

---

**To:** Matthew Barbati-Ross; Nicolette Butler; Darrin Mitchell; Jo Burton; Hayden Johnston; Sara Clarke  
**Cc:** Hamiora Milne  
**Subject:** RE: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Kia ora,

Please find attached a situation report from approximately 1 year ago that outlines the status of the landfill at that time. [Link to attachment 34.1](#) – please note that this situation report is for internal use only, and not to be circulated at this time, as it contains information that relates to a matter subject to ongoing investigation that could result in enforcement action.

9(2)(g)(i)

Of course, MfE has no operational regulatory powers to either deal with non-compliance at the site, nor to direct the Council to take any particular action.

At the time, we focused on assisting the Council to get support to undertake its functions. I understand the Council sought specialist consenting support from a consultancy company, and I suggested WCRC seek investigative and compliance support from the EPA, which they did.

The EPA found a number of compliance issues, and issued an abatement notice on the site requiring remedial action.

The EPA advises that performance has been improving, the company has done the work required by the abatement notice and has installed a new lined cell with a water treatment system.

The EPA has contracted an independent company to collect water samples from the water course that was being discharged to, and the EPA those samples indicate an improving trend.

The abatement notice has recently been extended to allow the EPA to continue to monitor progress, however the EPA has lost more than half of its compliance team capacity through a recent EPA reorganisation, so there is much less resource available to undertake local compliance activities.

I don't have any information about the status of the resource consent for the site, last I heard the landfill site needed to apply for changes to its consent, I don't know what the status of those changes are.

The key issue for Grey District Council is their concern that the landfill poses a risk to the Greymouth water supply. We advised the WCRC to contact Taumata Arowai as the drinking water regulator to advise them of the issues, they advised me they had done this.

9(2)(g)(i)

---

**From:** Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 1:31 PM  
**To:** Nicolette Butler <Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz>; Darrin Mitchell <Darrin.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz>; Jo Burton <Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz>; Hayden Johnston <Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz>; Sara Clarke <Sara.Clarke@mfe.govt.nz>; Rob Dragten <Rob.Dragten@mfe.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Hamiora Milne <Hamiora.Milne@mfe.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Kia ora

I suggest linking urgently with Rob Dragten/Sara Clarke who has been working on the landfill/water bore matter specifically.

There's merit in considering wider context too. We've had other engagement at manager level with WCRC on fulfilment of statutory functions on planning and consenting, which culminated in s27 request from Minister Parker to clarify what council had done on s330 emergency powers and coastal planning. However, resourcing has constrained further work and we did identify benefits of follow up at GM/Dep Sec level.

Also, there is a c10A request for a timeframe extension in with Minister Simmonds for Te Tai Poutini Plan.

Kā mihi, Matthew

**Matthew Barbati-Ross (he/him)**

*Manager | Kaiwhakahaere*

*Resource Management Systems Team | Tima Pūnaha Whakahaere Rawa*

*Resource Management System Business Unit | Te Rōpū Pūnaha Whakahaere*

*Rawa*

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

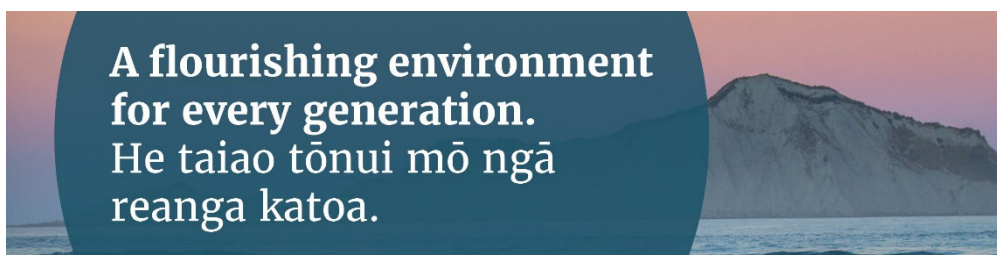
9(2)(a)

| [matthew.barbati-ross@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:matthew.barbati-ross@mfe.govt.nz) | [mfe.govt.nz](https://mfe.govt.nz)

*Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means I work from Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula.*



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



---

**From:** Nicolette Butler <[Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 11:23 AM  
**To:** Matthew Barbati-Ross <[Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz)>; Darrin Mitchell <[Darrin.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Darrin.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz)>; Nicolette Butler <[Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz)>; Jo Burton <[Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz)>; Hayden Johnston <[Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Hamiora Milne <[Hamiora.Milne@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Hamiora.Milne@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Kia ora – on this:

1. The council will have its own responsibilities to raise concerns re drinking water with the RC / medical officers of health.
2. They are free to raise issues with the Minister – though it would be good to understand what action they are seeking (i.e. is it a request for a Minister to seek info under s27 RMA?)

Let us know what you are seeking and we can arrange for a legal review. (Copied to Hāmiora who is assisting with SNAs)

Thanks,

Nāku noa, nā Nicolette

**Nicolette Butler (she/her)**

Manager - Legal / Kaiwhakahaere

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) | [nicolette.butler@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:nicolette.butler@mfe.govt.nz) | [mfe.govt.nz](http://mfe.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Ministerials <[ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 10:58 AM

**To:** Matthew Barbati-Ross <[Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz)>; Darrin Mitchell <[Darrin.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Darrin.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz)>; Nicolette Butler <[Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Nicolette.Butler@mfe.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Jo Burton <[Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz)>; Hayden Johnston <[Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

**Importance:** High

Kia ora koutou,

Min Hoggard has a meeting with West Coast mayors next week and they have requested to discuss with him SNAs and the Taylorville landfill that appears to be contaminating their water supply.

