

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS IN DANDENONG AND CASEY, RANGING FROM DUST, ODOURS, SICKNESS, CONTAMINATED VEGETABLE GARDENS AND IRRIGATION BORES - TO GRAZING CATTLE WHO DIED. LACK OF BUFFER ZONES AROUND INDUSTRIAL AREAS, HOMES AND SCHOOLS, ETC INDICATE LACK OF CARE. A DESK TOP STUDY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WAS MERELY A JOKE. ALSO COVER UPS BY SITA, RBPCA, EPA, AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO SUIT THEIR PLANS, HAS DONE VERY LITTLE TO GIVE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SATISFACTORY ANSWERS. REPEATED PHONE CALLS TO EPA ARE OFTEN NOT FOLLOWED UP. ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHEN SOME FACTORIES RELEASE DUST AND SMOKE AND OTHER UNKNOWN DIOXANS, AND PARTICULATES, INTO THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE.

**RESIDENTS AGAINST TOXIC
WASTE IN THE SOUTH EAST**

PO Box 180, Dingley 3172

Inc. No. A0038288B

~~Email: ratwise@hotmail.com~~

www.ratwise.org.au

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Member

Name: Robert Gipp

Contact Details:



People have a natural right to live in a clean and safe environment'

ABOUT RATWISE

Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East (RATWISE) became incorporated in 1999 and consists of residents from the City of Greater Dandenong and Casey.

Most of our efforts over the years have been aimed at stopping the dumping of toxic (hazardous) waste at the Lyndhurst tip located in Taylors Road, Dandenong South.

In 2009 we also began directing our efforts to the vast industrial area in Dandenong South after we learned that residents were complaining about bad smells and that it was affecting their health. The Dandenong South area contains many industries which use materials or produce or treat wastes which have the potential to be hazardous to human health and the environment.

Whatever RATWISE does, be that objecting to the establishment of a new waste treatment facility, being involved in legal cases at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or in Panel Hearings, or meeting with politicians on an issue, the ultimate aim of our actions is to persuade the Victorian government that facilities dealing with hazardous waste are a threat to people's health and must be well managed and located well away from where people live.

Future direction for Industrial Waste Management for Victoria Statement by the Minister for Environment and Conservation

Friday 8 December 2000

The Bracks Government today is outlining far-reaching measures that deliver on its pre-election commitment to introduce a comprehensive industrial waste management strategy that will make the practice of sending hazardous waste to landfill obsolete.

The Government's action plan gives effect to the findings and recommendations of the bipartisan Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee's report which received extensive support from the Victorian community, unions and industry.

The four pronged action plan will:

- assist industry to move away from the production of hazardous waste;
- promote soil recycling centres and waste repositories, to enable contaminated soils and hazardous waste to be recycled and recovered for reuse, and facilitate the establishment of long-term containment facilities for residual wastes;
- ensure openness and transparency by establishing a bipartisan taskforce to succeed the Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee and advise on the siting of new facilities; and,
- strengthen EPA's role through a new Industrial Waste Management Policy to empower it to direct classes of hazardous waste away from landfill for recycling and recovery.

At the same time, the Government acknowledges that industry does need assistance in managing hazardous waste that is currently produced as a result of today's manufacturing processes and that will continue to be produced for some time, albeit on a reduced scale.

The Bracks Government is taking the lead to put in place measures to ensure that industry gets the facilities and support it needs to deal with this issue while it continues contributing to Victorians economic growth and future prosperity.

We are pleased to headline that as of today we will be pulling out all the stops to eliminate the use of landfilling as the first option for the disposal of hazardous waste. In its place will be short-term storage sites where hazardous waste will be stored, pending reuse, recycling and recovery or development of appropriate technology to treat the waste.

Secondly, the Bracks Government is committed to making the practice of 'dig and dump' contaminated soil obsolete by creating soil recycling centres. These types of centres are commonly used in Europe and ensure that soil can be reused productively rather than filling up landfills.

The Office of Major Projects will shortly call for expressions of industry to establish soil recycling centres in Victoria. These will be the first of their type in Australia, and are an important factor in meeting our commitment to eliminate toxic waste dumps.

At the moment, contaminated soil makes up approximately 35 per cent of all hazardous waste going to landfill.

