

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)  
In the matter of an application by **Dunedin City Council** to develop a  
Resource Recovery Park at Green Island, Dunedin.

---

**Statement of evidence of Sandra Graham**

6 November 2024

---

**Applicant's solicitors:**

Michael Garbett | Rebecca Kindiak  
Anderson Lloyd  
Level 12, Otago House, 477 Moray Place, Dunedin 9016  
Private Bag 1959, Dunedin 9054  
DX Box YX10107 Dunedin  
p + 64 3 477 3973  
michael.garbett@al.nz | rebecca.kindiak@al.nz

**anderson  
lloyd.**

## **Qualifications and experience**

- 1 My name is Sandra Dawn Graham.
- 2 I am currently employed as the Chief Executive Officer of Dunedin City Council (**Council**).

## **Scope of evidence**

- 3 I have been asked to prepare evidence in relation to Council's proposed construction and operation of a resource recovery park precinct (**RRPP**) at the Green Island landfill in the context of Council's wider approach to waste minimisation and management. This includes:
  - (a) Council's role in waste management, and in particular Council's commitment to working towards a zero-waste future;
  - (b) A summary of Council's Waste Futures program;
  - (c) Council's commitment to the RRPP in the Dunedin City Long Term Plan;
  - (d) Council's engagement with key stakeholders; and
  - (e) The consenting process for the RRPP.

## **Executive summary**

- 4 The proposal to construct and operate an RRPP at Green Island landfill sits within the context of the wider Waste Futures programme.
- 5 This programme aims to ensure effective reduction and management of solid waste; and to enable the city to move towards a zero-waste future and a more circular economy.
- 6 Council has consulted extensively with key stakeholders and the wider community regarding the waste futures programme generally and the RRPP.
- 7 Council acknowledges that the community, particularly those who have live near to the Green Island landfill site, have a significant interest in the proposed RRPP. Council is working closely with the community to ensure that the construction and operation of the RRPP best meets community needs.

## **Council's role in waste management**

- 8 Council's Waste and Environmental Solutions Group manages activities and services related to waste and environmental solutions across Dunedin city.
- 9 Services provided by Council include waste collection, resource recovery, and residual disposal services for domestic residents and commercial entities.
- 10 Council manages a portfolio of waste management facilities spanning from major infrastructure such as the Green Island landfill to smaller facilities such as the three inner-city recycling hubs located on Moray Place and Vogel Street.
- 11 Council also provides education on waste minimisation and sustainability practices and supports community initiatives aimed at waste minimisation.

## **The waste futures program**

- 12 Establishment of the Waste Futures Programme was established in 2018. The overall objective for the programme is:

To ensure effective reduction and management of solid waste to achieve the goals set out in its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Specifically, to identify and procure the best solid waste solution for Dunedin City to enable us to move towards a zero-waste future and a more circular economy.

- 13 The Waste Futures Programme comprises three overlapping and complementary waste management projects. The three components are:
  - (a) The waste management and minimisation plan (WMMP) 2020, which covers collection, reuse, recycling, resource recovery, treatment and disposal, services and facilities in Dunedin, including waste minimisation promotion and education. This plan was consulted on as part of the 2020/21 Annual Plan consultation process and was subsequently adopted by Council on 25 May 2020;
  - (b) Options for enhanced waste and diverted materials collection, including reducing organics (food and/or green waste) going to Green Island Landfill; and
  - (c) Preparation for closure of Green Island landfill, including planning for a new landfill at Smooth Hill.

- 14 The waste futures programme includes the roll out of an enhanced kerbside recycling and waste collection service for Dunedin, which commenced in July 2024. The new service includes collection of food and green waste.
- 15 Further details on the new kerbside collection service are provided in the evidence of Chris Henderson, Council's Group Manager of the Waste and Environmental Solutions Group.
- 16 To support the implementation of the new kerbside collection service Council is planning to make changes to the use of the Green Island landfill site.
- 17 Firstly, Council is planning for the closure of the Green Island landfill, which is coming to the end of its operational life and is expected to reach capacity in approximately 2029, based on current disposal rates.
- 18 Secondly, Council is preparing to provide new waste transfer facilities to service the proposed class 1 landfill at Smooth Hill, south of Dunedin. The resource consents for the proposed Smooth Hill landfill were granted in May 2023, with all appeals resolved in May 2023.
- 19 Thirdly, the existing resource recovery park precinct will be improved to allow for more efficient processing of greater volumes of recycling, as well as food and green waste.
- 20 The proposed RRPP will include a number of new resource recovery facilities.
- 21 An Organic Receivals Building (ORB) was consented via a separate process to allow for the building to be operational when the new kerbside collection service commenced. The ORB has been receiving organic waste since July 2024.
- 22 Two new processing facilities will be constructed:
  - (a) an Organics Processing Facility (OPF) that will include bunkers and a maturation area to support the organic waste kerbside collection; and
  - (b) a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will be constructed to sort and bale items collected from kerbside mixed recycling bins.

The OPF and MRF are planning to start operating in mid-late 2025.

- 23 A new bulk waste transfer station (BWTS) to facilitate the compaction and trucking of waste to landfill will also be constructed. The disposal of residual

waste from the BWTS is dependent on when Green Island landfill closes. Residual waste will be disposed at Green Island while it is available and when it closes, to Smooth Hill.

