Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting Agenda 16 August 2022, 6:30pm

Venue – Waikura/Linwood-Central-Heathcote Community Boardroom, 180 Smith Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8062

Welcome to the Community Liaison Group, a community forum to discuss consent compliance for the Organics Processing Plant; discharging contaminants to air, discharging contaminants to water, and use of land to store organic matter and decaying organic matter.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and introduction (5 minutes)
- 2. Confirm previous meeting's minutes (5 minutes)
- 3. Environment Canterbury Community Liaison Group report and questions arising (15 minutes)
- 4. Living Earth Community Liaison Group report and questions arising (15 minutes)
- 5. Christchurch City Council Community Liaison Group update (5 minutes)
- 6. Further questions about consent compliance for the Organics Processing Plant (10 minutes)
- 7. Concluding remarks (5 minutes)

Attachments

- a. Previous Community Liaison Group meeting minutes, 17 May 2022
- b. Living Earth Community Liaison Group report
- c. Environment Canterbury Community Liaison Group report

Any questions or feedback can be sent to Bromley@ccc.govt.nz

Organics Processing Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting Minutes 17 May 2022, 6:30pm

Venue - Living Earth, 40 Metro Place, Bromley, Christchurch 8062

Attendees

Facilitator - Carl Pascoe

Christchurch City Council (CCC) staff - Jane Davis, Lynette Ellis, Ross Trotter, David McArdle Christchurch City Council Councillors - Yani Johanson (Linwood), Phil Mauger (Burwood) Environment Canterbury (ECan) staff - Catherine Harbrow, Ruth Sarson, Marty Mortiaux Environment Canterbury Councillors - Lam Pham (ECan Councillor)

Living Earth - Jaco Kleinhans

Community Members - Alexandra Davids, Andrew Walker & Vickie Walker, Bruce King, Carol Anderson, Clinton Poole, Don Gould, Geoffrey King, Margaret Macpherson, Michael Williams, **Minute Taker** – Mary O'Leary

Introductions and Welcome

The facilitator welcomed everyone and reminded the group to remain respectful, ensuring that everyone had a fair opportunity to have their say and asked that only one person spoke at a time.

Purpose and Structure of Meeting

The facilitator outlined the purpose of the meeting highlighting the importance of the community to have a voice with respect to what needs to change and the requirement from ECan with regards to the consenting process.

Discussion Around Previous Meeting Minutes

The facilitator requested confirmation that the minutes were correct and **Geoffrey King** asked whether they were the corrected minutes, as he had emailed asking for two corrections to be made and had not had a response.

The facilitator responded that he did not know if they had been corrected and denied receiving emails or texts. At the end of the meeting, the facilitator and Geoffrey met to ensure that contact details were in order.

David McArdle - CCC - Suggested that any feedback regarding minutes should be sent to CCC's Bromley office email address, bromley@ccc.govt.nz and said he would personally respond to them.

Resolutions

The facilitator acknowledged that the minutes were challenged and that not everyone in the room had had a chance to see the proposed corrections. The suggested changes would be brought forward to the next meeting as part of this minutes record and any further changes should be communicated to the Bromley email address, bromley@ccc.govt.nz

Discussion around Environment Canterbury & Living Earth Reports

The facilitator referred to the reports that had been distributed from ECan and Living Earth and asked the floor for questions.

David McArdle - CCC - Responded to comments that not everyone had seen the reports and advised it was distributed via the CCC Bromley newsletter a week in advance of this meeting. He suggested those that are not currently receiving the newsletter to place an asterisk next to their name on the meeting's register and he will add their email address to the mailing list.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Noted that ECan had been hampered during the reporting period due to staff availability because of Covid and suggested that she should go over the report since not everyone had seen it.

The report focused on complaints regarding compost odour coming from the Living Earth site and covered the three month period from February to April 2022 and was specific to the Bromley area, as defined in the map within the report.

The 72 incidents reported related to the number of inquiries lodged through phone calls, Snap/Send/Solve and the Smelt-It app and it was important to note that multiple Smelt-It reports may have been assigned to one incident. During the period there were;

- 21 Smelt-It submissions
- 11 Phone calls
- 6 Snap/Send/Solve complaints.

24 assessments were made by ECan officers conducting 10 minute odour assessments following the Ministry of Environment guidelines and low levels were observed beyond the property boundary on fifteen occasions. Officers had ruled out other sources when carrying out their assessments and Living Earth had been confirmed as the source. It was noted that odour would only be considered offensive if it was regular.

After the November 2021 Wastewater Treatment Plant fire, a large number of submissions had been received on the Smelt-It app and efforts were being made to make changes to the app to help focus on complaints from Bromley that weren't related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) was issued on 1 February and since then, weekly reports detailing assessments and observations of odours have been sent to CCC/Living Earth. The report contained a table detailing NONCs issued to Living Earth compared against the wider Bromley area; a total of one NONC was issued, which was to Living Earth.

The report spoke to the issue of dust and an incident that was reported by a resident. Samples were taken from the resident's home and the Living Earth site and detailed information on this was contained within the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) report as part of the ECan report.

The report showed there were common compounds from both sites but these materials are abundant as they are produced by a variety of plants. In addition, but there were also compounds present at the resident's site that weren't present at Living Earth. As such, the report summarised it was not possible to conclude the material in the samples from the two sites was the same.

The report spoke to the issue of dust and two incidents that were reported within the period; one relating to Living Earth, the other to a resident. Samples were taken from the both sites and detailed information on this was contained within the ESR report, as well as within the minutes.

The report showed there were common compounds from both sites which were acceptable within the realms of nature, but there were also compounds present at the resident's site that weren't present at Living Earth. As such, it was not possible to determine whether Living Earth was culpable for the dust found at the resident's property.

It was important to note that dust was not observed beyond the boundary during any of the 24 assessments. Information supplied by CCC in February talked to the dust issues and would be included in the Living Earth report as well, Marty Mortiaux (ECan) could provide more information on this.

Bruce King - Community - Commented that incidents used to be counted separately a year or so ago but now they were combined, giving a false economy. He asked to return to this form of measurement.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Advised the reporting was carried out in this manner for administrative ease and confirmed ECan could supply a detailed breakdown in the next report.