Thirdly, because we understand what the community, local government and industry wants, we are adamant they should continue to be involved. We are therefore establishing a taskforce in the New Year that will advise the Government, through the Minister for Major Projects, on the siting of new facilities.

Fourthly, in order to achieve a cleaner, greener and safer Victoria with far less hazardous waste to manage, the Government is giving EPA more ammunition to help it work with industry to accelerate cleaner production programs in Victoria.

Through the Industrial Waste Management Policy (prescribed industrial waste), EPA will work to move industry from using landfill as an easy option for managing hazardous waste to find ways of avoiding creating hazardous waste.

This policy will give EPA the power to impose far tighter restrictions on industry and the way it manages the hazardous waste it produces now and in the future.

These restrictions will include banning hazardous waste which currently goes to landfill, putting in place targets that industry will have to work to reduce the amount of waste it produces, and specifying how wastes will be treated and managed in the future.

EPA will work with a panel of technical experts and community and industry leaders in delivering this action plan.

The Bracks Government's Hazardous Waste Management Action Plan represents world's best practice in industrial waste management. It is a sign of this Government's commitment to the environment and to all Victorians.

Sherryl Garbutt MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation

[REDACTED]

Jennie,

on the morning of 24th September 2002, from approx. 2.00 am until 8.30 am, an offensive odour was detected by myself and my wife, Jenny, at our residence at [REDACTED]. The wind was blowing in an easterly direction and this has been the first easterly for several months. The wind changed direction at around 8.30 to 9.00 am and the offensive odours were no longer detected at our home. I reported this incident to the Dandenong EPA at about 7.30 am. You returned my call at about 9.00 am.

Could you please investigate this odour complaint and report back to me on the results.

SITA are currently trying to have an extension granted for the tip operations and the EPA claim that an independent survey gave the tip a good report. I have complained many times in the past and never without good reason. The tip operation is not a friendly neighbour and I am sure when the wind blows in other directions other people would be affected.

Regards
[REDACTED]

I contend that the conditions suffered by the residents in the vicinity of the toxic tip are a clear breach of human rights as set out in the International Bill of Rights. EG:

The right to freedom from fear :

The homes of people living in the vicinity of the toxic tip are repeatedly saturated with dust from operations in the tip and the stench of putrefying waste. Living with the expectation of these conditions is clearly a cause of fear, not only because of the repugnance of the stench but also of the possibility that the dust and stench may carry with them organisms that may cause illness.

The right to privacy of the home:

A putrid stench saturating a home is as much an invasion of privacy as an unwelcome person taking up residence in the home.

Since Australia is party to the International Bill of Human Rights and as a consequence has undertaken to ensure that all people living in Australia enjoy all the rights set out in the bill. I believe that these people are entitled to the protection of the Commonwealth Government. ([REDACTED])

23/11/2002

\$10 per tonne levy on hazardous waste going to landfill

EPA & HWCC -

provide advice on a statutory hazardous waste management policy
in accordance with world's best practise

HWCC did not consult very much with the general community for
reporting to government, only various experts, industry representatives,
incl.

-EPA

-SITA-BFI on site at Lyndhurst

-Melbourne Water

-City West Water

-Gippsland Water

-Victorian Waste Management Association

-Scori Environmental Services, Golders Associates P/L, Geoclean, Eco-
Recycle Victoria

-Docklands Authority and Guthridge, Haskins & Davey P/L

HWCC advised EPA, not joint effort as originally suggested

Golder appointed as reference for World's Best Practise info.

HWCC acknowledges that there are no known World's Best Practise
precedents for highly engineered, short term repositories and long term
containment facilities for hazardous waste that cannot be practically re-
used (Category A & B)

HWCC recommended shared buffer zones for landfill and soil
remediation.

HWCC recommends to only consider significant stakeholder contribution.

HWCC recommends that the EPA upgrade current leaching testing
(elutriation)

HWCC recommends that the EPA ensure that no inadequately treated
wastes be landfilled prior to the establishment of long term containment
facilities.

HWCC recommended that existing hazardous waste landfill licenses be amended to foreshadow;

- .no need to upgrade landfill to best practice specifications; and
- .no hazardous waste to be permitted after a further three years.