- 24 Additional facilities also include a construction and demolition sorting pad, glass bunkers, staff offices, parking, and breakrooms and associated access roads and truck parking areas. Several existing facilities are to be retained including the Rummage shop, public drop-off areas and the education centre.
- 25 The RRPP will be run by Enviro NZ on behalf of DCC. Further details on the operation of the RRPP will be provided in the evidence of Laurence Dolan, Environmental Manager at Enviro NZ Services Limited.

### **Council's Financial Commitment to the RRPP**

- 26 DCC's ten year plan for 2021-31 was adopted on 30 June 2021. It identifies \$29 million on the Waste Futures programme. This is a major part of the DCC's waste reduction and management strategy. The RRPP is a key part of this for DCC.
- 27 Community engagement on the draft 10 year plan 2021-31 took place in early 2021. A consultation document called 'tō tātou eke whakamuri/the future of us', was developed and distributed to the community.
- 28 The community feedback was categorised into 60 categories. Among the 20 categories that received the most comments were: "kerbside rubbish and recycling collection", and "reducing our waste".
- 29 The 2021-2031 ten year plan identifies in excess of \$25M allocated for these facilities made up of the following capital expenditure for key elements of the RRPP:
  - (a) 7.2 million for the new kerbside collection system;
  - (b) 7.1 million for the organics facility;
  - (c) 2.3 million for the construction and demolition facility;
  - (d) 6.3 million for the material recovery facility; and
  - (e) 2.5 million for the bulk waste transfer station.
- 30 DCC is currently re-looking at this capital budget as it prepares the 9 year plan next year to cover the period 2025-2034. To update this financial planning as it currently is;

- (a) The kerbside collection system is now operational.
  - (b) The organic's processing facility is constructed and operating and has had a capital investment now incurred of \$6.338M. The remaining parts of the organics processing will have a further budget of \$4.513M.
  - (c) The construction and demolition facility will have an updated budget of \$3.570M;
  - (d) The material recovery facility will have an updated budget of \$20.366M; and
  - (e) The bulk waste transfer station will have an updated budget of \$7.365M.
  - (f) finally there is currently planned a budget of \$13.867M for the remainder of the RRPP for all the ancillary parts of the precinct to tie it together such as staff facilities, roading upgrades, power and IT facilities.
- 31 This all shows how the RRPP is a major project for DCC to bring about a modern recycling facility, and also a very large capital commitment for the City.

### **Council's engagement with key stakeholders**

- 32 Engagement regarding the future of the Green Island landfill site, including the plans for the RRPP, commenced in 2022. Engagement involved informing the community about the Waste Futures Programme, plans for the ongoing operation and closure of the landfill and the proposed facilities required at the RRPP to support the new kerbside collection.
- 33 The purpose of engagement was to understand from the community and stakeholders how they perceive they will be impacted by the facilities proposed for the RRPP.
- 34 Key stakeholders that DCC have engaged with include:
- (a) Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou (via Aukaha).
  - (b) Local community organisations, and interest groups.
  - (c) Residential neighbours.
  - (d) The wider Green Island community and residents.

- 35 A site visit was undertaken with Aukaha and representatives of the rūnaka in April 2022. The purpose of this visit was to create an opportunity to discuss the possible future plans for the landfill site and RRPP facilities and to hear the key priorities for whānau.
- 36 A design hui was held with DCC, the project team, Enviro NZ and representatives from Aukaha in September 2022, to ensure whanau concerns and aspirations continued to be considered as part of the future plans for the RRPP site.
- 37 Engagement with Aukaha and the rūnaka is ongoing, including throughout the development of the design for the new RRPP facilities and the preparation of the supporting consent application.
- 38 Feedback from Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou has raised the following issues specific to the RRPP:
- (a) the management of run-off from the composting area and parking areas; and
  - (b) erosion and sediment control during construction.
- 39 On 14 March 2024, Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou (via Aukaha) provided an affected party approval letter for the construction and operation of the proposed RRPP facilities.
- 40 DCC began local community engagement on the future operation and closure of the Green Island landfill in February 2023. This engagement involved dropping flyers and hosting information sessions that focussed on providing information about:
- (a) the wider Waste Futures programme,
  - (b) the roll-out of an enhanced kerbside recycling and waste collection service for the city from July 2024,
  - (c) the staged closure of the Green island landfill; and
  - (d) plans for the new RRPP facilities and opportunities for future public access to the site and surrounding environment, including Kaikarae Estuary and Stream post closure.
- 41 DCC is continuing to engage with local residents to agree the plans to enhance the existing screening planting on the southern bund, prior to construction starting and to mitigate views of the MRF building.

- 42 Further information on DCC's engagement with local residents is provided in the evidence of Chris Henderson, Council's Group Manager of the Waste and Environmental Solutions Group.
- 43 DCC is continuing to engage with these submitters to explore how best to address the concerns raised within the resource consent process.

### **Conclusion**

- 44 The Waste Futures programme aims to enable Dunedin City to move towards a zero-waste future and a wmore circular economy.
- 45 The construction of the RRPP is a key component of the overall waste Futures programme, and will establish modern waste diversion facilities and processes for Dunedin City.
- 46 Council has identified significant funding for the construction of the RRPP in its 2021-31 long term plan.
- 47 Council has engaged with key stakeholders regarding the construction and operation of the RRPP. This engagement is ongoing and will inform the final resource consents for the RRPP.

**Sandra Graham**

Chief Executive

Dunedin City Council