Parliament of the Cayman Islands

Parliamentary Question No. 12

Answered on 15th December, 2022 -
Second Meeting 2022-2023 Session - Fifth Sitting

Parliamentary Question asked by Mr. Joseph Hew,
Elected Member for George Town North
To
The Honourable Premier, G. Wayne Panton, Minister responsible for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency

QUESTION: Can the Honourable Premier advise how the country's refuse being dumped at the George Town Landfill is being managed, and how the useable lifespan of the existing landfill has been impacted by the delays in Project ReGen?

ANSWER: All materials entering the landfill are weighed and recorded at the landfill scale according to waste type in tons. The waste materials allocated for disposal in the landfill are directed to the tipping area.

Materials such as marl and vegetation waste are used as waste cover prior to compaction using heavy machinery. A new compactor is on its way to Grand Cayman and should arrive on Island in January 2023. Recyclables, hazardous waste and medical waste are treated separately: Cardboard/paper, aluminum/tin and plastics #1 and #2 are processed and baled for export to be recycled overseas; Biomedical waste is incinerated; and hazardous waste is segregated by type for appropriate processing. Thanks to the rigorous efforts of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) team, there have been no odour complaints for the George Town Landfill in the past eight months.

To ensure the north-west extension tipping area has sufficient capacity to continue landfilling operations while the new ReGen facilities are being developed, the joint project team is actively
identifying waste reduction strategies and opportunities for revising the current tipping area. Taken together, these tactics will ensure landfill capacity up to October 2026.

These efforts are necessary in no small part due to the previous administration's focus on progressing the remediation of the main mound at the George Town Landfill rather than on completing

contract negotiations for ReGen. While the ongoing landfill capping project provides a number of important benefits to our community – including significantly improving the visual appearance of the main mound – it has also greatly reduced the level of flexibility for continuing landfilling operations in the interim.

Despite the constraints that we inherited with this important national project, the PACT Administration is committed to working alongside the Dart Consortium to finalise contract negotiations and progress development of ReGen within a workable timeframe which facilitates the Cayman Islands' transition away from the current unsustainable practice of managing waste primarily through landfilling to an integrated, more sustainable, waste management system.