

Greg & Simone Greenwood
one of the most affected people.

TABLED AT HEARING

Application: Canterbury

We strongly oppose the Resource Consent applications: Landscape Supplies

Date: 9/3/2018

- CRC175344 – Discharge permit for the discharge of contaminants (including odour and dust) into the air from a composting operation and
- CRC175345 – Discharge permit for the discharge of contaminants to the land that may enter water, as a result of composting and stockpiling of compost

We oppose the applications for the following reasons:

Canterbury Landscapes Supplies Ltd (CLS) Composting set up an illegal operation with no consent. They have hidden their activities from the community for as long as possible and have demonstrated very little regard for the environment and the community. It would appear that they have ensured that they were well established before notifying anyone of their existence and to ensure that they cannot be shut down without considerable loss to their business and any closure appear “disproportionate” and anti business. At no time have they come to the community and discussed their proposals with those affected. They have come in as bullies and tried to intimidate and undermine the value and worth of the community.

CLS are not operating with Best Practice in accordance to the Consent Guide for Composting Operations in New Zealand (Waste Management Institute of New Zealand, May 2009).

The main areas of concern for us are as follows:

Discharge of Contaminates to the air:

The odours that are being emitted from the CLS on Diversion road are extremely objectionable and offensive.

These odours reach our property on a regular basis and we have contacted the pollution hotline over 45 times. The odours are extremely objectionable and are taking away the enjoyment of our property. We are unable to entertain like we used with an example of the recent Labour Day and Christmas night.

Page one notes

- 1) At meditation on order was given that all objectionable material was to be moved prior to 16 Dec. This never occurred and on Christmas night it was stinking. We have friends over and could not longer be outside.

2) We have had a very hot and ~~dry~~ summer and our experience is that the odour is much worse in winter when we have had a lot of rain and the site on Diversion road floods. It was so bad after Hurricane GITA ~~0~~ staff at CLS could not work the site and it stank at our house.

3) Since the 16 December we have called the hotline 13 Times These being

- After agreement passed

~~14 dec pm (5)~~

~~15 dec am (5)~~

18 dec am (5.5)

20 dec am (4)

21 dec pm (3) intermittent

25 dec 5 evening

10 January am (2)

18 January am

Ecowaste Truck on road seen coming from CLS at 5:10pm.

25 January am (4)

21 feb pm (5)

24 feb pm (3)

25 feb pm (2) and then (4) at 9pm

4) Our house is in the direct path of the odour. On the 24 Feb we called the hotline and I send Andrew Arps ^{Even} a text message. He replied he was outside our property and could not smell anything. I invited him onto our property. Whilst he could not smell anything on the South Eyre Road verge once he had entered my property and was standing in my garden for 10 minutes he agreed he could smell the objectionable odour and was able to verify the smell.

5) At times the smell is so bad it has woken us up at night. It permeates into our home even with all windows and doors closed.

6) The CLS are causing so much stress in my family. We live in fear of the smell. We cant entertain anymore. My children are affected.

My wife Janine has her own business and works from home. Our property was her sanctuary where she could work quietly without distraction and now the stress and emotional harm it is causing her is horrendous.

CLS allege that the site is currently processing approximately 8,000 cubic meters and the consent is for circa 40,000 cubic meters of compost to be processed.

If CLS are unable to keep the current smells within the boundary, we are left wondering how intolerable life could become when they increase the operation to full capacity?

We are also concerned with the Bio aerosols produced in a composting site. These contain live or dead bacteria, fungi, viruses, allergens etc. and there is no way of stopping these particulates escaping into the air. CLS does not contain these bio aerosols or monitor them in any way.

Discharge of contaminants to the land and soil including water quality:

The site occupied by CLS on Diversion Road has very high nitrate content and is currently in a "Red Zone" as defined by Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

The ground is porous in nature and we along with others in our community rely on all our water from wells. We have previously enjoyed good drinking water, but this may well change.

The Eyre River is in close proximity to the CLS operation and it is well documented that the underground water table from the Eyre River flows into the Christchurch water system.

As we have had an exceptionally rainy season the water table is very high and in some cases the ground water is less than ~~1~~²⁻⁵ meter below ground.

If the ground water become contaminated through the illegal operation of CLS and the adding of Leachate to the soil and other contaminants this would affect our drinking water and potentially that of Christchurch.

As the consent is for a 35 year plan forethought has to be given to the effect this operation will have on the future Waimakariri district and the wider Christchurch area.

We have no evidence that CLS has any Corporate responsibility to our environment and they are only concerned about their profit margins. There is a wider call for Corporate responsibility in regards to our environment. This is evident by major super market chains no longer supplying plastic bags. Air New Zealand no longer dumping unopened food.

I now also question Silver Fern Farms partnering with a company such as CLS. I used to think they had a good corporate responsibility this now is questionable and when a disaster hits how will their brand be effected as they will be linked to CLS. I am not surprised at Orderings as they have a long history of disregarding the law and trading when it has been illegal.

