.</p> <p>Council is currently getting an independent review of landfill pricing and pricing options.</p> <p>Note the Southern Landfill cannot afford to lose waste as it needs all it receives for blending with the sludge it has to handle.</p>
6	<p>Consideration should be given to establishing a daily electronic log on the site. This log could be available to the Engineers Rep via a web based solution, and could be used to record complaints, enquiries and general site activities including any unusual biosolids deliveries etc. The electronic log should be the Operators "bible" as to what has happened on the Landfill.</p>	<p>Currently each organisation is responsible for keeping its own records of the contract operations, and does so in a form that best suits its own needs.</p> <p>A single storage location for information of interest to all parties may be of benefit.</p>	<p>A common storage location for information relevant to all parties such as contract communications will be considered. These systems have been around for a number of years. However there is a cost associated with operating these storage sites.</p> <p>Also each party still needs to be able to comply with its own requirements for public record storage, engineering record storage and financial records, so some duplication is likely.</p>

	<b>Issues to Action</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
7	Investigate additional deodorant spray systems	A three month trial is underway using a mobile deodorant spray unit.  A desktop evaluation of fixed boundary spray options is underway.	Review of mobile trial and fixed deodorant options. Update due March.
8	Draft and implement Landfill Gas Management Plan (LFGMP)	A draft LFGMP has been prepared and is being reviewed by GWRC.	Finalise draft with GWRC. Ongoing optimisation of gas system.
9	Review and extend/optimize gas extraction system	Additional gas wells and laterals have been installed.	Ongoing optimisation and extension of the system as the landfill changes.  Quarterly review by consultant and contractor.
10	Keep the public informed via press releases and other channels on addressing the odour issues at Landfill	Interested Tawa residents advised via email of landfill works that may generate odour.	All parties to provide information for updates.
11	Contract rollover/renewal	Negotiations underway with contractor with respect to rollover of existing contract for final two years.	Ongoing. Next meeting mid-March.
12	Filling methodology review	Ongoing work between contractor and consultant aimed at minimising size of exposed waste in filling cell.	Ongoing. Update due March.
13	Upgrade of Intermediate Cover	Significant quantities of additional intermediate cover have been applied to areas outside the active filling area to stop small leaks.	Ongoing
14	Boundary odour detection system review	Consultant commissioned to review possible benefit of a boundary odorous gas detection system.	Ongoing. Update due March.

#1190499

**Spicer Landfill Tonnages**

- 3.5 Spicer Landfill tonnages dropped from mid-2013 to mid-2014, partly due to diversion of waste to other landfills by commercial operators.
- 3.6 The diversion to other landfills is likely to be due to a combination of strategic moves by waste operators, and price differences between landfills.
- 3.7 Tonnages have recovered a little from the low of mid-2014, and appear to have levelled off (the blue and green lines in the graph below). If fluctuations are smoothed (thin black lines), tonnages have been relatively constant since October 2014.
- 3.8 The green line is the total waste tonnage per month to landfill, excluding greenwaste which is diverted. The blue line is the same data but excludes waste sludge from the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), i.e. it more clearly shows trends from customers external to Council. The red line is waste dropped into the transfer station by domestic customers (cars, vans and trailers).
- 3.9 A Waste Assessment is currently underway as part of the review of the regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. This will provide some indication of where waste is going within the region, and will be reported back to the JV committee in a future meeting.



**Regional Landfill Charges**

- 3.10 In July 2013, Spicer Landfill prices were increased by 7%, and by a further 3% in July 2014. The dates are marked with yellow dashed lines in the graph above. Southern landfill also increased its charges in July 2013. The other two landfills in the region did not increase their charges in July 2014, but did in July 2015.

#1190499



- 3.11 Of note is that landfill tonnages dropped from approximately mid-2013 to mid-2014, and then partly recovered, despite the additional 3% price increase in July 2014 which increased the differential between Spicer and the other landfills in the region.
- 3.12 In July 2015 Spicer offered a 10% discount for extra tonnage from its 5 top customers. This incentive has only increased tonnages modestly for a couple of customers.
- 3.13 Spicer's General Waste charge is now 9% and 6% higher than the charge at Silverstream and Southern landfills respectively, and 20% less than the two Kapiti transfer stations (Otaihanga and Ōtaki).
- 3.14 With the 10% discount offered to the top 5 commercial customers from July 2015, Spicer's General Waste charge for additional waste is 2% and 5% lower than the charge at Silverstream and Southern landfills respectively, and 28% lower than the two Kapiti transfer stations.
- 3.15 As of February 2016, waste charges (including GST) for waste are:

		Kapiti*	Porirua	Porirua with discount	Hutt	Wellington
General Waste	\$/tonne	161.50	129.00	116.10	118.00	121.80
Sewage Sludge	\$/tonne	N/A	174.20	174.20	POA	**
Special Waste	\$/tonne	280.00 to 440.00	197.80	197.80	POA	148.60
Greenwaste	\$/tonne	****	98.90	98.90	118.00	56.40
Cars	Per vehicle	17.50 to 24	18.50	18.50	15.00	Weighed***
Vans	Per vehicle	37.50 to 48.50	39.50	39.50	31.00	Weighed***

- \* Kapiti has two transfer stations; the costs shown are for Otaihanga. The costs for Otaki are slightly different.
- \*\* Southern (Wellington) Landfill's advertised price for sewage sludge is \$148.60; a reduced price applies to sludge from the Wellington Wastewater Treatment Plants. This is the bulk of sludge disposed of at Southern Landfill.
- \*\*\* Minimum charge \$8.
- \*\*\*\* Compost NZ's (a private contractor) charges \$15/m<sup>3</sup>.

- 3.16 Note that these are advertised list prices. It is not known what discounts are offered by landfills or transfer stations on a case by case basis to individual commercial customers.

#### 4 OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The investigative work, liaison and reporting due to the odour complaints consume a significant amount of resources.

#1190499

## 5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Negotiations with the landfill operator are currently underway with respect to continuing with the final two years of the existing (5+1+1 year) contract. This is likely to have some financial implications for the landfill. These and any other significant costs due to consent compliance, or other infrastructure necessary for odour management, will be brought to the JV Committee.
- 5.2 The landfill operating budget for 2015/16 (but not for following years) includes an allowance for moderate levels of cleanfill purchase. Unless something completely unexpected happens, the budget should be sufficient for 2015/2016. Additional costs from the GWRC are also being paid for from the Landfill operation budget.

## 6 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 An “offensive and objectionable” odour that can be traced back to the landfill could be a breach of the landfill resource consent.
- 6.2 Greater Wellington Regional Council has issued an abatement notice for Spicer Landfill and this has been appealed. The proceeding is stayed while the appeal is being mediated by the Environment Court. The Court has been satisfied with the progress towards the resolution of the appeal and has agreed to a future reporting date of mid-April 2016.

## 7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation with regulatory authorities (GWRC) and residents has included:
  - joint investigations;
  - individual follow up and visit by PCC’s officers with complainants;
  - public meetings;
  - landfill visit with residents;
  - Information from PCC published on Tawa’s “Neighbourly” website; and
  - Press releases and information to stakeholders.

## 8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Implementation of the recommendations made in the December 2015 Beca report is underway as detailed in the body of this report.
- 8.2 An update of progress with these actions will be reported to the JV Committee in a further report in May 2016.

## 9 ATTACHMENTS:

- None