I have checked in with Sarah's team, and based on James' advice below I am reaching out to you in the hopes you are able to contribute to a meeting note on the Taylorville landfill issue.

Sorry for the urgency, but the office need this with them by Tuesday 27 August.

Kind regards,

Lucy

**Lucy Auberson (she/her)**

*Ministerial Coordinator*

*Ministerial Services*

---

**From:** James Mitchell <[James.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:James.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 10:46 AM

**To:** Ministerials <[ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)>; Mariska Wouters <[Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz)>; Sarah Kenward <[Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

**Importance:** High

Sarah will be checking work emails - I have ccd her.

I believe this request would be best answered by the legal team, rather than contaminated land policy or hazardous substances policy.

The alleged landfill discharges are covered by section 15 of the RMA, or the relevant regional council resource consent conditions. If these are being breached, the complainants have legal recourse under the RMA, but Legal are best placed to address this, given that the EPA and West Coast Regional Council are already aware of the issue and have been investigating.

The Waste Operations team may also have some input, although they only have limited scope around levy payments through OWLS, rather than resource consent conditions or monitoring.

Ngā mihi,

**James Mitchell** *Senior analyst | Kaitātari matua*  
*Hazardous substances, biological technologies and contaminated land*  
9(2)(a) | [james.mitchell@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:james.mitchell@mfe.govt.nz) | [mfe.govt.nz](http://mfe.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Ministerials <[ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 10:26 AM  
**To:** Mariska Wouters <[Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Mariska.Wouters@mfe.govt.nz)>; James Mitchell <[James.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:James.Mitchell@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Kia ora kōrua,

I'm not sure if Sarah is available today and I need to get this piece of work commissioned out this morning. Does the below sound like work that would belong to your team?

Kind regards,  
Lucy

**Lucy Auberson (she/her)**  
*Ministerial Coordinator*  
*Ministerial Services*

---

**From:** Ministerials  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 9:39 AM  
**To:** Sarah Kenward <[Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz)>; Tim Bennetts <[Tim.Bennetts@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Tim.Bennetts@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Hayden Johnston <[Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Hayden.Johnston@mfe.govt.nz)>; Jo Burton <[Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Burton@mfe.govt.nz)>; Glenn Wigley <[glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Kia ora Sarah and Tim,

Min Hoggard has a meeting with west coast mayors next Thursday to discuss SNAs, but the office has now forwarded on a further issue they would like to discuss; the Taylorville landfill that appears to be contaminating the town's water supply.

Could you please confirm for me ASAP that this is an issue for your team.

If it is, the office would like a meeting note to prepare the Minister for the meeting and discussion of the issue. Can you please work with Jo and Hayden to put together a meeting note covering both issues.

Can this please be sent straight to Angus in the office by **COB Tuesday 27 August**, CCing Ministerials.

Thank you!

Kind regards,  
Lucy

**Lucy Auberson (she/her)**  
*Ministerial Coordinator*  
*Ministerial Services*

---

**From:** Angus Thomas <[Angus.Thomas@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Angus.Thomas@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ministerials <[ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Could I please add the below item to the briefing prepared for the meeting referenced.

"I would also like to add to the agenda with Minister Hoggard being the Associate Minister of the Environment another topic of the Taylorville landfill. It is a private landfill that is directly positioned above our whole town water supply and is a massive threat to the district. It is being investigated after many breaches of their consents and the Regional Council have also admitted that they failed in the process of giving consents to the Taylorville Resource Park. There has been found to be leachate in the drains on the road side beside our water treatment plant which was never supposed to happen and now we are doing extensive testing of our land where the treatment plant is at a great cost to our ratepayers even though when the consent went through we were not consulted and deemed an unaffected party. If we do find contaminants in the soil of our land at our water plant it is affectively the fire alarm and our drinking water for our whole town will be contaminated. There has been toxic smells affecting residents and one young worker almost died their after being overcome with toxic gases. Work Safe are working on this and the EPA have also investigated. In the event of the AF8 this thing will slide off the hill directly into our town water supply. We have alongside the residents been trying to work with the Regional council on this and have hit nothing but brick walls. We are all at our wits end and can find no other path but to talk to the Ministers regarding this."



## Angus Thomas

Private Secretary – Associate Environment | Office of Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Minister for Biosecurity | Minister for Food Safety | Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills) | Associate Minister for the Environment

M: 9(2)(a)  
Email: [angus.thomas@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:angus.thomas@parliament.govt.nz) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

**From:** Angus Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 3:13 PM  
**To:** Ministerials <[ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** BRIEF - Hon Hoggard - Due: COB tuesday 27th August

Hi team

Best lives with Hayden to farm out thanks.

<b>Date received by office:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> August</b>
<b>Date commissioned:</b>	
<b>Due to office:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> August</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Angus Thomas</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b><u>BRIEF REQUEST</u></b>	
<b>Ministers</b>	Hon Andrew Hoggard & Min Patterson & US Court
<b>With:</b>	West coast mayors
<b>Time:</b>	10am – 11am
<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Officials to Attend:</b>	Yes
<b>Location:</b>	Meeting Room 1.103 – Parliamentary Library
<b>Issues to cover:</b>	Out of scope
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>Attn:</b>	



## Angus Thomas

Private Secretary – Associate Environment | Office of Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Minister for Biosecurity | Minister for Food Safety | Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills) | Associate Minister for the Environment

M: 9(2)(a)

Email: [angus.thomas@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:angus.thomas@parliament.govt.nz) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

---