

Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes

6:30pm to 8:00pm, Tuesday 18th November 2025

Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Boardroom

180 Smith Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8062

Executive summary of minutes

1. Welcome and introduction

Apologies noted from Lynette Ellis (Christchurch City Council (CCC) staff).

The group welcomed three Environment Canterbury (ECan) councillors to the group who have not attended previously; Deon Swiggs, Ashley Campbell, and Joe Davies.

2. Previous minutes confirmed in their entirety without amendment.

3. Actions from previous meeting

Action 1

Carl Pascoe (Chair) has sent a letter to ECan on 24th October 2025 on behalf of the group following the recent elections, with the consent of the community members who attended the previous meeting. This letter was regarding the decision for ECan staff to no longer attend the CLG meetings. He received a quick response from Ashley Campbell, ECan Chairperson and Christchurch West ECan councillors attended the present meeting.

4. Affected residents felt experience reports and questions arising

The group discussed the perceived increase in odour and dust over the latest 3-month period. Several community members reported worsening odour, especially in the last month, however noted it was not as bad as the previous year.

A recent report was tabled by a community member in relation to dust and its effects on human health. The Chair noted that the dust issue is not currently occurring as a result of operations at the Organics Processing Plant.

The group also voiced continuing dissatisfaction at the apparent lack of action by ECan regarding recent reports regarding other sources of odour and dust in the area. They also expressed disappointment at the lack of CLG attendance by ECan staff members.

5. Christchurch City Council report

Compost continues to be transported to Kate Valley and PDP continues with odour scouting. There have been 2 reports with 8 scouting results. Weak organic odour was detected but assessed as not offensive or objectionable.

Resource consent for the future organics processing facility in Hornby was granted with no appeal. The transition period is projected to start from April 2027 with full operations transfer by October 2027. The Bromley site will be then available for repurposing, investigation is ongoing, and options will be presented to the community in due course.

Discussion with Ecogas representative took place, regarding project timelines for the future Hornby organics processing plant. Community members had various questions about the functionality of the plant, including allowed feed stocks, mechanics of processing, and expressed concerns regarding odour production. Ecogas representative explained that the plant works in a very different way to the present Bromley plant and therefore should not produce the same odour profile.

Chair reminded community members that the project timeline is the primary subject of concern for this CLG, as it is directly related to the closure of the Bromley plant.

6. Living Earth answer any questions arising from their CLG report.

Dust monitoring on site continues and is below the limit. Background dust levels are increasing due to seasonal changes. No changes to boundary plantings. Staff have been to Auckland for odour scouting training.

Current organics processing time remains at 14 days internal, even during peak period. This is expected to be maintained. LE are ensuring no organic matter transfer will occur on Christmas, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and the day after, to minimise any impact during the festive period.

Questions from CCC councillor regarding the process of complaint investigation, and a lack of ECan investigation in response to complaints. There was additional conversation regarding dust mitigation and the strategies LE use to combat this, and whether these strategies could benefit other operators.

Discussion between ECan councillors and community regarding the lack of legislation regarding enforcement action around particulate matter (dust) that is produced from non-combustion activity at other sites within the Bromley industrial area. This gap prevents ECan taking enforcement action against producers of this matter. ECan councillors notified the CLG that they have written to the Minister for the Environment to urgently investigate this legislative gap, to give legal standing to take appropriate action.

7. Questions for Environment Canterbury (ECan) arising from their CLG report.

Discussion continued from last meeting regarding the dissatisfaction of community members at the non-attendance by ECan staff, and concern about the lack of enforcement action taken in regard to odour, dust, and noise at other industrial operations within the Bromley area.

Action 1: ECan Chair to investigate and ascertain the reason for ECan staff no longer attending the CLG meetings.

The Chair again clarified that ECan's attendance is optional, as per the consent, and that odour from the OPP was the subject of this meeting.

It was suggested ECan staff are again invited to attend future CLG meetings.

Action 2: The Chair to again extend invitation to ECan staff to attend the next CLG in February 2026.

