

Brighton Pony Club's submission on the proposed Smooth Hill landfill. Presented by Aiesha Goswami, a local resident and member of the Brighton Pony Club.

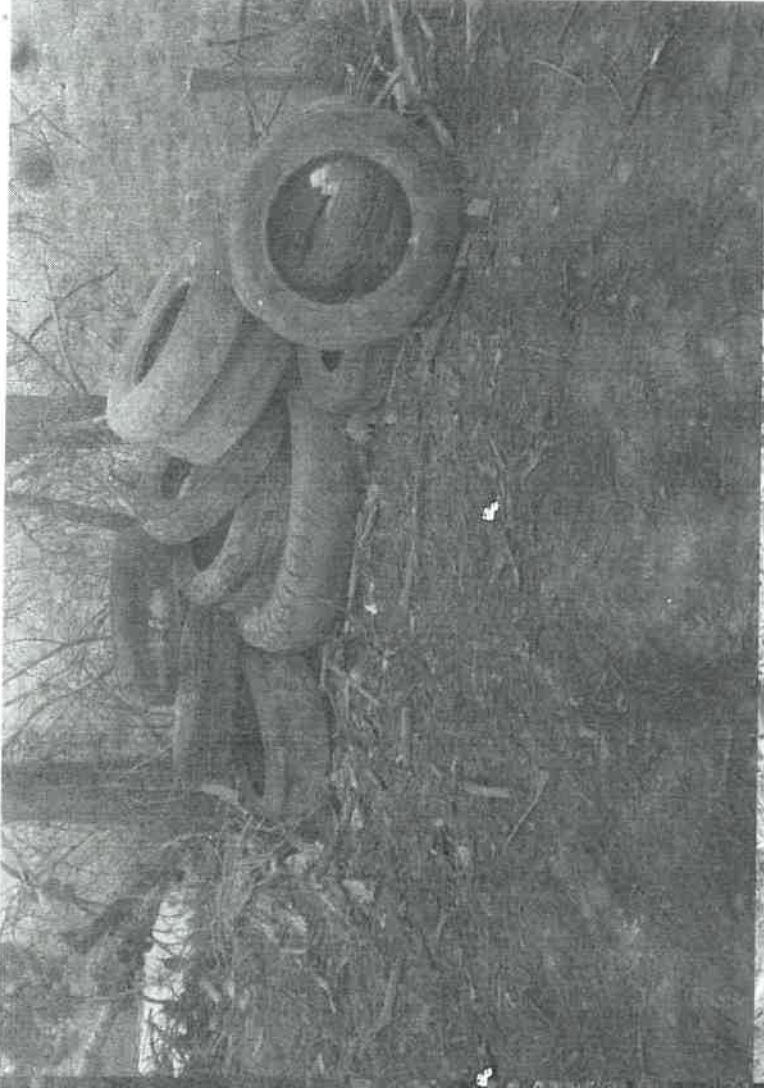
Hi, my name is Aiesha Goswami and I am a 15 year old local rider at Brighton Pony Club.

Brighton Pony Club is a youth club based in the Brighton Ocean View community. We have grounds at the Ocean View Reserve at 812 Brighton Rd and have been based there for over 45 years. At the moment we have a membership of 15 riders – and all are under 16 years old. Although we do get members from outside areas, most of our riding members are from the Brighton Ocean View community. During the riding season we have weekly meetings where children receive coaching on their riding and horse management. Outside of rallies we exercise our ponies within the community using the pony club grounds, roads and streets and of course the Brighton beach, which includes the Kaikorai estuary, the tracks through Beachlands and up to Blackhead. Our young riders are lovers of the natural environment and keen observers of our local wildlife. The DCC Reserves and Beaches Bylaw 2017 officially permits horseriders to ride on most Dunedin beaches and access them by any formed track or designated access point. So since 2017 we have been recognised as users of Dunedin beaches and as a pony club we have encouraged our members to be considerate of other users and wildlife.

With regard to the proposed landfill, Brighton Pony Club wishes to make a submission opposing the landfill at Smooth Hill and we want to add our support to the wider community's opposition to it. We are a long standing community based club and we do not believe that the landfill is in the best interests of our community or the natural environment surrounding our community.

There is nothing better than a sunset ride on our Brighton Beach – or even a ride on a stormy day – we love our beach and want to help protect it.

Brighton Pony Club is concerned about the impact of the landfill on the water quality of the streams, other water courses and resulting pollution of our beach environment. We would like to point out that the pollution of the Kaikorai estuary by general rubbish and plastic pollution is very evident to us when out exercising our ponies. Also for the past 2 years we have had the use of a wetland area owned by one of our members which is located above the Island Park Golf Course and against the upper Kaikorai estuary. We have a number of transportable xcountry jumps located there from a Racing Board grant and Brighton Pony Club has had a number of working bees where we have built more jumps there. We have had a number of rallies there so the children can practice jumping over cross country fences. The rubbish that has accumulated along all the water courses on this property and along the shoreline of the estuary has been a subject of interest for our children whilst they have been at the working bees. If you look out into the estuary it is very evident that there is substantial rubbish that has been allowed to accumulate in the estuary proper – there are numerous tyres, road cones and other such things sticking out of the mudflats and water.