Resolution

The facilitator sought clarification regarding Bruce King's request and confirmed that he wanted to see both the number of people reporting issues as well as the number of incidents in the reporting.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - raised the issue of the Smelt-It app's ability to provide an accurate tally, as it only provided location data, suggesting an alternative could be to measure unique users which could be measured through unique devices.

Bruce King - Community - Maintained it had already been agreed not to report the numbers in this manner due to the issue of giving a false reading and reiterated that he wanted to see the number of complaints as well as the number of incidents.

- **(Q) Carol Anderson Community** Why can't it be done since an address is required when using the app, surely this is sufficient in terms of unique location.
- **(A)** Lynette Ellis CCC The numbers are all broken down for the purpose of the graph. I think the Smelt-It app is probably the most useful measure.

Geoffrey King - Community - Commented that the app no longer provided the opportunity to report incidents in detail - weaker/strong/origin seemed to be the only options; he was advised that the app provided opportunities to elaborate but all fields must be completed for the app to keep loading.

(Q) Geoffrey King - Community - I have made 63 complaints in the last 3 months, why don't these equate with the numbers in the report?

(A) Ruth Sarson - ECan - It is difficult to assess which complaints relate to Living Earth due to the increased volume of complaints relating to the wastewater plant, but as this meeting is about Living Earth and compost odours, that was the focus of the report. More extensive data is available upon request and if relevant, I am happy to modify the report.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Gave apologies for arriving late and sought clarification on the methodology and number of incidents relating to compost and whether or not odour had to be specifically mentioned. He queried the methodology as the graph did not match up with the total number of incidents (72) and suggested there must be more incidents given the way the Smelt-It app worked.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Concurred that this was a very good point and apologised for the fact that she had only included compost incidents on the graph and might not have indicated that clearly. She confirmed that the number in the table related exclusively to compost odour.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor-** Are the number of complaints reflected in the graph related to odour.
- (A) Ruth Sarson ECan They are specifically related to compost odour.

Resolution

ECan agreed to modify the existing report if relevant to and to provide more detailed information to indicate unique numbers of complaints and incidents.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** Can the reporting include details on the time that it took to respond to a complaint and include the time the assessment took place? This is important to the community, as assessors often arrive hours after the smell has gone and it would allow for useful information such as changes in wind direction to be factored in.
- **(A) Ruth Sarson ECan -** The information can be added back in. We have been proactive for the past three months after the Abatement Notice, carrying out assessments at various times of day under different wind conditions to get the bigger picture.
- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** What parameters are used to define 'regular' or 'frequent' if 15 occasions at a low level is not considered 'regular'?

Carl Pascoe - Facilitator - Suggested a time period needed to be incorporated into the graph.

Michael White - Community - Commented that given the complexities of identifying two smells and the tenacity required to fill in complaint forms, 15 occasions seemed like a lot.

- **(Q) Michael White Community -** Is wind direction a consideration when the Council is being proactive?
- **(A) Ruth Sarson ECan -** This is generally the case. Although it is difficult to separate or isolate the origin of the two smells, investigations are being carried out under specific wind conditions in Bromley. Other areas, such as New Brighton, can be affected by the shifts in the wind as well.

Resolution

ECan to add the response time to the report.

Dust

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Asked whether his questions about dust levels around the PDP report had been covered.

Marty Mortiaux - ECan - Replied that he recalled the question was relative to the disparity in what Living Earth and themselves were reporting relative to Condition 33 and the number of exceedances.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Requested clarity around the disparity between the annual report and the quarterly reports, noting that dust limits had been exceeded in 11 out of 12 months but these breaches didn't seem clear in the quarterly reports.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** How many times has Living Earth breached the consented dust levels in this quarter?
- (A) Marty Mortiaux ECan Condition 33 is a self monitoring condition whereby CCC/Living Earth puts monitoring devices in various positions on the boundary (not beyond) and advises ECan of any exceedances and what they think the cause might be. Living Earth has been compliant in this respect and reports were sent explaining there was increased dust activity around the removal of the windrows. This is expected to drop below recommended levels on the boundary since removal of windrows has ceased.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Referred to page 9 33B, "Dust control measures shall be implemented to show the rate of dust in position at the consent holder's boundary measured in accordance with 33A at less than 4Gm2 30 days above background concentration measured at the control site", and asked for clarification regarding compliance.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** Is compliance based on a consented limit or can limits be exceeded so long as they are reported to ECan?
- **(A) Marty Mortiaux ECan -** There are no dust limits within the Living Earth property and up to its boundary, yet condition 20 would apply beyond the boundary and would be assessed in terms of being offensive or objectionable in the same manner as odours are assessed.
- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** Should ECan have clearer dust level control targets and make the levels of acceptability clearer to the community?
- (A) Marty Mortiaux ECan It would be unusual to do so.
- (Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor Why is the condition there in the first place?
- **(A) Marty Mortiaux ECan -** Both Living Earth and ECan are responsible for the monitoring to see if there are any issues for the general public.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** How many incidents of noncompliance have occured at the boundary?
- (A) Marty Mortiaux ECan None, we have never found them to be non-compliant.

Carol Anderson - Community - Commented that many residents weren't aware that they could complain specifically about dust and that this was possibly the reason for the low number of incidences reported (2).

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Responded that this had been mentioned several times, and reiterated the need for residents to let ECan know if they were experiencing dust beyond the boundary in order to send an assessor to investigate, noting that in general, 99% complaints about Living Earth were around odour, with dust complaints only once or twice a year.

Carol Anderson - Community - Commented she had taken a sample of thick, black, sticky dust from the roof of her car to ECan and never had a response.

Marty Mortiaux - ECan - Advised that it was important to call them to come and take samples from the site in order to observe their strict and rigorous testing protocols, otherwise there was no way to verify the origin of the sample.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Asked about being proactive and giving the people in the area that seemed to be experiencing high levels of dust a questionnaire.

Marty Mortiaux - ECan - Said the assessors looked for odour and dust when making assessments

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Reiterated that the report mentioned there was no observation of dust and that ECan had been proactive with regard to other dust emitters in the Bromley area and had taken samples from a number of properties.