8. Any further questions about resource consent compliance for the organics processing plant.

None raised.

9. General Discussion

Residents raised concerns about several other sources of dust and noise in various locations around their local communities. The Chair reminded attendees that any additional community concerns not related to the LE plant are to be directed to the Community Board via alternative avenues and are not the subject of this meeting.

Meeting closed.

Verbatim Minutes

Chair: Carl Pascoe.

Christchurch City Council staff: Abinaya Velkumar, Alec McNeil, Rory Crawford.

Christchurch City Council Councillor: Yani Johanson.

Christchurch City Council Community Board: Paul McMahon.

Ecogas: Andy Bedford.

Living Earth: Jaco Kleinhans, Chris van Niekerk.

Environment Canterbury Elected members: Deon Swiggs, Ashley Campbell, Joe Davies.

Community members: Geoffrey King, Andrew Walker, Vickie Walker, Bruce King, Carol Anderson.

Apologies: Lynette Ellis.

Minutes: Saskia Graham-Bone.

Carl Pascoe (CP): Welcome to the last CLG meeting of the year. The next one will be next year, as some people weren't sure. I am Carl Pascoe, I'm the chair. We have a fairly full house tonight which is good. To draw attention, Geoffrey didn't put his hearing aids in so you will have to speak up a little.

We will go round, say who we are so everyone in the room understands. Do we have any apologies?

Abinaya Velkumar (AV): Lynette is an apology.

CP: So Lyn's away...

Alec McNeil (AM): She's in Auckland.

CP: Okay, well start. We will go from here **gestures left**. Who you are and what your role is please.

introductions

CP: Nice turnout, and thank you to ECan councillors and chair for turning up, much appreciated. We have the previous minutes, which everyone has seen and circulated. Everyone okay with them, any changes?

long pause

I will take them as read as a true and correct record. We... have some actions from the previous meeting. First one was me to write to ECan on behalf of the community people present at the meeting. I wrote an email which everyone at the meeting read and approved of, then it went to the councillors of ECan post the election. We thought it was wise to talk to the people coming in rather than the people going out. I had a quick

response from Ashley, so I appreciate that. This group has, over its last few, 2 or 3 or 4 years that I've been chair, have had good representation from ECan councillors and good engagement with them. The staffing question is still an open one for this group, and an issue for this group. And it is worth noting, as I did in the action email, the view of the community representatives see is the failure of ECan to do its enforcement requirement over a significant number of years has led to a loss of confidence in the institution of ECan. And that, I think we hopefully made it clear to you.

Ashley Capbell (AC): I think we acknowledge that.

CP: Right, there were no further actions that I'm aware of. Right, we always start at the top of the agenda at the night... what is called in some circles, because I work in the disability sector as well, what is called the lived experience. The lived experience of people who are affected by the plant over the years. We have moved it to being the top question to start with, and the top issue to being with. So, ladies and gentlemen from the community, the affected residents.

Vickie Walker (VW): Geoffrey? Geoffrey, have you been affected lately?

Geoffrey King (GK): I don't bother ringing up now as ECan don't monitor it. The CEO at ECan needs to be fired, and the staff need to turn up here to answer the questions. Absolutely disgusting the way we have been treated. The city council have done more, ECan do nothing. Exactly nothing. I think Carol has had an episode where she rang up and she was fobbed off, fobbed off, fobbed off. So, I don't bother ringing anymore, but most mornings I smell it... it's not as bad as what it was this time last year, because coming into December, January, February, I would get in my car because we live upstairs in the bedroom that has the windows open... I would get in my car to Sumner and sleep in my car. Haven't had to do that since January.

CP: And hopefully not this summer.

GK: No.

CP: Right, Geoffrey, you used to give us some number of days...

GK: No, I've stopped doing that now, because ECan don't turn up. ECan do nothing.

Bruce King (BK): That's right.

CP: Point made. Other residents please

GK: They can't even MEET with us.