Our children even collected tyres from the estuary and made a tyre jump from them. And the fact that some of the rubbish has been there a long time indicates that there has been little interest in cleaning up the Kaikorai estuary from rubbish that has come down the Kaikorai stream or blown down from the Green Island landfill. We do not want to see what has happened to the Kaikorai estuary occur even closer to home in our immediate community.

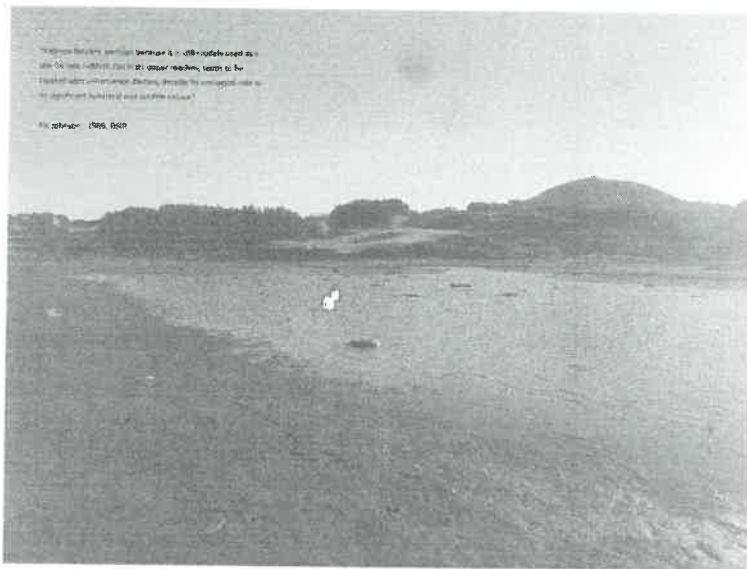
Brighton Pony Club has significant concerns about increased traffic through our community. Given the layout of our community it is virtually impossible to avoid crossing or riding along Brighton Road and over the years the traffic has increased significantly and in particular heavy traffic. Road safety is the biggest issues faced by our riders out in our community. In order to access the beach from our pony club grounds, most use the track along Taylors Creek. The children have to cross the road near the Turning Tides Fish and Chip shop and then immediately negotiate the bridge at Taylors Creek. This can be quite risky if heavy traffic comes around the corner just as the children are crossing the road or are on the bridge. Even a trailer that is making noise can spook a horse. Whilst we understand that the trucks carrying the actual rubbish to the landfill site will go via SH1, will all traffic to the site use this route?? We wonder whether all employees and contractors will be required to use the SH1 route? If not (and it would be hard to police) then any increase in traffic that occurs because of the establishment of the landfill site will negatively impact on our members and their safety.

There are a large number of residents and landowners that own horses in our community – many people have been attracted to the area because there are suitable properties for grazing horses and because of the beach riding. There are a lot of horse owners that live up Big Stone Rd – and now what used to be quiet back road is going to be a major route for an industrial site. If the landfill went ahead then it will further change the tone of the community and it is likely to be less attractive a place for horse owners.

Many of our members have used the forestry tracks that are available to ride in the Smooth Hill area. These tracks have been a wonderful place to ride as they are safe for young and beginner riders and are a really nice relaxing place to ride. Some of our members worry that the Smooth Hill landfill will change the area from a nice place to get away from the city to a busy, noisy and unattractive place for horse-riding. The forestry has been felled over the recent years and access to the forestry has been restricted because of that but we really hope that the landfill will not affect our ability to access and enjoy the forestry in the years to come.

Also, I just want to say something as a young person living in the Brighton community. The decision on whether to permit this landfill going ahead is going to be decided by people who in all likelihood are not going to be around to see or experience the long term consequences of it. It is the youth and our children that are most likely to be affected by your decisions - Just like the climate change issue. If this landfill fails in any way and seepage occurs into our

waterways, through our community and onto our beach and its surrounds, OUR way of life and health is going to be immeasurably damaged. You can't take it back once it is built – that landfill is going to be sitting up in the water catchment area of our community forever. And from what I understand about landfills and liners there can be no guarantees that seepage from the landfill won't occur – infact it seems that almost every landfill has issues with leeching and liner failure. It is more a matter of when the Otokia stream will be affected. Even if it is 100 years – or 500 years from now it doesn't make it OK or the risk acceptable. It is like a ticking timebomb. By building this landfill you are passing the buck onto your kids, my generation and then my children, etc etc. We shouldn't have these pressures put on us.



KAIKORAI ESTUARY:
REPORT ON REVEGETATION NEAR BRIGHTON ROAD

P N Johnson
Botany Division, DSIR, Dunedin.

2 June 1989

To finish I would like you to look at the last photo. In this photo is a quote by a local ecologist Peter Johnston. Back in 1989 in a DSIR report he noted his concerns about the Kaikorai estuary.

This is a quote from that report "Kaikorai Estuary – perhaps because it is still crudely used as a site for two rubbish tips in its upper reaches, tends to be treated with unfortunate distain, despite its ecological role and its significant botanical and wildlife values".

Fast forward to present day – some 33 years later and the rubbish is still present in the Kaikorai estuary . How can this be? How can we have any confidence that this proposed landfill will be any better? Is Otokia creek and its associated marshland and ultimately Brighton Beach going to degraded and used, just like the Kaikorai estuary? I really really hope not.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Brighton Pony Club.