

*Tegel Foods*  
*12 August 2020*

**BEFORE THE CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**IN THE MATTER**

of Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER**

of CRC194459 by Tegel Foods  
Limited

---

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF ROBIN SUTTON  
FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

Dated 11 August 2020

---

---

## **Introduction**

1. The submission by the Ministry of Education related to how the discharge of contaminants to air from the Tegel Foods Limited poultry processing plant affects students and teachers at Hornby Primary School and Hornby High School. I will speak to Hornby High School's experiences as set out below.
2. My full name is Robin Sutton. I hold the position of Tumuaki (Principal) at Hornby High School, a position that I have held since 2 May 2016.
3. Our School is in relatively close proximity to the Tegel Foods Limited poultry processing plant. Our staff and students experience odours from the plant which are unpleasant. We experience a "freezing works" odour which can occur on a number of days per month (we have not attempted to count) and is particularly noticeable during summer and north easterly winds.

## **Effects on our leaning environment**

4. The odour effects our learning environment. The odour lowers the focus and concentration levels of students making learning more difficult. There is a need to close the windows in an attempt to reduce the impact. On those hotter days which are so common in Christchurch in February this adds to the difficulty of supporting all of our learners. It makes a particular difference to the more vulnerable learners in our community.

## **Our school's role in the community**

5. Our school plays an important role in the community. Over the period since May 2017 the Ministry of Education and the Government have invested in excess of \$26m in a near complete school rebuild at Hornby High School. It is important to note that this rebuild (the first rebuild as distinct from a 'new build' in the city) was prompted not by earthquake damage concerns but rather by an assessment of such factors as socio economic deprivation.
6. It was recognised that a new modern school campus had the potential to have a significant impact on student and whānau pride and engagement in learning. These factors are pivotal in the 'liberation' of our learners (that is the terminology that we use to describe our work to enable them to become the best most productive citizens that they can be). The impact of that investment (as much a social investment as it is a physical investment in plant) has already had a profound impact on our students. Their heads are now held high, they have growing self-belief, and achievement levels are improving.

7. The impact of the 'freezing works odours' undermines that work, as they can easily lapse back to that sense of lack of self-worth perhaps well characterised by this sentiment (which could often be heard articulated in various ways): "Oh well, we live in Hornby what do you expect? We must be losers, we're not worth it'.

#### **Odour issues after plant improvements**

8. We understand that improvements were made to the Tegel processing plant in January. However, we still experienced odour issues in February 2020. We experience a "freezing works" odour which can occur on a number of days per month. We did not set out to count the precise number of days. I would characterise it as more than 3-4 but fewer than 15-20. I can be no more accurate than that. The odour is particularly noticeable during periods of nor'easterly winds, those winds of course being the predominant Christchurch wind.

**DATED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020

Robin Sutton