- **(Q) Yani Johanson CCC Councillor -** The red limit line on portable storage in the PdP report's graph shows the limit was exceeded nine times during the year, how can this be considered compliant?
- (A) Ross Trotter CCC There was a large increase in dust during the removal of 31,000 tonnes of windrows, but the operation has since changed and no longer has windrows. The material coming out of the screens is being moved every day so the dust issue isn't expected to continue. The last report didn't show any exceedances and this should continue to be the case, however, we will continue to monitor it.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Expressed concerns that the way the information was presented in the graph made it look as though Living Earth was being compliant, yet that the community would not be able to understand how all the excesses on the graph could equate to compliance. The issue had been raised two meetings prior to the finalised PDP report and was supposed to have been presented to the Community Liaison Group at the last meeting. Given the concerns from the residents about the dust as well as Dogwatch, it was filthy and there needed to be a clear explanation.

Bruce King - Community - Said he had a photo from two weeks ago showing tailings and rows like windrows that were still exposed to the wind. Pictures in the latest newsletter showed the

tailings and other debris had been put in windrows, so it was false to claim the windrows had gone. He said he could hear the plant turning over every night at 3am. Dust from this was covering the back of his house; the strong stench at night was vile.

Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth - Said there were still piles of materials as these are tailings, clarifying the definition of a windrow as finished compost that had been turned. The tailings were being fed back through as part of the composting process and this would reduce over time. The peak season for incoming compost had passed and the amount being collected had dropped off, so there was more opportunity to feed the tailings into the tunnels and keep them in there for longer, meaning when they were screened there were less tailings coming out and this would continue to diminish.

- **(Q) Bruce King Community -** If compost is stored outside, it's classed as windrows, whether they're tailings or not. So how can you say they've been moved when a quarter of them are still there?
- **(A) Jaco Kleinhans Living Earth I** should have said "finished compost windrows", there are still tailings present and dust is created when they are moved.

The facilitator summarised-

- 1. Yani asked for the community to be given a clear understanding around dust emissions
- 2. There was a need for residents to report dust occurrences so that ECan could investigate under their rigorous testing protocols
- 3. There was a potential reduction in the amount of dust generated from the windrows because of the change in operation/no more turning of the windrows
 - **(Q) Michael Williams Community -** Is it worth bringing in an external company such as Air Matters to examine the air quality and give the residents some confidence by providing some oversight?
 - (A) Carl Pascoe Facilitator There could be confusion due to the Wastewater Treatment plant odours in the air at present.

Bruce King - Community requested that extra copies of reports and minutes be made available at the meetings due to the volume of information and the difficulties in printing/bringing laptops to the meetings. He expressed disappointment that he hadn't received a copy of the reports he had requested and David replied that four copies were provided for the meeting and asked how many copies Bruce thought would be necessary.

- **(Q) Michael Williams Community -** Is the information and the back story posted on a website anywhere?
- **(A) David McArdle CCC -** Everything is on the CCC website within a dedicated Bromley section containing all relevant information, minutes, reports etc. The information is also available through the CCC Bromley newsletter and anyone not on the mailing list put an asterisk next to their name on the meeting register.
- (A) Ruth Sarson ECan ECan provides the information on their Bromley Odour page and it is important to go to both websites, as there are things unique to CCC and ECan.

(Q - directed to facilitator) Michael Williams - Community - How is it known that everything that needs to be is being fed through to these websites? Does the CCC manage the mailing list?

(A) Carl Pascoe - Facilitator - Yes

David McArdle - CCC - Reiterated the importance of providing details on the meeting register in order to be added to the mailing list.

Bruce King - Community referred back to the issue of the black dust and said that he had to clean his guttering out four times a year due to the excess and expressed frustration that nothing had been done about it in 14 years. He expressed concerns over the efficacy of the sampling process and cited the example of samples being taken from his property after rain had washed the black dust away. He was also concerned that residents were breathing the dust into their lungs and reiterated his frustrations that nothing had been done in 14 years.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Replied that she had already spoken to what was found from the samples as per the detailed ESR report.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Felt that since Living Earth were running a business, they had a responsibility to the community to try and reduce exposure to residents and suggested that a higher limit could be set.

Marty Mortieux - ECan - Responded that it was difficult to get the correct equipment for a mobile situation.

Yani Johanson - CCC Councillor - Clarified that he was referring to the perimeter issue and setting a higher limit at the boundary. ECan said it was possible to apply for consent but that could take a few years and would be a futile exercise if the site was going to be moved.

- **(Q)** Who was charged for the assessments?
- (A) A percentage was charged to the CCC.
- **(Q)** How much have you spent over the last 14 years, so we as a Council are copping expenses for your costs, as well as our own people who will be charging it to the job, so when it isn't here your charges should cease. Could you get me that figure by any chance over the last five years?

Carl Pascoe - Facilitator - Advised that this request could be directed to the CCC.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Advised that she could provide an answer regarding ECan's expenditure.

Bruce King - Community - Said he had applied via the CCC under the Official Information Act approximately three weeks ago, and received a response that \$210K had been spent on reports on the Living Earth site over the last 18 months. He expressed concerns that this was on the light side, as the figure was based on external suppliers/contractors and didn't include salaried Cuncil staff.

Carl Pascoe - Facilitator - Advised there were two Councillors present that Bruce could discuss this with.

Jaco Kleinhans - Living Earth - Referred to their report and the dust mentioned in points number 7 and 4 that might come from the Living Earth site, and noted a significant drop off, as per the changes Ross had spoken to. Massive amounts of material had been moved presenting challenges due to volume. Good results were due to onsite changes such as use of dust controlled management procedures, water trucks etc. An on-site boundary and internal fence had been created, the boundary planting had been maintained, and there was a graph showing the difference between old and new processes for anyone unfamiliar with them.

Bruce King - Community - Referred to the Canterbury Regional Council's operation manual and the requirement to comply with Consent number 5 before operating the Organic Processing Plant. He had raised the issue of the plant's non-compliance with ECan on a number of occasions but had never received a reply. Referring to boundary planting, he had a copy of the original landscaping plan which was designed to try to help block out odours. Five or six years prior, he queried their absence from the site with the Operations Manager and was told the trees had died; although they were now being replanted, CCC had never enforced this.

- **(Q) Alexandra Davids Community I**'m new, so could someone please explain why the resource consent has never been followed?
- (A) Ruth Sarson ECan We have been open and honest about the fact that we hadn't been doing things well three or four years ago. At that point, we changed to the Bromley Odour pilot and confirmed the site was in breach of resource consent, leading to the current situation where the plant will be moved. The time it would take to resolve it was a question for the Council.

Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor - Commented that he could not understand how a large-scale industrial compost business could be allowed to continue when it never complied with resource consent and **Bruce King** asked why it hadn't been pulled down in the same manner a house would be given that it didn't have a roof.

Vicky Walker - Community - Said many residents had already retired or were close to it and were having to spend their retirement years dealing with the Living Earth problem, wondering if it would be solved within their lifetimes. She had developed breathing issues impeding her sport and fitness routines that her Doctor was investigating. She would advise any outcome if tests indicated the issues could be related to Living Earth. Her husband Andy - who has a lung disease - not only deals with the dust and odour issues due to working across the road from Living Earth, but now comes home to the smell from the Wastewater Treatment Plant as well. She felt the plant should be closed immediately.

Geoffrey King - Community - Added that relationships were also affected in a negative way.

The facilitator asked to move to the summary of Council resolutions regarding the closure of the plant that were made six weeks ago, acknowledging the Bromley community as one of the more accurate examples of the impotency communities have regarding regulatory issues in the system, adding these kind of issues affected other communities as well and that it was a challenge for all of those systems.

Council Resolutions

David McArdle - CCC - Spoke to the report summarising the Council resolution following the Finance and Performance Committee meeting on 28th April, 2022.

It had been agreed to - in principle - to relocate the organic processing plant to an alternative site. Council would approach the market for options on locations, partnerships, joint ventures and commercial opportunities with a view to reporting these options to Council by the end of February 2023.

The next resolution agreed to continue to support the operation during the redevelopment of the current site whilst it remained operational, agreeing to meet interim capex needs of the existing facility. Any capital expenditure would be confined to meeting compliance requirements and any decision to use the capex would be made by the General Manager of Infrastructure Planning and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Finance & Performance Committee.

The last resolution was to provide a full cost to Council regarding closure of the plant. The Council were currently drafting the procurement plan and an expression of interest to approach the market with.

- (Q) Can someone summarise what David just said, as the reality was that the next step is to find somewhere to take this and find a partner to do it with.
- **(A) Lynette Ellis CCC -** The procurement process is starting.

Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor - Suggested the use of the term 'in principle' needed to be updated in the report as it gave rise to the possibility of finding themselves in front of councils pleading for deputations, as they had done 18 months ago.

- (Q) Has the search for a new site begun? As this has gone beyond 'in principle' the time has come for the plant to be relocated.
- **(A) Lynette Ellis CCC -**The Council is going to the market to find an option to relocate the facility as quickly as possible and that the use of 'in principle' relates to working with the market and not tripping ourselves up when spending public funds. The best hope is that something comes through on the first round of applications of interest that can be activated quickly.
- (Q) When will this be?
- (A) Lynette Ellis CCC I understand the frustrations and the Council is working as fast as possible to resolve things. Information on costs is expected on Thursday 26th of May and will be shared with the public, excluding certain confidential elements.
- **(Q) Bruce King Community -** What has been done to find a suitable location over the last 18 months since the shift was proposed?
- **(A)** Lynette Ellis CCC This was discussed at the meeting where possible options and risks were delivered to Council for consideration, however, as yet there is no solution. The

report notes multiple possibilities and the need to find the right contractors and partners to work with. The Council themselves aren't responsible for delivering the outcome, we rely on outsourcing. It is possible that multiple sites with different technologies and ways of working could be proposed, and the Council needs to consider all options whilst ensuring that decisions made won't negatively impact another community. Impetus is being given to resolving the issue as quickly as possible.

The facilitator summarised that David had reported the resolution from elected council members and that any concerns about these resolutions should be raised with the two Councillors present, as Council staff could only follow what had been agreed to.

Bruce King - Community - Pointed out that the Councillors relied on the Council staff to provide the information.

Ross Trotter - CCC - Replied they had to work together as elected members and staff to find legal and practical solutions. Significant progress had been made in terms of addressing the future relative to harm that the plant caused to the local community. He thought the Council would get the F&P report and hoped that most of the content could be made public in the interests of transparency. The benefits of separating the different reports was highlighted as was the importance of making sure that everything was included in the printed agenda prior to the meetings in order to reduce the need for revisions.

Lynette Ellis - CCC - Referred to Bruce King's earlier comment that nothing had been done in the 18 months since the issue had been raised, as the Council's resolution was made six months ago. A report detailing costs of closing the plant was being put together in response to issues raised at the last meeting, and was expected to be ready on Thursday 26th of May.

Ross Trotter - CCC - Commented that if and when the plant was shifted, it would take time to action and noted that there would need to be an appetite to absorb the costs that would be in the report that Lynette and Jane were finalising, along with an agreement to absorb these costs for the next two years. It would come down to numbers that Councillors needed to digest to keep everyone happy.

Resolutions

CCC would circulate a public report due to be published on Tuesday 24th of May, sharing all but commercially sensitive details. The report would be circulated through the Bromley Newsletter; anyone wishing to make deputations would need to seek permission from the Chair and the Committee Advisor. The report detailing costs to close the report was expected to be ready on Thursday 26th of May.

Geoffrey King - Community - Commented that it was unreasonable to allow just two days to make deputations.

Bruce King - Community - Referred to expenditure, whereby it had cost \$15-\$20million to build the plant along with a further \$20million due to a failure by Council staff to insure it. Councillors had agreed to another \$21.2million to shift it, then a contractor was brought in for \$42million resulting in nearly \$80 million to try and fix the problem. He thought that there should be some indications of what it would cost to close and shift the plant based on what had happened ten years earlier with the earthquakes given that the plant had been closed and the waste had to be dumped.

Resolutions

The facilitator summarised that the community would find out how much it would cost to close the plant in the following week and that recognition of the historical costs and impact to the community should be factored into the costings along with considerations for ongoing social, emotional and physical costs to the community should the plant not be moved.

Vicki Walker - Community - Raised the issue of devaluations to property prices and the difficulty to sell homes in the. Ten months prior, she was given a valuation of approximately \$670K and was told the same house would potentially fetch \$750K in another area. Two weeks ago, the agent advised the property would struggle to fetch \$590K - if they could find an agent to list it.

Bruce King - Community - Wanted newcomers to the meeting to know that there were three people present who were trying to buy some of the more vocal residents out in order to silence them. The dust and the odour were only part of the issue, as the stress from lies, deception, lack of response and bullying was threatening the health of the ageing residents. He felt the Council was the main perpetrator but that ECan was also culpable.

Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor - Commented that not shutting the plant should be unacceptable at a National and Central Government level aside from being an incredibly disrespectful and horrendous mistake. It was vital for the community members to get their self-respect and lives back and to not have to continue battling the problem throughout their retirement years.

Ruth Sarson - ECan - Responded to a query regarding the Green Waste Minimisation Levy, advising that it was unlikely to continue based on advice from the Ministry of Environment. Further information was detailed in the report.

Geoffrey King - Community - Remarked that this was at odds with the fact that no ruling had been made on the issue according to information provided by his local MP on Saturday 14th of May.

Consent Compliance

Carl Pascoe - Facilitator - Sought clarification on an agenda item asking for a discussion about consent compliance for the plant.

Yani Johansen - CCC Councillor - Referenced ECan having the ability to change the resource consent conditions and asked whether ECan were considering making any changes with respect to the issues raised by members of the community - such as Michael's suggestion to raise the acceptable level of dust to a higher level at the boundary.

Bruce King - Community - Had raised the issue of changing consent conditions about six years ago at an ECan/CCC meeting yet nothing had been done about it. He asked the following questions:

- Why have the ongoing opportunities to make changes been ignored?
- What have the Council had done about having a contractor that didn't comply?
- Why has nothing eventuated from the abatement notice CRCFOAO.PO1.1 invoked by Paul Hulse in Jan2021? (this question was directed to ECan)

• Why weren't they called to task by the Environment Court after failing to stop the odour within the 12 months they were given to do so when the maximum 6 out of 6 for odour had been recorded on 21 occasions?

Ruth Sarsons - ECan - Replied that six infringements were issued over this period and confirmed that fines were \$1000 as set by the Government under the Resources Act.

- **(Q) Community -** Are all such failures taken into account and what weight do they carry within the report?
- (A) Jaco Kleinhans Living Earth We are now complying with resource consent conditions having spent a lot of money to make changes to the operation and we are currently working on this with ECan.
- **(Q) Community -** Are you saying this plant is compliant?. The plant was constructed in a way that didn't comply, so how have you magically made it comply?
- (A) Jaco Kleinhans Living Earth I'm talking about the boundary.
- **(Q) Community -** How could anyone stop a northeast wind when it is the dominant wind in Christchurch? It's impossible to stop an odour from going over a boundary.

Yani Johansson - CCC Councillor - Requested the report come out as early as possible, as getting it on Tuesday for a Thursday meeting was unreasonable.

Lynette Ellis - CCC - Agreed to try and get the report completed by Monday afternoon.

The Facilitator asked CCC to clarify that everyone who filled out the register would automatically be sent a copy of the report.

Lynette Ellis - CCC - Advised that comms would go out, effectively a newsletter update linked to the minutes.

- (Q) Geoffrey King Community How many pages will there be?
- **(A) Lynette Ellis CCC -** Approximately four pages, attachments as well, but not as many as last time.
- **(Q) Geoffrey King Community -** Can we get some hard copies delivered to the Bromley Community Centre?
- (A) Lynette Ellis CCC Yes, if this would be useful.

Resolution

The facilitator agreed that it would be useful as electronic methods were sometimes unreliable and the CCC confirmed that they would forward copies to the Bromley Community Centre.

Facilitator Vote

The facilitator advised that he would leave the room in order for the group to decide whether or not he should continue in the Chair role if/when the plant closed. The terms of reference would require an independent Chair who was supported by the community to continue chairing ongoing meetings.

It was agreed that Carl Pascoe should continue in the role of Facilitator.



Living Earth Community Liaison Group Report – 16 August 2022 Organics Processing Plant

May 2022 - July 2022

Prepared by:

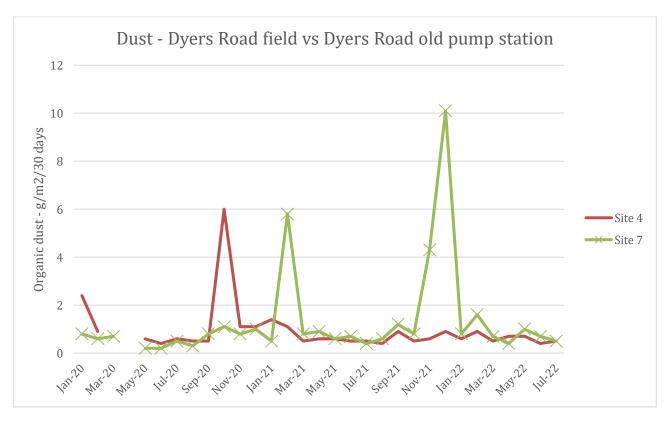
Jaco Kleinhans

4 August 2022

The consent conditions of CRC 080301.1 are detailed in this report and comments are provided on the status. Key matters are discussed below:

Dust (c25)

We have two deposition gauges located along Dyers Road. One is situated in a field North of Metro Place (Site 4, upwind of the Organics Processing Plant (OPP)) and the other is at the old pump station near the end of Maces Road (Site 7, downwind of the OPP and near the residential Bromley area).



Agile dust mitigation procedures on-site prove to be effective with the relocation of the fines load-out area to the OPP and the relocation of the water cannons.

The boundary mister line was decommissioned and repairs to the shade cloth were completed.

As part of the company's carbon footprint reduction program, internal combustion engine-driven water misters have been phased out or converted to electric.

The annual, July 2021 to July 2022 period, dust review is being completed, and the results will be available by the next Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting.

Boundary plantings (c25)

Clear buffer zone created and maintained on-site. Ongoing maintenance is done along the site perimeter with the next fill-in replacement trees on order and planned for planting in September 2022.

Odour (c27/c14)

Managing on-site odour remains a priority. Ongoing site odour assessment by the team and proactive odour assessments are being completed by independent experts Pattle Delamore Partners.

On-site operations

The removal of tailings surplus to operational requirements off-site is progressing well. The inclement weather in July did have an impact on this project. As the weather improves more material will be removed from site.

Upgrades to the screen were completed to improve throughput in preparation for the peak season.



