

15 March 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

**TESTIMONIAL CONCERNING THE HOTROT IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING PLANT
INSTALLED AT THE CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT**

As Operations and Maintenance Manager for the City Water and Waste Unit of the Christchurch City Council (CCC) I have been involved with this HotRot facility, and the key personnel from the conception, through planning, construction, start up, commissioning, and ultimately its successful operation.

It must be mentioned here, that from initial conception, this plant was installed as a prototype, a scale up of smaller model HotRot composters, successfully operating at other Wastewater Treatment Plants (WwTP), and as such, both the CCC, and HotRot Composting Systems Ltd (R5 Solutions (NZ) Ltd's predecessor) entered this proposal more as a partnership, backed by a contract, than as a normal supply and deliver contract.

The waste composted is a mixture of screenings and grit from the preliminary stages of the wastewater treatment process. This waste is extremely odourous, attractive to vectors, and has high pathogen levels, thus incurring high landfill disposal costs. The CCC's needs were to reduce the disposal cost, reduce organic matter going into the landfill and, hopefully, beneficially use the compost produced.

The CCC chose the HotRot technology, even though it was unproven on this scale, due to its proven ability to successfully compost similar waste streams at Palmerston North City Council and Rodney District Council's WwTPs.

Planning, construction and start up of the plant was relatively straight forward and completed on schedule, however, commissioning proved more difficult, complicated somewhat by the sale of HotRot Composting Systems Ltd by its parent company LincLab, to R5 Solutions (NZ) Ltd, a new locally formed company which took over the assets, responsibilities and key personnel of HotRot Composting Systems Ltd.

During commissioning, a number of technical issues were identified, various solutions tested, and ultimately resolutions reached. Most of these were around the moisture content of the incoming feedstock, the quality of the bulking agent, and main drive motor currents, all of which took some time to get a sustainable solution. My understanding is that design modifications have been made to the next generation HotRot 3518, to resolve these issues that arose in this prototype unit.

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I am pleased to be able to report that the unit has now been commissioned for almost one year, and has been operating very satisfactorily. The compost produced has exceptionally low pathogen levels, no offensive odour, and is able to be beneficially used.

The CCC is now achieving cost savings in excess of \$100,000 per annum on the alternative costs of landfill disposal.

Throughout the extended period that the CCC and R5 Solutions took to successfully commission this unit, R5 Solutions' staff showed a total commitment to the commissioning process, and worked extremely well in partnership with myself and the plant operational staff to come up with mutually agreeable outcomes.

We continue to work together from time to time to enhance the unit's performance further, and to explore additional waste streams that could be beneficially composted in the HotRot composting unit.

If you would like further information from me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. P. Bourke".

**MIKE BOURKE
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANAGER
CITY WATER AND WASTE**