The HWCC did not refer to any wastes that were not prescribed in the EPA's regulations. (ie radioactive wastes)

Since 1987, no liquid waste has been allowed to be deposited into landfill.

Inter-governmental Agreement on the Environment.
Hazardous Waste Management Framework.

"The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations." (3.5.2 of the Agreement)

"Measures adopted should be cost-effective and not be disproportionate to the significance of the environmental problems being addressed" (3.4 (iii) of the Agreement)

It has been common for soil from highly contaminated "hotspots" on a site be "shandied"(blended) with less contaminated soil to create a lower average contamination level at the site, creating the ability to send to landfill (lower cost) because of the lower classification resulting from it.

HWCC recommends that even category C soils must be contained within liners, well drained, etc, and a buffer of at least 500m.

"Any facility receiving contaminated soil (whether for re-use, treatment, disposal, etc.) must have obtained works approval from EPA and be licensed to receive that material. The works approval process involves public advertisement of proposals and third party appeals rights."

"In 1998, the regulations governing Prescribed Waste were extensively revised. Among the most important changes were those designed to facilitate the legitimate diversion of wastes (including contaminated soil) for productive purposes. Under these new regulations, EPA may exempt a premises (facility) from the works approval and licensing requirements of the Act, where the Authority is satisfied that the premises is being used for re-use or recycling of the waste or for recovery of energy. EPA may also exempt a person from the requirement to carry transport certificates with every load of the waste when the waste is going for re-use, recycling or energy recovery." The EPA can apply strict separate regulations if desired.

Any exemption can only remain for 3 years, and the EPA must publish notice of the exemption

HWCC notes that Melbourne's two prescribed waste landfills do not reflect current world's best practice in landfilling of hazardous wastes.

In the past, landfilling of prescribed waste has often been regarded as an easy and cheap first option rather than an option of last resort as specified by the waste hierarchy.

A landfill is defined as (not necessarily below ground) with multiple liners and capping to prevent any water infiltration.

The HWCC recommends that existing prescribed waste landfill be phased out over the next three to five years and that retrieval repositories and long-term waste containment facilities be phased in over the same period.

"The design of such repositories must be based on total containment and be in accordance with world's best practise."

Long term waste containment facilities must be designed with the purpose of future total containment.

"Submissions to the HWCC indicate that adherence to a set of widely accepted principles is essential to establish trust in and commitment to a preferred siting process amongst both local and wider communities and industry. The principles outlined below must underpin a preferred process for siting hazardous waste management facilities. Siting of hazardous waste facilities must:

- be part of a comprehensive strategy which gives clear priority firstly to measures which avoid the generation of hazardous wastes and secondly, where avoidance cannot be achieved, to measures which encourage the legitimate diversion of wastes for re-use, recycling or recovery of energy;
- be premised on a whole of government approach to ensure that any facilities are consistent with the best interests of Victoria;
- ensure that the facilities will not adversely affect the health of people or the sustainability and value of local ecosystems;
- comply with State and local planning and State environment protection policies;
- respect the interests, concerns, responsibilities and knowledge of government, industry and the community;
- Provide the opportunities for community input into site identification, site selection of 'sieving', and environmental assessment and public review of

specific proposals, as well as environmental monitoring of approved facilities;

-include relevant municipal council inputs in site selection, facility design and infrastructure provision, as well as in the negotiation of satisfactory arrangements with neighbours;

-include relevant industry input in site selection, facility design and infrastructure requirements; and

-aim to minimise all associated hazards.

HWCC recommended that the government adopt the principles identified in the Report to underpin the process for establishing hazardous waste facilities in Victoria.

The HWCC by way of public consultation (Discussion Paper 2) obtained comments that Model 1 & 2 were preferable to Model 3.

Model 1 - proposal that the government, through HWCC (or successor) conduct the whole process of site selection and negotiation with local communities and then proceed by way of tender.

Model 2 - proposal that the government, through HWCC (or successor) initiate and lead the siting process, establish a comprehensive community consultation process once a preferred site has been identified but leave the final approvals stage to a preferred developer.

Model 3 - proposal that the process be wholly conducted by the private sector within the regulations and requirements of the government, EPA and other authorities. (The current situation as at April, 2000.)

Model 2 was recommended.