RMA Authorisation Number: CRC 080301.1

	Description	Compliance (Y/N)	Findings Comments & Problems
1	The discharges shall be only odour and dust from an organics processing plant and green waste composting facility located at 40 Metro Place, Bromley, Christchurch at map reference NZMS 260 M35: 8627-4087 and indicated as "Applicant's Site" on plan CRC080301A attached as part of this consent.	Yes	No discharge except odour and dust occurs from the facility other than storm and wastewater that are covered under different consents.
2	The organics processing plant shall process not more than 90,000 tonnes of organic material per year.	Yes	The plant operates under the set limit.
3	 The discharges of odour and dust shall only occur from the following sources: a. From construction activities associated with the establishment of the organics processing plant; b. From an odour extraction system on the process building that discharges to air via biofilters; c. From composting of organic material in managed windrows; and d. From screening, blending, packaging and stockpiling of matured compost. 	Yes	 a) n/a during this period b) Activity was undertaken during this period c) Outdoor windrow process stopped on 15 November 2021. d) Activity was undertaken during this period
	Construction of Organics Processing Plant		
4	The consent holder shall provide to the Canterbury Regional Council a Construction Management Plan to be submitted for approval before commencement of the works on site that includes but is not limited to the following requirements: a. Regular watering of dusty surfaces during dry windy conditions; b. Restricting traffic speed within the site to less than 15 kilometres per hour; c. Covering loads of excavated soil whenever visible dust occurs from this source; d. Locating stockpiles in areas that are less likely to be affected by prevailing winds and at least 50 metres from boundaries; and	Yes	No construction during this period
	e. Stabilisation of exposed areas as soon as possible after work is completed. Organics Processing Plant		
_	The consent holder shall provide to the satisfaction of the Canterbury Regional Council a Facilities	V	A copy was provided in 2012 as required under the
5	Operation Manual before operating the organics processing plant.	Yes	consent.
6	The material processed shall only include the following: a. Green waste; b. Food waste; and	Yes	No other items are accepted.

	c. River weed.		
7	Organic waste containing putrescible material {food waste} shall be processed in a tunnel compost system contained within the process building.	Yes	All kerbside organics and food waste collection vehicles are emptied inside the processing hall and processed in the tunnels.
8	Organic waste not containing putrescible material may be composted in managed windrows.	Yes	No more windrows being processed on site.
	Tunnel Compost System		
9	The tunnel compost system shall consist of a process building, outdoor uncovered windrows and screening and stockpiling.	Yes	No more windrows being processed on site.
10	The process building shall: a. House all receiving, shredding and blending of organic waste that is to be composted in the tunnel composting process; and b. Be operated under a negative pressure system with all discharges to air being treated via a biofilter.	Yes	 a) All receipting, shredding, and blending of materials is completed in the process hall before being loaded into tunnels. b) The negative pressure of the biofilter fan (tunnel exit) is typically maintained at -100Pa and monitored via a computer control system.
11	The incoming organic material shall be placed into the tunnel composting system on a daily basis within 24 hours of receipt.	Yes	This is completed. OPP operates on public holidays in line with the kerbside collection trucks. We are open and processing on all days that collection occurs.
12	The tunnel composting process shall have a duration of not less than seven days, which includes an allowance of up to half a day for tunnel emptying, cleaning and filling. During the tunnel composting process, the temperature of all the compost shall be maintained at greater than 55 degrees Celsius for a minimum of three continuous days or less at higher temperatures, so that pathogen destruction has occurred in compliance with New Zealand Composting Standard NZ4454. At the same time or after the tunnel composting process, the compost shall be aerobically treated for 14 days or longer, during which time the temperature must always be over 40 degrees Celsius and the average temperature must be higher than 45 degrees Celsius.	Yes	During this period typical time was 14 days in the tunnel.
13	Records shall be maintained showing compliance with Condition (12). Such records shall be available to Canterbury Regional Council on request.	Yes	Reports were recorded via a computer control system recording time and temperature.
14	The maturation composting stage shall be an uncovered windrow system that allows the process to meet Condition (27) of this consent.	Yes	No more windrows being processed on site.
	Greenwaste Windrow Compost System		
15	Organic wastes not containing putrescibles are to be shredded, blended and formed into windrows within 24 hours of receipt.	Yes	No more windrows being processed on site. All Green waste is processed through the tunnels.
16	Any organic waste which contains putrescible material is to be redirected into the tunnel composting system.	Yes	All Green waste is processed through the tunnels.

17	Not more than 30,000 tonnes per annum of green waste shall be composted in full in the outdoors windrows.	Yes	We receive less than this. All Green waste is processed through the tunnels.
18	The uncovered windrows shall meet the following criteria: a. The windrow shall be maintained in an aerobic state throughout; and b. The state of the windrows shall be monitored for oxygen, temperature and moisture as follows (and records retained): a. Oxygen: Weekly for the first four weeks after the row is constructed and thereafter if the row is suspected of turning anaerobic;	Yes	No more windrows being processed on site.
	b. Temperature: Weekly; c. Moisture Content: Every second day		
	Odour Extraction System – Organics Processing Plant		
19	The odour extraction system on the process building shall be designed by a person competent in this area of technology to industry best practices.	Yes	n/a during the period
20	The odour extraction system shall be of sufficient capacity to prevent any fugitive discharge of odours from the process building under all operating conditions.	Yes	n/a during the period
21	The discharge shall exhaust via a biofilter with an average loading of not greater than 80 cubic metres of air per hour per cubic metre of bed material	Yes	Biofilter size 20.7m x 42.5m size. Maximum airflow ex fan is 90,000m³/hr. If media is > 1.17m deep, then 80m³/hr/m³ of media cannot be exceeded. Bed depth is typically 1.3 – 1.5m. Fan speed typically <90% of max. The fan can be limited in the control system to maximum speed as required. Fan operation is measured, controlled, and monitored by a computer control system.
22	The odour extraction systems shall operate at all times during processing of raw materials or products.	Yes	Operates 24/7 and is monitored by a computer system.
23	The bio filters shall be maintained in such a way as to effectively reduce odours from the organics processing plant so Condition (27) is met. This shall include but not be limited to: a. Maintaining satisfactory moisture levels in the biofilter. b. Maintaining an appropriate pH range, typically 4 to 8. c. Maintain aerobic conditions at all times. d. Replace the biofilter media at an appropriate time, determined when any of the above operating parameters, odour levels, or, airflow backpressure are unable to be maintained within their operating limits.	Yes	 a) Humidifier operates at the inlet to the biofilter. Moisture tested June 2022 as 68% b) pH recorded in July 2022 as 6.7 c) Oxygen levels >n20% d) Back pressure monitored for bed media condition. Media last changed in May 2021.

