

Taylor Preston Community Liaison Group Meeting

Monday 30th March 2026 – 6:00pm

Johnsonville Community Centre

Attendees:

1. John Taylor - TPL Plant Manager
2. Zhenne Ortego - TPL Minute Taker
3. Slade Reei - GWRC
4. David Lawrence - Resident
5. Mark Blair - Resident
6. Martin Valois - Resident
7. Richard Street - Resident

Apologies:

1. Mark Blair Housemates
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Welcome and Introductions

Discussions:

- Hours of work - Mutton Slaughter Board currently working 5 days/ week with beef slaughter just going to 2 shifts Monday to Saturday, the Beef board have been on 7 days for a about a month.
- Number of people - Last year we had 755 people, this year we've got 555.
- Stock numbers are substantially down on last year due to farms having planted trees to farm carbon, Fonterra payouts have been high and it has been the best grass year in 50 years. The best farming year profitability wise.

- Odor Complaints
 - During the period of March 2025 through March 2026, a total of 8 formal complaints were recorded. David Lawrence pointed out that he rang in a complaint in June 2025 and it wasn't on the list of complaints. This is being looked into.
 - Clarification on what is the difference between notifying regional council and notifying directly to TPL. When you report an issue to TPL, we immediately inform the regional council, but we also initiate an immediate investigation and call you back directly with findings.

If you report directly to the Council, a compliance officer may be dispatched to investigate.

- Sunday 22nd of March, a resident reported a foul odour that day, and John identified the cause after investigation.
- GWRC confirmed TPL's full compliance for the previous year, In the event of odour issues, notifying TPL is the recommended action.

- Improvements

- Bio filter excavation

It was found in late November that the Bio filter bark was composting quickly and had become waterlogged due to excessive rain and a faulty submersible drain pump. New bark was ordered and the bio filter bark was changed in early December.

- Per cooker rotors

Main rotors have been replaced but it was found that the seals stopping tallow leakage were damaged, the per-cooker rotors will therefore need to be removed in May and new seals fitted.

- Main silo filter box

The main filter box for the rendering meal is to be replaced in May 2026 due to rust.

- On site rendering

TPL since 2018 had sent their ovine rendering off site to Hawks Bay for processing as 100 percent ovine meal, as of August 2025.

Brining Ovine back to site has been done for several reasons.

It is harder to render product when the plant is not full and runs stop start (declining kill).

The cost of transport was equating.

There are greater risks of odor when having to load out renderables into open trucks.

There were instances where trucks were found to be parked below the plant due to driver not having driving hours available.

- Ovine Yard Cleaning

TPL currently uses over \$65,000.00 on water just in cleaning hosing down its sheep yards over a 12-month period. Over the next 4 weeks TPL would like to change the system where a person will use a squeegee to push the sheep poo into a drain for collection. Once an area is cleared of poo it will be sprayed with water so that there is no urine smell.

Currently it takes 7-8hours to clean the area twice in a day, by using the squeegee it will take about 1.5hours giving a better quicker result. The cost saving will be \$55,000.00/yr.

- Action needed
 - Coordinate with security personnel to address complaints effectively.
 - Record the intensity of the complaints. (done)

Questions asked by a Local was tabled at the meeting

Dear John and GWRC,

I am writing to confirm that I will be attending the next Taylor Preston Community Liaison Group meeting. As a nearby resident who is directly and regularly affected by odour from the site, I would like to raise a number of questions and would appreciate it if these could be addressed at the meeting.

I have reviewed the CLG meeting minutes from 2019, 2021 and 2024, the Resource Consent (WGN160137), the 2017 Rendertech Odour Control Design Review, the 2018 Jacobs Biofilter and Odour Extraction System Assessment, and the current Taylor Preston neighbour's webpage. I have set out my questions below.

1. Outstanding Action Items from Previous Meetings

A number of commitments were made at earlier CLG meetings — particularly in April 2019 — that do not appear to have been followed up on. I would like an update on the status of each of the following:

- The web-based complaint reporting form that was agreed to be investigated (I note the website still only lists phone numbers, with no online reporting option). **TPL have looked at this several times, one option is to have a web-based page on the TPL web site, this has not happened as there is more to be gained from talking to the person about the issue. It is also n to Security based at TPL, when this happens there is an immediate response. It is also difficult to respond to an issue when the complaint is lodged several hrs or days later.**
- The uploading of complaint summaries to the Taylor Preston website. **This will be done at the same time as posting these minutes.**
- The review of vapour odour neutralising technology that David Stephen provided information on. **The compound was reviewed and reported back the meeting that the compound is not an approved compound under the non-dairy compounds that TPL is legally required to work under.**

- The consideration of shelterbelt planting around the site, for which peer-reviewed evidence was provided. TPL has no room to be able to plant a shelter belt of tree, the WCC have planted trees in part of the local hill but have had very little success due to the hill being mainly rock. Also, major gas and power cables run along some of the TPL boundaries underground, these areas are required to be free trees.

2. Consent Compliance – Odour Management Plan and Public Webpage

Condition 10 of the resource consent requires an Odour Management Plan to be updated and submitted to GWRC annually. Condition 23 requires TPL to maintain a public webpage containing, among other things, the OMP, complaint contact details, meeting information, and latest news on implementing the consent conditions.

I note that the Odour Management Plan link on the current Taylor Preston neighbours webpage appears to be non-functional; it does not link to any document. I would like to understand whether the OMP is being maintained and submitted annually as required, and when a current copy will be made available to the community. The TPL web site has been ungraded, I have asked IT to investigate why OMP link is not working. TPL submits their OMP when the GWRC asked for it, all changes to the OMP are submitted to the GWRC including personal changes.