BK: That's right. I'm very pleased that this report that was put out on the 2nd of October called "More than just a bad smell odour: Pollution in Aotearoa". I was disappointed about one thing; That it wasn't put out 14 years ago, otherwise we wouldn't be putting up with this crap from totally incompetent makers of the law, and them being totally

incompetent in enforcing the law they've made, because this here shows how much the health of the people living in the bad stink area have been affected. If we'd had this report 15 years or 14 years ago, we wouldn't have had to put up with all this crap, being called liars and told that we don't know what we are talking about. I am very pleased the council representatives that have come here over the last couple years have agreed with us, and even one of the people who has come here has agreed to go to a court case and say we were ill-treated, so I'm very pleased that the city council has changed its attitude. But starting from the CEO of ECan, they have not changed their attitude, but I'm pleased to see the elected chair and local representatives here tonight. So, thank you very much.

VW: And Carol, have you been affected?

Carol Anderson (CA): Yeah... over the years quite, quite a lot.

GK: No, but just recently.

CA: Recently, yeah, there's been quite a few days I have gone outside and thought "Yuck! No thanks, back inside". Even the dog doesn't want to go out.

VW: Do you find it, early in the morning...

CA: No, doesn't matter what time of the day it is to be honest. It can happen anytime. I usually find... One particular day, it was vomit inducing, it was really bad. And I rang... I've had enough. I rang the hotline, because my phone didn't work on the Smelt It thing for some reason... the consequence of that one phone call was unbelievable. I got 4 or 5 calls over the next 3 or 4 days to ask me "what was the status of the smell, where did the smell come from, how strong is it, what are you doing". And I thought "what the hell". Just... I put the report in, you're not going to do anything about it... and they were all different people that were ringing me, and I thought "somebody's dropped the ball somewhere I ended up saying "I've put the report in, I'll leave it with you."

VW: Andy then, you've had it at work?

Andrew Walker (AW): Yeah, I have. I have had it at work a couple times, I have reported it, it comes and goes. I'm not exactly sure where, but it's still coming from over there, but still get a bit of it.

CP: You can differentiate between whether it is compost or a sewage plant?

AW: Oh yeah.

multiple agreements

CP: I'm just...

AW: You get trained to it.

CP: The nose sorta knows.

AW: Yeah, like the estuary, that's a different smell again. Only one thing that smells like compost.

CA: Can I just note Carl, the smell I've been smelling recently has not been coming from the compost plant. It has been coming from the dump... I know that smell very well.

CP: Sorry Bruce, what was that you said?

BK: When I get up at 6am, with the dog, to get the paper, you can usually smell it most mornings.

VW: That's usually when it's coming out of the trucks.

BK: Yep.

VW: Monday is usually the worst.

CA: Yep, stinky bins.

VW: I've only noted it probably about 4 or 5 Monday mornings recently. But I just think oh, know what that is, go to work, and it's the same from my neighbour.

CA: The first day I thought it was really bad was the Friday.

VW: Yeah, and it's going to get worse like we say, over the next few months due to the extra... but then it's going to be gone. Yaaaay.

BK: There will still be the dump though.

GK: With respect to the dump, they had folding, or sliding doors, they've gone, they've took them off. Used to be if there was wind coming from the northeast side, it didn't take the smell through to our way. If it was coming from the south west, they'd shut the southern doors so you could unload in the drive round the northern side of the pit. But they blocked it, except for a bit at the top. It takes the smell, takes it down and out. It was designed by people who had a clue as what was happening with the weather conditions and the smell.

Deon Swiggs (DS): When did that change?

BK: 10 years ago? They've only used the one side for about 10 years.

GK: We have all these experts that come in years later and don't realise what the engineers are good at. It's city wide.

CP: So, we have to be clear, this meeting is about the compost plant. Where you get issues like the dump, or the sewage, or the dust, that goes through to the Community Board. But Paul's here, so he knows. And we have a slot at the back of the meeting, this is so the new people know, so residents can pass issues onto the community board that they are noting and dealing with. So that's where we park that.