	Dust Control		
24	The consent holder shall implement the following measures to minimise the generation and discharge of dust: a. Use water sprays with any mechanical handling of compost when conditions are likely to generate dust. b. Provide an impervious base to all outdoor composting areas. c. Limit the height and slope of outdoor piles to less than five metres in height. d. Bulk carriers removing material from site shall be covered. e. Use water tankers and/or sprinklers to dampen down areas of heavy vehicle access when wind speed exceeds five metres per second (five minute average) during dry conditions. f. Suspend all product load-out and windrow turning operations during dry conditions when the wind speed measured by the on-site meteorological station, blowing from between 10 degrees and 130 degrees, exceeds 10 metres per second for two consecutive five-minute averages. Recommencement of load-out and windrow turning operations may occur if recorded wind speeds from that sector are less than 10 metres per second for two consecutive five minute averages.	Yes	 a) Misters and water trucks are used b) Site is asphalt sealed c) Input piles are under 5m in height d) Bulk loads covered e) Monitored on-site, data reported each minute.
25	 a. Within 12 months of this consent coming into effect the consent holder shall establish and maintain suitable tree windbreaks around all areas where compost is stored. b. Notwithstanding condition 25(a), a further line of tree shelter shall be established along the boundary with Affordable Storage Limited and the boundary with Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust, to fill in gaps in the existing tree shelter plantings where establishment or growth has been poor such that a continuous shelter belt more than 1.8 metres high has not been formed. These additional shelter trees shall be planted within six months of commencement of the change to conditions. All shelter trees shall have a minimum height of 1.8 metres and shall be maintained and irrigated until they reach a height of at least five metres. Any dead, diseased or damaged trees shall be replaced immediately. The trees shall be protected from the prevailing wind during at least the initial three years of establishment of the trees by wind cloth fencing or similar in order to optimise tree growth. c. A plan showing planting and landscaping works to be undertaken to comply with Condition 25(b) shall be prepared by a suitably qualified person and shall be submitted to the Canterbury Regional Council within three months of commencement of the change to conditions. 	Yes	The open area is regularly cleaned.
26	On-site vehicle speeds in the outside windrow, compost storage and compost screening areas shall be restricted to not more than 15 kilometres per hour. A sign, capable of being read at a distance of five metres, shall be erected at the main vehicle entrance to the outside storage area to inform all drivers of this requirement.	Yes	Signs in place, all drivers, and contractors inducted with specific mention made of consent compliance.
27	The discharges to air shall not cause odour or dust which is offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the site on which this consent is exercised.	No	Transition plan in place.

28	Notwithstanding Conditions 24 and 27, all product load-out, heavy vehicle operation and windrow turning activities shall cease at any time when these activities cause visible suspended particulate matter beyond the western site boundary, including at properties occupied by Affordable Storage Limited, Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust or their successors. The consent holder shall maintain records of any odour or dust complaints received by the consent holder. These records shall include: a. Location of complainant when odour or dust was detected; b. Date and time of odour or dust detection; c. Weather conditions, including wind direction, at the composting facility when odour or dust was detected; d. Strength of the odour complained of, assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 by the complainant with the following rating system: 1 odour noticeable but not persistent; 2 odour clear and persistent; 3 odour unpleasant and persistent; 4 odour strong, offensive and persistent; 5 odour very strong and offensive. e. The amount of dust complained of, assessed on a description of the visible quantities and extent of dust deposits on a scale of 1 to 5 by the complainant with the following rating system: 1 noticeable and not extensive; 2 clear and minor coverage; 3 nuisance and moderate coverage; 4 objectionable and extensive coverage; 5 significant extensive deposits, offensive. A description of the appearance of the dust shall also be recorded; f. Any possible cause for the odour or dust complained of; and g. Any corrective action taken. Records demonstrating compliance with the above condition shall be provided to the Canterbury Regional Council on request and shall be summarised as part of the Annual Environmental Report required under Condition 36.	Yes	Monitored daily. New internal fence installed, lined with water cannons and misters. Complaints made to ECan are recorded by ECan.
	Monitoring		
30	The consent holder shall undertake site-boundary odour assessments at least once per day, in a manner consistent with Work Instruction WI30 Issue 6, dated 1 September 2010, submitted with the application, or an equivalent later document. These assessments shall occur at no fewer than eight locations around the site boundary, including at least one location downwind of the composting tunnels and the maturation windrows. In the event of strong odours being detected, that may create adverse effects beyond the site boundary, then the consent holder shall take all practicable efforts to mitigate the odour using measures that may include the use of masking agents, capping the source, and returning odorous material to the tunnels. Records shall be kept that include the date and time of the assessment, meteorological parameters at the time, odour descriptions and odour intensities at	Yes	Completed.

	each monitoring location. Staff members responsible for these assessments shall have calibrated noses, determined by suitably qualified persons at an accredited laboratory. These staff members shall be recalibrated for odour sensitivity at least once every three years. The consent holder shall, prior to unloading a tunnel, undertake an odour assessment of the compost material, in a manner consistent with Work Instruction WI4 Issue 6, dated 1 September 2010, submitted with the application, or an equivalent later document. In the event of strong odours being detected, that may create adverse effects beyond the site boundary, then the consent holder shall		Odour assessments are completed on a continuous
31	return the assessed material to the tunnel and shall not empty the tunnel until it has been determined that the material is no longer odorous to the point where it may create an adverse effect beyond the site boundary. Staff members responsible for these assessments shall have calibrated noses, determined by suitably qualified persons at an accredited laboratory. These staff members shall be recalibrated for odour sensitivity at least once every three years.	Yes	basis when tunnels are being emptied.
32	 a. At all times during exercise of this consent, wind speed and wind direction shall be measured by an anemometer established on the site. b. The anemometer shall be installed at a height of at least five metres above ground level at a location free from any obstruction that has potential to significantly affect wind flow. c. Wind speed resolution of measurement shall be not more than 0.1 metres per second and wind speed accuracy of measurement shall be at least within +/-0.2 metres per second. d. The anemometer shall be established, located and operated to the satisfaction of the Canterbury Regional Council. e. Wind speed and direction shall be continuously recorded with an averaging time for each parameter of not more than five minutes. f. These data shall be: (i) recorded using an electronic data logging system; and 	Yes	Weather station located on site.
33	 (ii) provided to the Canterbury Regional Council upon request. a. Dust deposition monitoring shall occur in at least two dust gauges sited near to the boundary with Affordable Storage Limited or successor and the boundary with Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust or successor and at least one further control dust gauge. The location of the dust deposition gauges shall be determined by a suitably qualified person and shall be provided in writing to the Canterbury Regional Council. The method of monitoring shall be ISO DIS-4222.2 or a similar method to the satisfaction of the Canterbury Regional Council. Samples shall be collected monthly and the monitoring results shall be included and summarised in the Annual Environmental Report required under Condition 36. b. Dust control measures shall be implemented to maintain the rate of dust deposition at the consent holder's boundary, measured in accordance with Condition 33(a), at less than 4g/m²/30 days above the background concentration measured at the control site. Any 	Yes	A total of eight dust gauges are used as controls (2), onsite (3) and offsite (3). Offsite gauges are in the immediate neighboring properties and these are used to monitor compliance against this consent.