Fire Risks

Any open air composting site is a high fire risk and spontaneous combustion is a real threat. The site that CLS operate becomes extremely dry in the summer months.

The risk is further heightened due to strong North westerly winds.

The CLS site is surrounded by a pine tree planation. Power lines are on the site, which feed power to the top of the South Island and if these were damaged, could cause major issues for the wider community.

There is a lack of adequate water on site and CLS does not have their own well to fight any fires.

If a fire were to start we do not believe that a fire could be stopped on the site easily and containment at Diversion road would become the only option. This would not only destroy the trees surrounding the site it would also put our property and other homes at risk.

Heath and Well Being

We are very concerned about the bio aerosols that are in the air and how these are effecting our health and wellbeing. I suffer with asthma and have found it most difficult to breath when the odour present. Our family has had more chest infections than ever before and we find it more than coincidental that this has happened when an illegal site has been operating.

The CLS operation is causing high levels of stress in our family and community. At times the odour is so strong that it permeates our house with all windows firmly closed and disturbs our sleeping patterns.

Livestock

We have seen an increased level of flies through the winter months and an increase in the vermin in the area. Should CLS continue the operation, the risk of flystrike will be high and affect the wellbeing of our animals.

Should the water become contaminated this will have adverse health effects on our livestock and any young and unborn animals.

Hours of operation

We have personally observed trucks entering the CLS site in the late evening and have also passed CLS trucks late at night on South Eyre Road. They are also running on different routes to the site and not only on South Eyre Road.

There are times where we can hear CLS operating the site late at night. Phil Wylie commented in an email that his production manager was not aware of the restriction around the hours of operation. This is after a year of operating. Does this operation even have a best practice and do all their staff know or understand the limits of the impending consent? If consent had to be given, what assurances do the community have that the terms and conditions will be complied with or are CLS hoping to wear down the community with their persistent breaches?

And who will ever enforce any breaches. We were told by ECAN that if CLS breached the abatement notice they would immediately be fined. To my knowledge this has not happened once. I have already lisyed the times we called the hotline. My wife was often called by an ECAN officer Jo who explained they were working with CLS and trying to help them. What about us and who cares for the little people in the community

Best Practice

CLS operate a windrow composting business. There is substantial anitdoteial evidence that this method of producing composting does not meet world best practice standards and these site are often closed down due to objectionable odour breaches and for producing hazardous bio aerosols.

New Zealand has a reputation of being pure, clean and green. We are dumbfounded as to how a business can set up an operation that has no care for the environment, fauna, flora or the community of residents.

The site is currently protect by trees, however, these will be harvested and then the site will be open in every direction. Once this occurs not only will the community suffer more from being exposed to the pollutants, but visually this will be an eyesore and tarnish our pure, green environment .

The site is based in close proximity to the Waimaakreri river which is used by the public for many recreational activities.

We believe that CLS need to meet the stringent requirements of setting up a composting business that reflects our clean and pure image in New Zealand. This would entail the following:

1. The composting operation must be contained in a "High technology In-vessel" composting system such as the Living Earth system run for the Christchurch City Council.
2. The operation must comply strictly with the standards set out in the RMA and the Consent Guide for Composting Operations in New Zealand (Waste Management Institute of New Zealand, May 2009)
3. 24/7 monitoring heat, moisture, oxygen, odour and dust and of material arriving on site.
4. Due to the high porous structure of the soil that allows contaminated surface water to leachate into the ground water. The operation has to move to a site where the land is not so porous and well drained minimizing harm to the land and environment.

Property Values

Mr Wyle in an affidavit stated that he was unable to move the operation to another site as there was no other place that would allow the business to operate and moving the site would have adverse effect of his business.

The Waimakariri district is one of the fastest growing areas in the country with area around the Eyre having large growth and many new subdivisions opening. The community have invested a great deal of money in the area and if CLS are given consent this will affect our property values and the whole district will suffer.

Our property is on the market and we have had to disclose to a couple of potential buyers that there is an illegal composting operation once they hear this they leave never to be seen again.

The resulting financial implications for us is huge. Mr Wylie is more than welcome to purchase our property for GV and he won't have far to travel to work and he can enjoy the benefits of his site.

Final Comments

We vehemently object to CLS operating at 97 Diversion Road and 949 South Eyre Road, Swannanoa.

We strongly oppose the Resource Consent applications and insist that the operation cease immediately and all material to be removed from the site to mitigate any potential environmental disaster.

Gregory and Janine Greenwood.

Janine Greenwood.

