

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL  
OF HUTT CITY COUNCIL**

**UNDER** the Resource Management Act 1991 ("**RMA**")

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Proposed Hutt City District Plan ("**Proposed  
Plan**")

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DAVID NEIL HOWIE ON BEHALF OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT NZ LIMITED (HEARING STREAM TWO)**

**CORPORATE**

**8 MAY 2026**

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## **Executive summary**

1. Waste Management NZ Limited ("**WM**") is the leading provider of waste and environmental services in New Zealand, with a comprehensive national network of vertically integrated local waste and environmental management services. WM's services are essential to well-functioning communities and environments. In Lower Hutt, WM operates a hazardous waste facility at 57–59 Port Road, the Seaview Refuse Transfer Station at 27 Seaview Road, a municipal and commercial collections fleet based at 97 Port Road, and has applied for resource consent for a proposed resource recovery park at 30 Benmore Crescent.
2. Transfer stations are specialised facilities where waste and recoverable materials are dropped off, sorted and compacted before being transported to a landfill or recycling centre. Transfer stations are effectively a logistics process, with waste and recoverable material not retained on site. Due to the nature of the activities which occur at transfer stations, they are often located within commercial precincts or on the edge of rural areas adjacent to commercial businesses, consistent with their operational requirements.
3. Resource recovery parks ("**RRP**") are larger scale operations that have developed as an evolution of increased recovery, recycling and waste minimisation approaches. While RRP's provide the same services as a transfer station, they also provide a wide range of recyclable and recoverable material drop-off services, free drop-off for reusable items, reuse shops, repair facilities and construction and demolition waste sorting capability. Both transfer stations and RRP's operate with direct public access and interaction with site-provided services, which is not consistent with categorisation as heavy industrial activity where safety requirements would generally exclude direct public access.

## **Introduction**

4. My full name is David Neil Howie.
5. I have been employed by WM in senior executive roles since July 2013 and I am currently Executive General Manager for WM South. I have held this role since 1 September 2025.
6. In this role, I am responsible for all aspects of WM business sales and operations across the South Island and the lower North Island (as high as Taupo). This includes overseeing WM's operation at the Silverstream and

Kate Valley landfills, as well as operations at our other major facilities including a network of recycled materials recovery plants, resource recovery operations, transfer stations, and our waste and recycle collections business.

7. I hold an MBA from Mt Elisa Business School. I am a member of the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Advisory Board, having been appointed in 2022. The Waste Advisory Board is charged with providing independent advice to the Minister for the Environment on waste minimisation.
8. My previous experience includes 17 years in the construction materials sector, primarily working with quarry operations and ready-mix concrete. In these roles I was actively involved in managing the operation and environmental compliance of many large-scale, long-term operations, as well as numerous resource consent processes to expand and start new operations. This has provided me with a high level of awareness of the multiple stakeholders that have interest in the long term land-use infrastructure.
9. During my 13 years at WM, I have been involved in a range of resource consenting processes including the operation, clean up and ultimately closure and aftercare for the Rotorua Landfill.

#### **Scope of evidence**

10. In my evidence, I will:
  - (a) provide an overview of WM as a leading waste and environmental services company;
  - (b) explain the function and purpose of transfer stations; and
  - (c) explain the function and purpose of RRP's.

#### **Waste Management NZ Limited**

11. WM is the leading provider of waste and environmental services in New Zealand, with a long history in New Zealand dating back to 1935. We are the market leader in the waste sector and have an established national network of vertically integrated local waste and environmental management services.
12. WM owns or has operational interests in multiple landfills, refuse transfer stations, RRP's and other waste services across New Zealand. Our services span the full supply chain. This starts with the collection of waste, through processing to extract valuable recyclables, to the ultimate safe disposal of the residual components of the waste streams that are generated by households,

communities, and commercial and industrial activities across the public and private sectors.

