

ST ANDREWS LANDFILL REMEDIATION

Environment Canterbury is leading a project to remediate a historic landfill located north of Galletlys Road at St Andrews Beach. The landfill is situated on private agricultural land, unformed road and potentially within the coastal zone. Landfill waste occurs within a section of the beach crest, some of which has become exposed.

Council received a report from Tonkin & Taylor Limited commissioned by Environment Canterbury to undertake an assessment of options to remediate the waste found at St Andrews Beach from the St Andrews Closed Landfill.

The need for remediation has arisen from the ongoing erosion of waste onto the beach which affects the marine environment and near-shore marine ecosystems. The discharge of waste material also poses a risk to public users of the beach.

Any option for remediation must prevent or minimise further discharge of waste onto the beach and ensure that the public is not exposed to any contaminated material. The remediation cannot worsen the coastal erosion on the beach or any other adjacent site. It is of paramount importance that the public can safely access the beach for customary and recreational activities.

The report has recommended three options for remediation in addition to the status quo (do nothing). While the first option is reactive and recommends that the beach be cleaned as and when waste is exposed, the other two options recommend partial/incremental or full removal of waste from the landfill at once or over several years.

While it is too soon to understand the costs of the project and liability, Council has sought advice on the implications of the report and possible remediation measures. In the meantime, there will be ongoing conversations with landowners, Department of Conservation and other affected stakeholders.



COUNCIL ADVOCATES FOR CONTAINER RETURN SCHEME

Council, along with the Waste Management Institute New Zealand Incorporated and Coca-Cola EuroPacific Partners, co-signed an advocacy letter to the Minister for the Environment and officials urging greater progress towards the implementation of a container return scheme (CRS).

Container return schemes encourage consumers and businesses to return beverage containers for recycling and/or re-use. They are highly effective and internationally trusted mechanisms for increasing recycling rates and improving environmental outcomes. The letter aims to highlight broad support for the scheme and encourage action from the ministry to prioritise the initiative as a sustainable and practical solution to improve waste outcomes.

Stacey White, Council's Waste Management Officer said, "It is estimated that a considerable amount of empty beverage containers end up in landfills or littering streets, public spaces, streams, beaches and the ocean. We support a CRS scheme, but at this stage we are not prescribing or promoting a specific model. All details, including potential financial impacts will be considered in the future. The success of any model will depend on support from a range of stakeholders and community engagement."

EVENT CENTRE FIRE UPDATE

On 25 October, following a fire incident, the event centre complex was closed to the public, including the gym and squash courts. An investigation revealed that the fire began in the roof cavity above the gym toilets caused by a fault with the HVAC system.

By 29 October, the reception area, courts, meeting rooms and the pop-up library were open to the public while damage was being assessed to the gym and squash courts. An external consultant was engaged to manage the restoration and prepare a scope of works to understand the extent of the work required.

The scope of works is now complete, and Council has progressed with an open tender process. Restoration work will likely begin in April 2025, with the completion date yet to be determined. The work required is extensive and includes significant demolition works, scaffolding, electrical wiring replacement, plumbing, replacement mechanical services, structural repairs, wall linings and final finishes.

In the meantime, all enquiries about memberships to the squash courts and the gym need to be directed to the respective organisations responsible for them.



From left (back): Barry O'Neill, Vince Thompson, Mayor Craig Rowley, Dougall McLachlan and Glenda Begg.
From left (front): Georgia Soper, Mavis Andrew and Raewyn Williams.

COUNCIL CELEBRATES COMMUNITY HEROES



This year's Waimate District Civic Award function was held at the Waimate Event Centre on Wednesday evening, 12 February to celebrate and recognise the work of volunteers across the district.

These Awards have been held for the past 16 years, recognising 64 adults, 11 young people and 10 groups for outstanding community service in that time.

Mayor Craig Rowley described this year's recipients as 'community heroes'. He thanked them and said their service is important and worthy of recognition. "We know this is just the tip of the iceberg, there are plenty more worthy recipients in our community".

"It is important that we recognise them, if only to give the people that benefit from their work the opportunity to acknowledge and thank them publicly" Mayor Rowley said in his speech. "Many work quietly, unrecognised, behind the scenes, keeping our community active and alive. I believe that's what makes a community thrive."

The Mayor said that he is proud of the volunteering community in the Waimate District. "As the older volunteers step down and hand over the reins, I encourage more people to get involved with volunteering and continue this enriching tradition in the district."

Mavis Andrew, Barry O'Neill, Vince Thompson and Raewyn Williams were this year's Individual Civic Award Recipients, with the Youth Civic Award going to Georgia Soper. For the first time ever, there are two winners for the group/organisation category; Waimate Trackways and the Waimate Highland Pipe Band.