

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



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Tania Gibson
Mayor Grey District Council
mayor@greydc.govt.nz

Dear Tania,

Thank you for our meeting on 10 September 2024 about the Taylorville Resource Park (TRP). In that meeting you expressed your concern that the TRP might pose a risk to the Greymouth water supply and your frustration about being excluded from the original consent process administered by West Coast Regional Council (WCRC).

I asked officials at the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) to seek more information from the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) about this site. Officials advise me that the WCRC has recently obtained an independent risk assessment about whether contaminants from the site could reach the water supply, and that this assessment will be shared with your council soon. Reassuringly, I am advised this assessment identifies the risk of contamination as low. The report also recommends some additional monitoring to further reduce the risk, which I expect WCRC will discuss with you.

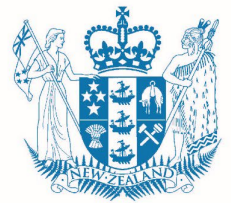
Officials advise me that there are further resource consent applications in progress to authorise the activities currently occurring at the TRP, and a detailed geotechnical assessment is being required as part of that process. WCRC have told officials that the applications will be publicly notified and heard by independent commissioners, so you will have the opportunity to put your concerns to the commissioners this time around. The consent process is the correct forum to consider the issues you raise about geotechnical stability and long-term suitability of the site as a landfill.

In terms of the compliance of the site (including the status of newly installed lined pond), I understand that the WCRC is continuing to investigate, and that decisions on what action might follow (including the potential for enforcement action) are yet to be made. Unfortunately, this may limit the information that WCRC can share with you, as there are strict legal requirements to ensure future decisions around enforcement action are not limited or constrained.

Ultimately, it is WCRC's function to decide on the resource consent applications and on steps to enforce compliance with the RMA for the site, and I expect them to perform their role professionally and competently. At this time, I have decided not to intervene using any of my statutory powers, but I have asked officials at MfE to closely follow the progress of both the resource consent application and the compliance investigation, and to keep me informed, in case I might need to intervene in future.

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Finally, the issues at the TRP have also been referred to MfE's waste compliance team who enforce the collection of the Waste Minimisation Act levy.

Kind regards,

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment

Cc:  Maureen Pugh – MP for West Coast-Tasman