Paul McMahon (PM): Question. Last week, there was some steam coming off a biofilter or something... and the fire department was there. Why was the fire department at the site?

Chris van Niekerk (CN): Was it last week? No fire department has come out since about a month ago.

PM: I was there, it was very recently.

CN: I'm there every single day. No fire department has come out except about a month ago.

PM pulls out phone to show a picture

PM: It was Saturday, just before 9am. I spoke to the fire department there.

CN: The only one I know of was about a month ago.

GK: It was probably the cold, the heat coming out of the biofilter with the methane, the global warming, of course that means nothing to a lot of people.

CP: Anything else from the residents? Nope? City Council, your report please.

AV: I'm going to present it to you today, thanks Carl. We will take the report as read. The council's report has 4 sections, the first the update on current OPP. The site remains clear and the compost continues to be transported to Kate Valley so it's business as usual with tunnel composting and compost transport. The second one is that PDP continues to do the independent odour scouting until the plant becomes non-operational. In the last quarter, we have received 2 reports with 8 scouting results. While occasional weak organic odour was detected, they were not reported as offensive or objectionable. The summary of the table is there in the report, as you can see, and all the PDP reports can be found on council's webpage too.

Moving on, third, the future organics processing facility in Hornby. Before we get into the report, we have Andy from EcoGas here today who I am sure will be happy to take up any questions you may have. But now, I'm just going to give an overall update from the reports. So, the resource consent was granted with no appeal, and the service agreement has been executed. Construction has started, with the transition period starting from April 2027 and full operations by October 2027, which will lead to an eventual decommissioning of the current OPP in Bromley, you can see the project milestones and timeline listed in the table in the report. Finally, once the new plant is fully operational, the site will be available for repurposing. Council is exploring options internally, so once confirmed, the mayor and the elected members will be briefed on the options, and the staff will be engaged with the community board to see any possibilities. With that I am concluding the council's report, and we are happy to take up any questions.

CP: Bruce?

BK: What are all the sheds that are put on all the old areas in the compost plant? What are all those sheds? What are they used for at present?

AM: Are these the ones at the side, sort of behind the transfer station?

BK: Yep, yeah.

AM: I think we've mentioned that before, but that's the heritage guys, so that's full of bits of churches and old architecture, bricks and stuff.

BK: That was part of the original plan. I knew they were going to be used for equipment storage, so now that's been clarified. Thank you.

CP: Paul, your community board is sort of going to be running that consultation.

PM: Well, we're not at that point. There has been a preliminary discussion, and it will make sure it is done with the community.

AM: So the internal process will conclude with going in front of the council in the first quarter of next year, then once we have concluded that part of the process...

PM: But the bottom line is no odour generating activity?

AM: Yeah, nothing related to waste or anything that could generate odour.

Unknown: Noise?

AM: No.

GK: We've heard all that before.

Carl: Well, chill Geoffrey, because you might eat your... you might get it to happen this time.

Rory Crawford (RC): That's the idea.

CP: So, because you referred to the Ecogas thing. Andy from Ecogas, thanks for attending. What would you like to tell us, where you're at, what's happening, anything you want to add?

Andy Bedford (AB): I'm happy to take questions. We've started civil works in the last 2 weeks, and the perimeter fencing is currently underway. We are expecting the builders to be on site first week of December, then it's just the project timelines as we move through the various different construction packages. So, the building will take the best part of a year to go up. At that same time, we will move into the tank farm, so there is quite big foundations and piles needed for that section, and then the various different surfacing. There is a lot of pipe and electrical to run underground, so it will look like lots is happening with the building going up, but in reality, it's a lot of underground foundation work for the next 6 months. This will take up the next 6 months.

CA: It sounds quite high tech, is it? Or is it just...