13. The services provided by WM are essential. Without waste collection, processing and disposal of residual waste, there would be significant flow on impacts to the public and all industries. These waste services are essential for well-functioning communities and environments.
14. In the Wellington Region, we collect and process waste from many thousands of individual customers, and provide essential waste services to residential households, and to the commercial, industrial, building and construction industries. In Lower Hutt WM operates a hazardous waste facility at 57–59 Port Road, the Seaview Refuse Transfer Station at 27 Seaview Road, a municipal and commercial collections fleet based at 97 Port Road. WM has also applied for resource consent for a proposed RRP at 30 Benmore Crescent.

#### **Transfer stations**

15. WM operates twenty-six transfer stations across New Zealand. Transfer stations are specialised facilities where waste and recoverable materials are dropped off, sorted and compacted before being transported to a landfill or recycling centre. Transfer stations are exactly, as the name suggests, a transition facility for material to be received in and then transported out. They come in a wide range of sizes and configurations depending on the age of the facility and the size of the community the site is servicing. The activity at each site is however generally similar:
  - (a) A residential or commercial customer enters the site and places material (waste) in a designated and controlled location.
  - (b) Some loads will be recoverable material (greenwaste, hardfill / clean fill, metals, glass, tyres, etc) and these materials will be placed in separate locations on the site for recovery and / or reuse.
  - (c) The public have direct access to the sites and a transfer station will often include an area for free drop off of recoverable / recyclable material that can be accessed prior to entering the waste drop off part of the transfer station.
  - (d) Material on site is then consolidated and loaded out for transport to the appropriate next step in the process – waste to landfill, greenwaste to compost, tyres to an approved processing site, etc.

16. Waste and recoverable material is not retained at a transfer station and in most cases little or no material is held on site at the end of each day. There is no processing of material at these sites, and they may best be compared to a freight depot or a wholesale distribution yard as to the type of activity one could expect to see on site. Transfer stations are effectively a logistics process.
17. Due to the nature of the activities which occur at transfer stations, they are often located within a commercial precinct or on the edge of a rural area adjacent to commercial businesses.
18. This is consistent with the operational requirements and effects of a transfer station, which have minimal off-site impacts and require direct, easy, safe access by the public (light vehicles) and commercial operators (trucks).

### **Resource recovery parks**

19. WM operates six RRP's across New Zealand. These facilities tend to be newer and have developed as an evolution of the increased recovery, recycling and waste minimisation approach supported by local communities and councils all around New Zealand.
20. While a transfer station is for the specific purpose of waste being collected, consolidated and transported offsite (and these activities remain a component of a RRP), a RRP has a much broader function.
21. In addition to the activities noted for transfer stations above, a RRP tends to be a larger scale operation and provides additional services to the public and local community:
  - (a) A wide range of recyclable and recoverable materials are available for public drop-off. These can include paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminium, glass, metals, household appliances, e-waste, and batteries.
  - (b) Free drop-off for reusable items, clothing, household items, bikes, lawnmowers etc.
  - (c) Often the site will include a reuse shop and some RRP's incorporate a repair facility in order to improve recovery and waste minimisation rates further. A strong linkage to the local community is included in this part of the operation with the recovery shop and repair facility often operated by, or in conjunction with, a local community group.

- (d) Construction and demolition waste sorting capability.
  - (e) Office and workshop facilities.
22. An RRP is constructed so that activities are either undercover (recycle drop-off) or fully contained within activity specific buildings.
  23. This approach provides a safe and protected environment for members of the public accessing the services offered by the site and allows the site to manage separation of public and commercial activities.
  24. I note specifically that safety on these sites, as with any workplace in New Zealand, is directly governed by the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. Compliance with this legislation should remain the primary focus and measure for safe operation of any activity and / or business in New Zealand.
  25. As noted with transfer stations above, these facilities provide safe material handling and the supporting infrastructure to a local community. They operate with direct public access and public interaction with site-provided services. This is not in my view consistent with the categorisation as heavy industrial activities where safety requirements would generally exclude direct public access.

**David Howie**  
**8 May 2026**