

Hi, I am Garry Irvine, and I am speaking as the landowner of 363 Scroggs Hill Road. I oppose the proposed landfill at Smooth Hill as there has been no consultation between the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and the impacted landowners. I own a small forestry block at the end of several forestry's blocks that are situated between us and the landfill. My major concern regarding this proposal is the risk of fire, rats, and rubbish, and the impact these will have on my property. To put simply, if any of these effects were to cause damages to my property who would compensate me as the landowner? Who will be paying to trap rats, remove rubbish and compensate me if the property was to light on fire as a direct consequence from this landfill? There is also the question of who would compensate me for my insurance premiums increasing due to the risk associated with my existing properties proximity to the landfill. In my opinion, the DCC should have conducted a meeting with the effected landowners, in terms of compensation regarding the effects of the proposed landfill. I feel that all required compensation should have been drawn up by their lawyers in conjunction with the landowners to an agreed value of risk compensation. Even before this hearing, settlements should have already been agreed upon between landowners and the DCC. Property owners, such as myself, should not be liable for individual costs associated with gaining compensation for property damages due to the landfill.

In the weeks leading up to the hearing, there has been more information released by the applicant, which had not been accessible when submissions were being gathered. My opinion is that there are other options available to the DCC, or at least should be explored before the granting of Smooth Hill. One option, if feasible is looking at land up towards Middlemarch. The site should be somewhere off the Taieri Gorge Railway track, a train set that we as ratepayers are subsidising and not using. If there is a suitable site up there, they can put all the rubbish on rail from South Otago, Dunedin, and North Otago. Then all Central Otago's rubbish would have to be freighted into Middlemarch then be put on a train to the landfill. This centralises one landfill for the entirety of the Otago region. This would have flow on effects such as less trucks being on the road and a decrease in costs due to the utilisation of existing infrastructure. This landfill, in my proposed location, would have to consider proximity to the Taieri River. Therefore, being further located to decrease surface runoff. In doing this, if they dig more than one hole, they can backfill with native plants for carbon credits.

I feel let down, by all councillors on the DCC as representatives of the community of Dunedin, along with the councillors of the Otago Regional Council and their representation. If they were

to sum up the yearly income of each individual councillor plus the CEO's and others in charge of these organisations, we would be in the realms of several million dollars. And yet, they are unable to get into a room and decide the most ideal location to have the landfill for the Otago region, as my understanding is that every landfill in the Otago regional council's jurisdiction is full or nearing capacity. The DCC and ORC should be able to make a decision through collaboration and co-management which would be the most beneficial to all who they represent. With the financial resources that we as ratepayers provide these councils and councillors, one would think that in the current climate, landfills are still necessary for cities to run, and that one would have been organised quite a few years ago.

If the panel, feel that all the information given to them by the applicant around the landfill and risk mitigation is done well and therefore want to vote in favour for the landfill going ahead, they won't mind compensating all individuals affected by this decision.

In summary, I feel that the panel cannot approve the proposed landfill on the basis that there are too many unanswered questions regarding compensation for all affected landowners in the vicinity of the landfill. I feel embarrassed and ashamed that individuals must invest a substantial amount of money and time into fighting this process, when we have already paid a considerable amount of money for them to make better decisions on our behalf. Thank you for your time.