AB: Not really. So, well Bruce made the point when we turned up that anaerobic digestion has been done for a long, long time. I run our plant up in the North Island as well, so I'm actually based up in Taupō, where the plant is. We just turned 3, about 3 weeks ago, and that plant has been going really well. So, it's literally tanks with pumps on them that mixes the tanks and feeds... what starts as a seafood chowder and ends up as a blackwater, as a digestate as it goes through. Look, I am not going to dumb it down and say it's very simple. I'm most certainly not the brains of the operation, there are some very smart people on the team that manage bug health and how fast we feed them and our gas management, but the actual concept is everything we are doing in our stomachs, just mechanically.

GK: So that's another 2 to 3 years we have got to put up with this.

AB: Well, as Abi said, we will start the transition period from April '27, we'll start taking product in '27. So should be in 18 months, we will be starting to transition.

GK: With respect to the odour, the councillor for Hornby, can't remember what his name is.

Yani Johnason (YJ): Mark Peters.

GK: Mark Peters, yes. He went up there. And I said to him "could you smell it?" and he said, "well next to the building I could smell it". So, if you're standing outside next to the building and you can smell it, what's the wind going to do with that smell? Carry it?

AB: So, at Reporoa, where the plant is, we've not had a single odour complaint for that site, and we are right next to a school.

GK: I wasn't talking about a complaint, I was talking about the smell, and the wind picking it up and carrying it.

AB: Yep so...

GK: That doesn't happen?

AB: The smell... and smell in our area is from whey spreading or digestate spreading. So, we don't spread the whey, but our digestate has an odour that lasts for a couple of hours that is spread on farmland, but that is part of what you would expect to be normal, agricultural activities like effluent spreading and different types of fertiliser, but the actual... look, I'm not from waste or energy...

GK: But you must pick this product up or pump it into a take out and spread it around a farm.

AB: Yep, so that was one of the learnings we had, which has already been applied for the building down here, was to have the digestate loading done on what's called a davit arm

system, that locks at the connection point, which our initial system at Reporoa locked at the pump point, so you'd get 20 or 30 litres of digestate that would spill into the drains. That won't happen here, because that is a source of odour. So we have learnt, we have upgraded Reporoa, and it was on our initial design here in Canterbury to make sure that happened.

GK: Because we don't want the Hornby people to be in the position we've been in for 16 years and 9 months.

AB: Absolutely not.

VW: I have a question, you won't be taking dead animals?

Andy: No, not at our site. It's not in our consent. We don't take them in Reporoa either.

VW: We did for a time here.

AB: Okay right, so it's not in consented feed stocks we'll take. And look, we've gone through all the types of feed stocks in the North Island. We know what's good for our plant, we know what the bugs like. It's just... not even entertaining it.

CP: So, one of the things, while people will have opinions about your plant, it is not the business of this meeting. The critical issue...

GK: But you asked about Reporoa.

CP: I agree Geoffrey, I agree. I am simply saying that the critical issue for the community here is knowing that they have certainty of deadline. That will become increasingly the pressure, if you guys get slippage in your system. That's where it will come, because this group would like the plant here to be shut 14 years ago.

AB: So just. probably just to further that with regard to project timelines, we have signed contracts with pretty much all of our equipment suppliers, we are investigating air freight rather than sea freight, so we can bring the timeframes forward. So, we are expecting the majority of the construction to be finished late next year, and then it's just installation and commissioning. If we can get pumps and things there earlier, that will absolutely shorten the timeframe. I want to get this up and running as soon as I can as well, because I'm not the project team, I'm the operations team, and we want to get into business. And probably just one final note on the comparisons between Reporoa and Christchurch; two very different food stocks. So, in the North Island, we are a food organics only plant, so that is kerbside food scraps, anything organic like dairy waste, like...

GK: Well, that causes a smell.

AB: It does. Whereas here, we are a FoGo plant where 90% of the feed stock is the council bins, which is green waste. There is only 5% historically that is food, over the green organics, and any other organics that we have capacity for we're taking liquid form only,

so it can be pumped straight into the tanks. We are not taking feed stock like the North Island that can sit on the ground, our process is not designed for that. So, we will take FoGo, being food organics and green organics, and we will take liquid waste that can be pumped straight in. So, they are two very different operations.