3. Biofilter and Extraction System Assessments

The most recent biofilter assessment available on the website is from March 2018, prepared by Jacobs. Conditions 17 and 18 of the consent require comprehensive annual assessments of biofilter media quality and extraction system performance, with results submitted to GWRC by 31 March each year. TPL has an annual assessment carried out and any items arising from this assessment has been corrected. A total bark replacement was carried out in December 2025; this was before the PDP assessment this year.

This raises the question of whether annual assessments have been carried out for the years 2019 through to the present, and if so, why they have not been made publicly available. I would like copies of all assessments since 2018 to be provided or uploaded to the website.

This doesn't appear to be a consent requirement.

The 2018 Jacobs report itself raised significant concerns that I would like an update on:

- The biofilter media pH was measured between 4.2 and 5.7, well below the recommended range of 6.5 to 8.0 for effective microbiological odour treatment. Jacobs

recommended increased application of hydrated lime. Low Ph is an ongoing issue and TPL have never been able to achieve best practice of ph7-8, but have been achieving between ph 4-8 which is good practice.

- Microbial counts ranged from 47,000 to 96,000 cfu/g, all below the minimum recommended level of 100,000 cfu/g, and had declined from the previous year. Jacobs warned that if this trend continued, additional lime and NPK fertiliser would be needed.

TPL add lime on a 1-3 monthly basis and is allowed to be washing into the bark with rain.

- A valve controlling extraction from the sludge hopper load-out point was found stuck in the closed position, preventing measurement and potentially allowing fugitive odour during sludge loading. This valve was repaired when found defective and is bolted so that it can't move.

I would like to know what actions were taken in response to these findings and what the current biofilter pH, microbial activity, and pressure readings are.

PH 5.6-6.4, good practice 4-8 preferred 7-8.

cfu/g - not measured due to not a consent condition and the lab no longer carries out this analysis.

mbar 11-12 mbar

A point source and biofilter assessment has been submitted in Feb 2026, TPL have always submitted this yearly to the GWRC.

4. 2017 Odour Control Design Review – Implementation of Recommendations

The 2017 Rendertech design review identified a number of issues with the odour control system. I would like to know whether the following recommendations have been implemented:

- Connection of the sludge decanter to the PSES (vapour was observed discharging from it during the review) At start-up steam is seen escaping or when the system is overfeed during processing, operators know and adjust so that this doesn't happen during processing. Overfeeding the system also causes other issues with water separation at the separator.
- Connection of the wool hydrolyser to the PSES (it was found to be discharging directly to atmosphere) Completed
- Full enclosure of the belt press (the canopy hood was found to be only moderately effective, with a required extraction rate of over 20,000 m³/h versus the measured 6,090 m³/h) The belt press was fully enclosed with its own room.
- Sealing of the condensate drain on the eastern wall of the rendering building (identified as a significant odour source containing high-volatility material at up to 80°C)

- Sealing of the stormwater drain south of the evaporator plant (vapour emissions observed). **Completed**
- Repair of the air leak where the concrete main feed pipe penetrates the timber wall of the biofilter, **this has been repaired several times and is monitored for leaks.**
- Improvement of sealing at the sludge hopper (holes in the ply roof and large unsealed opening where the feed conveyor enters) **a lid was added to the sludge hopper to provide a seal.**
- Improvement of sealing at the DAF tank sludge discharge conveyors. **Lids were installed at the time.**

The Rendertech review calculated that these modifications would result in a net reduction in required airflow of 3,450 m³/h, which would have significantly improved the system's odour containment. If these changes have not been made, I would like to understand why.

5. Complaint Recording

At the March 2024 meeting, it was noted that TPL had recorded only 11 odour incidents for 2023, while GWRC had received 17 notifications. This same under-recording issue was raised in 2019. I would like to know what specific system changes have been made to ensure all complaints are now being captured and forwarded to GWRC as required under Condition 24.

The GWRC at times have not sent on odour notifications received to TPL, TPL have asked several times for this to happen at the time of the incident. The quickest way for TPL to investigate odour issues is to a local to ring TPL's security. It is very difficult to investigate an odour hours or days later.

In the past year TPL have received 5 odour complains, one of these being from the GWRC

7. Rendering Drier Replacement

The March 2024 meeting noted that the rendering drier was being replaced. I would like an update on whether this work was completed, and whether it has had any effect on odour levels or biofilter performance. **The direr was replaced in August 2025, this doesn't not have a direct impact on odour but can if it becomes unreliable.**

The silo dust extractor is at end of life and is due to replacement in June 2026.

I appreciate the opportunity to raise these matters and look forward to a productive discussion at the meeting. I have copied GWRC on this email given that a number of these questions relate directly to compliance with the conditions of Resource Consent WGN160137. I would ask that

responses to these questions be prepared in advance of the meeting so that they can be addressed substantively.

Improvements, trials coming up and major maintenance items.

Yards -TPL currently uses over \$65,000 on water just in cleaning hosing down its sheep yards over a 12-month period. Over the next 4 weeks TPL would like to change the system where a person will use a squeegee to push the sheep poo into a drain for collection. Once an area is cleared of poo it will be sprayed with water so that there is no urine smell.

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TPL has lost some of its skilled operators and Engineering people in Rendering over the past few months which has meant other operators have needed to set up and some new operators have started their training. To help with this training we have had Rendertech on site to work with the people to improve their skill level and to look at the plant's operation while on site.

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- Next to cover: Everyone agreed to yearly meetings.
- Next Meeting: February 27, 2027
- Where can you find the minutes of these meetings?
 - Taylor Preston Web page under Neighbours-Community Meeting.