For this process to be effective, the HWCC suggested that it was imperative that the community and other stakeholders be involved throughout.

It provides greater opportunity for stakeholder input, (but not community input).

Refer photocopies.

HWCC suggests that the interim facilities prior to permanent solutions in 3 - 5 years may be too expensive and be caught up in red tape to warrant them being introduced, and will possibly continue being landfilled.

HWCC suggests that it is as important to consider wider industry groups as much as wider community groups.

Refer stakeholder group listing sheets

Refer sheets on Melbourne Water.

Conclusions to Report

“None of these changes should occur without there being open and transparent stakeholder and community consideration.”

“World’s best practice for construction and operation of landfill, as originally proposed, is no longer relevant. The facilities proposed to replace this outmoded system have no known precedents and thus the Committee has adopted a precautionary approach.”

In response to the EPA’s Industrial Waste Management Policy (Prescribed Industrial Waste) the HWCC disagrees with a timeframe for reducing waste (50% by 2009), and instead suggests monitoring over time.

The EPA removed the 50% by 2009 target from their policy.

Government’s Response

No Category A soils are allowed to enter landfill without treatment to make them Category B or C first.

HWCC recommendation 6-6 is contradictory to the government’s response to 6-4.

Government said it would monitor, but did not agree to a temporary storage facility(ies) for a & B soils prior to April 2000.

Response to landfill (both present & future) receiving C soils. “Should be under licence and must employ a mix of liner technologies, drainage, etc, and incorporate a 500m buffer zone.” Agree to licencing, but will accept a high standard of operation, not necessarily liners and drainage. Does not refer to private landfills.(ie will not need licences)

Government agreed to principles in HWCC report. (*See prior*)

Government agreed to committee structure.

Government states that some of the top 50 waste generators are not scheduled under the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations and so are not required to be licenced by EPA. EPA will allow them to volunteer to clean up their act.

HWCC recommended that the government through the HWCC (or successor) lead the process to establish new hazardous waste facilities in Victoria. Government responded that the HWCC would have a successor and it would advise, (but not lead). It would be a committee that included the private sector and leading may? Be left up to the successful tenderer.

The HWCC recommended that the government lead the process through the HWCC (or successor) so as any Environmental Effects Statement by the Minister contains what the HWCC (or successor) recommends. As the government has decided to include the private sector and best tenderer, they would eventually recommend what the Minister said in public about establishing new hazardous waste facilities, via a "staged approach".

Government responded that buffers for both repository, long term containment and soil remediation facilities need to be applied, but would not agree if existing neighbours were too close. They agreed with the core (500m) and the outer zone, but the inner zone (500m - 2 km) they suggested a site by site zoning. (ie neighbours too close)

Government leaves any post-closure arrangements for facilities to the EPA discretion.

Government did not agree to protect future land owners of previous hazardous sites.

Government indicated that Melbourne Water's facilities are sub standard and need improvement via the EPA.

Government admitted that Melbourne Water was not acting proactively in fixing the problems with new research and development, and has left it up to industry to do this research, taking into consideration the cost-benefit of such research. (Money 1, Health 0)

Government accepts no responsibility for what will happen with the sludges at Melbourne Water. EPA scapegoat.

SITING AND BUFFER CRITERIA AS ADOPTED BY THE STATE GOVT - DEC 2000

Contaminated Soils:

- "a core of 200 metres radius, within which only compatible land uses will be permitted and which must be owned by the operator"
- "An outer zone between 200 metres and 2 km radius within which there will be no sensitive uses..."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The Lyndhurst Landfill was issued a permit for a "household tip" in 1990 and at that time the conditions of the permit did not allow hazardous waste.
- A VCAT ruling in July 2006 found that the wastes deposited at the Lyndhurst tip were hazardous and were prohibited.
- At a later hearing VCAT granted amendments to the planning permits which removed the conditions that prohibited the depositing of hazardous waste.
- The State Government has since taken over management of the tip
- In December 2000 the State Government adopted the siting and buffer criteria for the management of hazardous waste as recommended by the bi-partisan Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee (HWCC).
- In March 2001 the Hazardous Waste Siting and Advisory Committee (HWSAC) was appointed by the State Government to continue the work of the previous committee.
- The first stage of the Hazardous Waste Siting Project was to assess potential sites for proposed soil recycling facilities in Victoria using the same siting and buffer criteria recommended by the State Government in 2000.