PM: So, the trucks and the doors will be the right size?

laughter

AB: Yes, they will.

CP: Right, thank you. Living Earth, Jaco?

Jaco Kleinhans (JK): I see on the agenda it says here report to be taken as read but let me run through that. It's as usual, dust monitoring on site is being maintained, you can see the graph is there. Well below the limit of 4 that we've got. If we go and look at the next page, page 3, you will see the background dust levels are creeping up as we move into the drier season. Obviously dry, windy conditions, but the organic portion of that dust remains low, so we will just keep that monitoring in place as part of the consent conditions. Boundary plantings- no changes to that. Odour monitoring, the staff... we sent the staff up to Auckland for their training. They have done that, as part of their reoccurring training, and they do their odour scouting. On daily operations of the plant, 14 days internal, even during peak period. We have been able to maintain that. We have had some large volumes coming in, as it dries off it will take the solid state down a little bit. No material outside, and we have about 8 to 9 trucks out per week, we've been able to maintain that. A bit of an update around the plan for the festive season- we are planning no tunnel outs on Christmas, and the same for the first of January and the day after. So, planning ready now, we will try to bring some of those loads forward and push those loads back to make sure there is a bit of a breather in the meantime. Operation plans are in place with Kate Valley, and we will keep running loads out between Christmas and New Years.

CP: So, when the plant's not working, which is what they're going to do on Christmas and Boxing Day, you don't get these smells?

VW: No, because they're not transferring them into trucks. It's when they are transferring you get the smell. And that's what you've explained so...

JK: The plant, as normal, the plant itself runs 24/7, that doesn't stop. It's the process of the transfer of material.

VW: How does it not explode? What have you got in it, because you, you know, the gas inside from the compost, how does it not explode?

BK: That's a good question.

JK: It is an aerated system, so no, there is no gas.

VW: Yes, because in my compost heap at home, you know, it gets really quite hot.

JK: It will, it's part of the biological process, the microbe activity inside. It will heat up, can get to up to 80 degrees in there. The problem is it goes through different stages, not necessarily of interest to everyone, but it does go through certain stages. So, when you get to the thermophilic stage, the microbes cook themselves. So as a portion of that starts to die off, you get a different set taking over. But that's not what you want, you want to sit between 55 and 65 degrees in your compost, and if you can smell ammonia, then it's gone anaerobic. And in actual fact, you lose nitrogen during the process.

VW: Yeah, it goes slimy and horrible.

JK: Turn it.

VW: Yep

JK: Turn it and add carbon.

Unknown: You need to fluff it.

CP: Well, I've just had a lesson in how to make compost.

laughter

VW: Or you could have a worm farm.

CP: I could have a worm farm. Bruce?

BK: That was a good question Vickie, because one of the reasons they never covered the rows was because of that exact fear of an explosion. So, what happens to the methane and stuff that comes off, which is definitely explosive and highly volatile? What happens to it?

JK: So, there is, in all composting there is an element of that, but it is very, very low. It's not... you can't light a match next to it. Wouldn't make any difference to it, it's in very low quantities. So, Andy's process, that's anaerobic, isn't it? Specifically to generate the biogas, yes?

Carl: Any other questions? Yani?

YJ: Thank you, and thank you for recognising the holidays, that's really cool, I'm glad you're doing that. I was just thinking about the dust, and I know that, you've got the organic vs the total, and the total is exceeding the 4g on some occasions. In terms of just understanding the effect of that... we have raised the concern with ECan that that dust is not good for the community, and we need to do something about it. Have you got any suggestions of things we could be doing to alleviate the dust based on the technology or the information you're presenting?

JK: So just to recap what we spoke about in the past, is that, for some context, this site is the only one monitoring in the entire area. So, what we are seeing here is anything being generated right across the area. That could be trucks driving up and down Dyers Road because we've got monitors on that side as well. The only real way to do that is the old mining application, philosophy to that, where you apply water so, dust suppression. Keep the area clean, sweep up. So, we have the sweeper throughout the site. So obviously with the change of operations, the active part of the site is very, very small compared to what it used to be. The area right across the OPP where trucks go in and out, that is getting swept regularly, we have a sweeper truck coming around in weekends doing that, and we water down. So, we have water misters, and you might see during the December period, we have 2 water misters spare and we will bring that closer to the building as well as it gets drier.

