

10 October 2023

Dawn Baxendale  
Chief Executive  
Christchurch City Council

Kia ora Dawn

I really valued the opportunity to hear and address residents' concerns at the August Community Liaison Group meeting. I am pleased that you were also able to attend.

Environment Canterbury acknowledges the steps your teams have undertaken to address the odour issue. We also recognise consultation has been underway on options for interim operation of the plant until a new site is operational.

The decision for your council relating to the options for the interim operation of the organic's processing plant is an important step for the community. But we both know this work is not moving fast enough for the community in proximity of the site, and should the outcome of that decision be that the plant stays in operation until a new facility is established then we, and the community, have a long road ahead of us.

This letter reinforces how I'd like us to progress in the meantime to address consent compliance and to respect the community's concerns. I recognise it reiterates previous conversations we've had but I want to ensure we have an agreed understanding.

### **Actions to support compliance with organics processing plant consent**

We remain committed to undertaking our regulatory responsibilities in relation to compliance with consent conditions. Consequently, I have requested that Environment Canterbury staff develop a comprehensive programme for how we will approach our mahi in this area. This will involve Environment Canterbury:

- proactively monitoring the site for compliance with consent conditions
- working with your staff and site operators as they modify approaches to reduce odour issues, as we move into the summer months

- continuing to respond to complaints and reported incidents of odour beyond the boundary
- improving our communication and connection with the affected community, over and above existing web channels and attendance at Community Liaison Group meetings
- exploring the possibility of review of the organics processing plant's current consent
- exploring the opportunities that the broader range of compliance and enforcement tools in the Natural and Built Environment Act might provide in this instance.

I trust that clarity about our intended approach will support your team's efforts to ensure compliance with consent conditions and provide assurance to the Bromley community.

My staff will outline this approach to the Bromley Community Liaison Group, and as such you may wish to consider socialising it with relevant Councillors and Community Board members.

### **Legal advice in relation to organics processing plant consent**

At the end of August, we noted to the Community Liaison Group that we had received advice relation to the consent CRC080301.1 for the operation of organics processing plant. Due to legal privilege, we will not be sharing the advice.

We did commit to update the Bromley Community Liaison Group. We clarified that the operations currently occurring on the organics processing plant site are within the scope of the consent (though conditions have been periodically breached), and that in March 2024 Environment Canterbury may initiate a review of the consent if appropriate. This is a matter we will explore as part of the comprehensive compliance programme outlined above.

Thank you for your work to date. I look forward to seeing Christchurch City Council continue to make improvements in operations that reduce the environmental impact of these activities in the Bromley community. There is ample opportunity to explore improved communication and engagement with the impacted community both within and beyond the Community Liaison Group forum.

Ngā mihi,



Dr Stefanie Rixecker  
Chief Executive  
Environment Canterbury