I'm not here to discuss all the technicalities but to let you hear about how cls has affected my life and that of my family

There are days where the stench that has emanated from this site is so strong that you feel like you're going to be physically sick. We have woken up at night smelling this revolting rotting smell - our home is fully insulated and double glazed and we don't sleep with windows open so that we wouldn't expect the smell to penetrate the home but the smell is so bad that it does. We do run heat pumps and yet we get the smell in the house. There have been times where it is extremely unpleasant to even walk from the driveway parking area to the front door. This has meant that we don't even have visitors visit our home because the stench that cls site produces is so strong a visit to our home is a very unpleasant experience. We used to enjoy a regular stream of visitors wanting to escape from the city and come to a country haven but since cls has set up their site and operated it hidden away without any consent or notifying the neighborhood of its activities we have not found that a visit to our home is a welcome break given the stench they face getting into the front door. I must add that cls did notify the residents of the operation many months after setting up.

Before this time we did notice that there was an unpleasant smell, around and we did call our septic tank maintenance people as we had no idea of where the smell was coming from. When cls suggests that they had no complaints about the smell, in the area before notifying the residents this is because we had no idea where the smell was emanating from - who would have guessed that a long established company would have behaved in such a way?

I'm sure you would ask if the smell issue has improved after the abatement meeting we had last year? Yes it has in part but we honored our side of the agreement and didn't complain in the period that cls agreed to remove the mound of rotting materials but I don't believe that they have honored the agreement. There were days where the stench was extremely strong but we didn't complain or even lodge a complaint with the hot line as Mr Cleary took great lengths to explain was not to happen by the people who signed that agreement. From what I have heard the offending material had not been removed by the expected date and I wonder if this has even been removed to date.

The agreed reports were even late, but still we didn't complain

We were also assured that if cls did offend after the agreed period they would be fined but according to an exam officer this is not happening .Evan are working with cls to get the operation sorted. I feel that exam have clearly let the community, our environment and my family down. We relied on them to keep our environment safe but they have clearly neglected this and serve other interests. I don't know what these are and I could speculate but the does not help anyone and we are not here to speculate.

Ecan 2

As soon as we get a certain wind change we seem to experience the displeasure of cls site. A specific day was Christmas night . fortunately we had a fine day but in the evening while we still had visitors in the evening when the wind changed and the stench returned. From being a pleasant day and evening outside the we had to rush inside and light candles and try to mask the revolting smell. If only Mr Cleary and Mr wily were actually impacted by this!

Because the smell has been so strong and offensive we have suffered anxiety. We no longer have visitors or spend as much time outside. Even basic gardening chores are hampered by the smell.

The smell has started to get more frequent recently. As I mentioned the smell returns when we have a change of wind. This hearing I'd very conveniently heard at the end of the summer months and i do wonder what a hearing at the end of the winter season would look like. Even a site visit would look very different I am sure.

I am dreading the coming months. As you are aware we have had a really high rainfall this year and I do wonder how cls will manage this going forward. If they couldn't manage this after being in the business for 20 years and then setting up in a new site how will they manage this going forward ?I have been told by an Evan inspector that they have had smell issues for many years in their old site how is setting up in this new site going to be any better? Their previous operation didn't include some of the toxic materials that they are asking you to consider allowing

them to work with so how are they going to manage those if they can't manage the less toxic materials now..?

Or are they thinking that country folk are just used to smells and will have to tolerate the stench they produce and don't care.

CLS has even invaded my working life. I used to work part time from home but since the stench has become so frequent I have had to move into an office in town and work less from home as well as become more full time in my employment.

Fortunately I am able to do that but I have less down time. Even coming today – had an overseas team come to NZ planned well in advance of this date and I have had to return early from these meetings in Auckland for CLS. This is at great expense – not just financially but also in the amount of time I can work with the overseas team that I oversee.

I worry about the fire risks. As soon as I smell smoke I rush outside to see where it is coming from just in case it's from CLS because we all know what the fire fighting hazards are- can't use monsoon buckets and only fight the fire from Diversion road.

In the period that CLS has been working in the site we have seen an increase in the amount of respiratory illnesses in just our family. I don't know ^{what} ~~what the documented~~ health implications are for people living within the area of other windrow composting sites but I don't want my family to be test dummies.

The evidence from the so called experts say that the environmental impact is minimal so if there are any water uses or health issues going forward as a result of this operation are they willing to support the community and put measures in place to have our water purified if our water is contaminated? I wouldn't even know what to suggest if there is a long term health issue as a result of the site being allowed to operate as it is now.

I am not opposed to healthy development of businesses in the area but there has not been one piece of evidence that I have found that shows that this form of composting is without issues around odour and air quality and ground contamination. I would ask that you would consider carefully what the future

implications are for the environment. By all means cls could develop their operations but could they not be a leader in their field by composting on a solid concrete pad In an enclosed area something like the Living Earth operation mentioned before. Yes it will cost them money to set up but would you as deciders of the environment's fate want to allow this antiquated style of operating to go forward into the next 30+ years.

I implore you to consider very carefully what you consent cls to do in our environment. We have an opportunity to actually set up an environmental friendly business that the community can be proud of and not a toxic cesspit that it has potential to become if stringent measures are not enforced. I would like to say that I live close to an great operation that cares for my environment including the people around it .