YJ: So based on what you do, do you think it would be reasonable for us to say to ECan would require other industries in this area to have dust monitoring to the level you do?

GK: Hear hear.

JK: I'm not an expert on the technology, but the dust monitor that we've got is simple enough and straightforward enough, and doesn't cost you an arm and a leg, so... to at least be able to generate some data, that would be a good approach.

YJ: And just the final question from me was just in regards to the complaints that we've seen, and unfortunately as you have seen we don't have ECan staff here to answer. But what we can see is that out of the reports that were made, 86% of reports made weren't investigated. No one showed up, basically. 86% of the complaints went unanswered by ECan. But we do have 5 were kind of related to compost, and said 3 were possibly related to Living Earth odour type. Did you look at the dates and the charts of complaints we were getting, and see if anything was happening at your operation that may have led to an increase or...

JK: So, there is a process when a complaint is raised. It is channelled through Abi at the council, and the council will reach out. We will then present all the operational data we have got for the day, and then also narrow it down for the specific hour or two hours before and after, to see if there was anything that's different, how does that compare to the previous day, does our onsite weather station match the wind direction, speed, and everything else.

CP: Deon?

DS: I was just going to say for the dust issue, the council last term, right at the end wrote to the minister for environment, to ask for the NESAQ, which is the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality to be looked at by the Ministry for Environment, because they do not give us any regulatory power to do much when it comes to PM 10

and PM 2.5 dust that's not coming from combustible activities, which is wood burners, cars and all those kind of things. So, there is an actual gap in the legislation that gives us absolutely no power to take any real enforcement, apart from criminal level enforcements. So, if we wanted to go down criminal level enforcements, the type of equipment that you need is way more expensive than what you're talking about, because you'd have to go down the criminal law avenue to make a prosecution, which is extremely costly, extremely... all those things. The burden of proof for dust is almost impossible, which is the issue we are facing with our quarries.

YJ: If you drive down Maces Road, you will see some industrial sites that I would suggest you should be taking criminal prosecution against, because they repeatedly breached...

DS: So, there are two issues; there is a land use issue, land use that should not be consented from it from a city council point of view, and then there is the effect issue. At this stage, we are looking to try and get something done through NESAQ, so that's an update I could bring back to somebody in the future, but it would be useful even if your council would support it.

YJ: I just want to acknowledge the ECan councillors who have attended tonight, thank you for coming. I know it's upset the residents that the staff aren't coming, but I do appreciate the fact that you are here. And we look forward to working with you on that dust issue, which does have an impact on people's wellbeing.

DS: Absolutely, and that report that came out that you mentioned before is hugely helpful for us to bring to the Ministry for the Environment to update the legislation so we can do something about this issue, because it's just a tug-of-war at the moment with nothing we can really do.

CP: Bruce?

BK: Well, how about 6 or 7 years ago, there was an ombudsman for the environment that had all this measuring gear, PM10 and stuff. Why isn't that still around the country that can be used? She did Christchurch, she did lots of areas around the country that day.

DS: We still do that, but it's for combustion related discharge, which is your chimneys... it really targets fires, cars. It's very, very vague when it comes to dust, which is non-anthropogenic, which means non-human generation activity, which is background dust. We need to get some nuances in the legislation. But we are still doing that, and that is why we still have the program.

PM: There is a bit of a challenge that the government is extending existing use rights, and making it basically impossible for the regional council to regulate over existing use rights.

BK: That's interesting, because the Canterbury Plains are well known for producing dust that carries over Christchurch during a North Wester in any case

DS: Loose dust.