	exceedance of this trigger level shall be reported to the Canterbury Regional Council, including the likely reasons for exceedance and any remedial action undertaken.		
	Management Plan		
34	 (a) The consent holder shall prepare and implement an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that addresses the control of discharges to air from the site. (b) The EMP shall be prepared and provided to the Canterbury Regional Council: attention: RMA Compliance and Enforcement Manager, within three months of the granting of this consent variation and within one month of the completion of annual reviews. (c) The EMP shall be reviewed annually. (d) The EMP and any revisions shall include all measures necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this consent. (e) The EMP shall include, but not be limited to: a. A description of the dust and odour sources on-site; b. The methods to be used for controlling dust and odour at each source; c. A description of consent and monitoring requirements; d. A system of training for employees and contractors to make them aware of the requirements of the EMP; and e. Identifying staff responsible for implementing and reviewing the EMP. 	Yes	
	Community Liaison Group		
35	 a. Within one month of the commencement of the change of conditions, the consent holder shall invite local residents and interested people to attend a meeting to establish a Community Liaison Group. The invitation to attend and establish a Community Liaison Group shall be extended to include: (i) all property owners and occupiers with boundaries adjoining, or but for the presence of roads, with boundaries immediately next to the site; and (ii) all parties who made a submission on the application to change consent conditions. b. A representative of the consent holder shall attend all meetings of the Community Liaison Group. The Canterbury Regional Council shall be invited to send a representative to attend all meetings. c. The consent holder shall ensure that members of the Community Liaison Group are provided with the opportunity and facilities to meet at least once every three months. d. The main purposes of the Community Liaison Group shall be to: a. Identify and address any adverse effects of discharges to air from the site, including possible remedial action; and 	Yes	Ongoing CLG meetings are held as required, including this meeting.

	b. Discuss the results of all monitoring and reporting required under this consent.		
	Reporting		
36	The consent holder shall, no later than the 30 th of June of each year, provide an Annual Environmental Report to the Canterbury Regional Council setting out all monitoring and reporting results required by conditions of consent and their interpretation by an appropriately qualified person, including dust deposition monitoring and complaints recording undertaken in relation to this consent over the previous period. Where the result of any test or monitoring undertaken in relation to this consent exceeds the relevant limit/trigger level or does not comply with the relevant condition, then the steps that were taken to rectify the non-compliance shall be specified.	Yes	The Annual Environmental Report (AER) report was provided to ECan in July 2022.
	Administration		
37	This consent shall not be exercised concurrently with CRC930514.	Yes	
38	The Canterbury Regional Council may annually, on or about the last working day of March each year, serve notice of its intention to review the conditions of this consent for the purposes of: a. Dealing with any adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of the consent; or b. Requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment; or c. Complying with the requirements of an operative regional plan.	Yes	OPP upgrade/relocation options being considered.

Environment Canterbury Odour and Dust Report May 2022 – July 2022

(Prepared for the Community Liaison Group meeting 16 August 2022)

The data used in this report relates to incidents received within the Bromley area, as outlined by the pink area in the map below. For consistency of reporting, only Smelt Its within the pink boundary are considered.



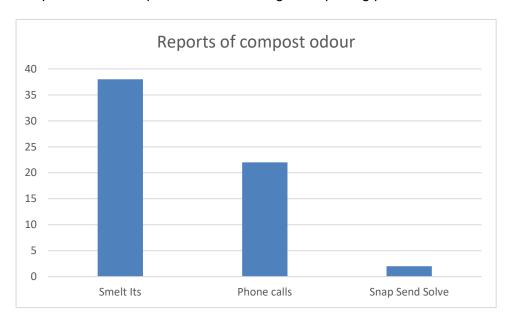
Odour Monitoring

A total of 65 incidents were logged with Environment Canterbury during the reporting period for Bromley. There may be multiple Smelt Its assigned to one incident for administration purposes.

Post the Wastewater Treatment Plant fire in November 2021, we started receiving a significant increase of Smelt It Submissions. The number of reports has reduced dramatically over the winter months.

Whilst we had 399 Smelt It submissions where the reporter mentioned compost, they also mentioned a large number of other odour types, making it difficult for us to determine the potential odour source.

The below chart shows Smelt It submissions where the submitter had stated specifically compost odour only within the Bromley area. It also shows the number of phone calls and Snap Send Solve reports received during the reporting period.



During the reporting period, 29 assessments were carried out by warranted officers in Bromley. Odour from Living Earth was substantiated beyond the property boundary on 8 occasions at low levels. This means the odour would only be considered offensive and objectionable if it occurred on a regular or frequent basis.

The total number of Notices on non-compliances issued in Bromley during the reporting period was 2, both to Living Earth.

Each time an officer confirms odour from Living Earth, odour from Wastewater Treatment Plant is ruled out as the source.

On average, it takes our officers 30 mins from the time an odour report is received, to being in the Bromley area.

Dust Monitoring

There was 1 report of dust by the community during this reporting period relating to a fine, yellow, gritty dust. An officer went to the site of the report but did not observe any dust of this nature.

Compliance Monitoring

During the reporting period, Environment Canterbury staff conducted a desktop inspection to check compliance with the conditions of the consent covering the period July 21 – June 22.

Condition 27 relating to the discharge of offensive and objectionable odour beyond the boundary was graded as significantly non-compliant.

There were no other non-compliances noted during this reporting period.