BK: Yeah. That's how we got our fertile soils in Christchurch

CP: Right, that will take us into the ECan report, which has been tabled, and because of the absence of staff from ECan, the process we use is that Alec and Abi take notes, it goes in the minutes, but then they have a meeting with ECan staff to relay the concerns from her. So, you've got your-

GK: Before you go on, I think you need to find out who gave the order for the ECan staff not to turn up. You are-

DS: I will take that away.

GK: -answerable to YOU. Alright?

CP: So, we have got an action point Geoffrey-

GK: Pardon?

CP: There's an action point. Bring your hearing aids!

BK: Give him a trumpet.

laughter

CP: I offered him one of mine... so, the action point will be that Deon, as the chair, will investigate and come to let us know what the rationale is for the ECan staff not to attend. We do know that the consent says clearly that ECan is invited but it is not compulsory Geoffrey, whereas council staff, they have no choice, under the consent.

GK: Well, what's the point in us having complaints, and ECan can't answer them because they're not here?

CP: So, we've got the second-best option we can get at the moment Geoffrey.

GK: Yeah, but they have been coming for 16 years, and they haven't been coming for the last 3 meetings.

CP: It has been an issue.

PM: We could extend a cordial invitation for them to attend again

CP: It has been extended, it will be extended again. Thank you Paul, but I'm sure that the Chair-

GK: But what about everybody else?

BK: It was an order from the CEO.

GK: The CEO needs to be sacked!

CP: Yeah, well, we've got opinions on various individuals that we don't need to get into. So, thank you Deon, that would be appreciated, thank you.

GK: Can we just, before we go on, about the dust? I don't get any black dust now, but my spouting, it's full of sandy coloured dust, right? You go down, in a nor' west wind, you go down Dyers Road, you can't see the traffic coming the other way because of the dust storm that's going across the road, that's going across the road from a, what do you call it...

CP: Quarry?

GK: Not quarry, but the people who sell...

CP: Gravel pit?

GK: Yes, and then down on Maces Road, there's a KB Quarry or something like that... but when a nor' west goes across that, you need your bloody lights on.

CP: Sorry, Carol?

CA: The car wreckers yard is creating a lot of dust as well.

CP: I think the community has identified, and Paul and the community board are well aware, that there is a significant dust problem that people are experiencing, and we are hearing that there are some issues around how you enforce and deal to that.

PM: This is, there is a particular site, I can't remember which one... the businesses on Maces Road that aren't generating dust are fed up with it. But there is no way that, local MP's regional councillors, community board member, they've all tried to get something done about it, but there is no recourse.

GK: What do you mean there is no recourse?

overlapping discussion

GK: So, they've been served papers, and they've done nothing, and you've done nothing. Not you personally, but the council. ECan.

YJ: I think the key thing is, and I know that we've talked about it, but with the new elected ECan, the new term, dust has to one of the top priorities.

GK: The birds, the spiders, the fish get more respect than we do.

CP: Thank you, right.

BK: No, they don't Geoffrey.

VW: If there anything else, is that what you were going to say?

CP: Yes.

VW: Okay, well, I think it's not just a dust problem, I think it's a noise problem that we've got from the scrap metal yards. You know, it's considerable. I've got double glazing, so it doesn't affect me, but I know it affects other young families in the close. And it's so loud, it's just that big scrapping when they have got a big container coming in and... it does things to your brain when you can't sleep. That really needs to be looked at.

CA: You know how far away my place is from there, I can hear it.

overlapping discussion

CP: So, before we go too far off track.

VW: I just dropped that one in, because it's a big one, I know there are families that are moving-

CP: So, we are now moving really into the point of the community board session, which doesn't involve-

GK: Well, they are useless too.

CP: -Paul's feeling really good right now Geoffrey, thank you.

GK: They take all the credit and do nothing.

CP: So, I am going to suggest we have nothing more to say regarding the OPP plant. Thank you, Andy, for coming and giving us some information that was particularly helpful around the technology and so on. Thank you ECan councillors and chair for coming, hope to see you at the next one. We will call this meeting over. Thank you, folks, have a lovely Christmas and take care of yourselves, and we will see you all in February.

END.