HAZARDOUS WASTES CAN INCLUDE CADMIUM, ARSENIC, LEAD, MERCURY AND OTHER HEAVY METALS. THEY MAY ALSO CONTAIN CYANIDES, DIOXINS AND ASBESTOS..

LYNDHURST IS NOT A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL NOR IS IT A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR A SOIL PROCESSING FACILITY !

"Hazardous wastes are those wastes that could pose a danger to human health or the environment if not properly managed. The EPA describes prescribed industrial wastes as those wastes of commercial or industrial origin that the community expects to be carefully managed and closely regulated because of their potential to pose a hazard to human health or the environment." State Government Document
"Hazardous Waste Siting Project" Working towards a cleaner, safer future for Victoria" 2001

PREPARED BY:

**██████████ – FORMER COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE
HAZARDOUS WASTE SITING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HWSAC)**

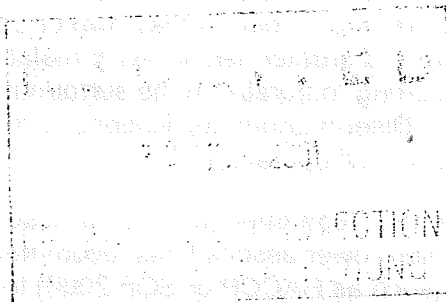


Department of Human Services

Incorporating: Health, Aged Care, Housing and Community Services

23 November 2001

South Metropolitan Region
Environment Protection Authority
45 Princes Highway
DANDENONG VIC 3175



120 Spencer Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
GPO Box 1670N
Melbourne Victoria 3001
DX210081

Telephone: (03) 9637 4000
Facsimile: (03) 9637 4779

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS AT THE LYNDHURST LANDFILL

I refer to your facsimile dated 16 November 2001 regarding the potential health risks at Taylors Road landfill, Lyndhurst.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) assessed the potential health risks posed by the landfilling operations in its assessment of works approval 42828 for a proposed increase in height of the landfill cells dated 18 October 2000.

DHS concluded that the health risks posed by the landfilling operation were minimal based on the following factors:

- The landfill has been in operation for 10 years and there have been no notified incidences of public health risks from the operation.
- DHS undertook a site visit to inspect management practices in place to control gas emissions, leachate, wastewater, litter, dust, fly and rodent nuisance, noise and odour generated by the existing tip operations. DHS concluded existing management arrangements for the control of these potential public health nuisances were adequate to manage any health risks presented by the use of this site.
- DHS undertook a literature review of studies conducted world wide on the potential health risks associated with landfills. These studies have concluded it is inappropriate to draw firm conclusions on the possible health effects of landfill sites on surrounding populations.

In addition to the information provided above, DHS provides the following comments in response to the questions posed in Mr [REDACTED]'s letter of 23rd October 2001.

Question 1 – Research indicates that specific characteristics of the landfill such as age, design, operational and management procedures may influence potential health risks more than the type or amounts of wastes disposed of there.

The operational and management practices at Lyndhurst are considered best practice relative to the operation of other landfill sites in Australia and overseas. Controls and management practices, including monitoring and auditing, are in place to adequately manage potential adverse health impacts from gas emissions, leachate, wastewater, litter, dust, fly and rodent nuisance, noise and odour generated by the existing landfill operation.

Question 2 – While micro-organisms and heavy metals can be transmitted via aerosols, including dust emissions, the risks cannot be characterized because of a general lack of information about the types of micro-organisms associated with landfill materials and their potential to become airborne, either on their own or attached to dust particles. In relative terms, however, there is a greater risk of heavy metal or microbial transmission from the micro-organisms occurring “naturally” in the surrounding soils, irrigation water from the irrigation channels, fertiliser/manure applications or from human handling compared to the minimal risk from the landfill operation.

Food Safety Victoria, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and independent vegetable grower associations recommend the use of total quality management plans (such as HACCP or SQF 2000) to minimise the risk of disease outbreaks from food crops associated with micro-organisms in soils, manure, irrigation water or human handling. DHS recommends that such total quality management systems should be adopted by market gardeners in this area as part of good management practice. This will further minimise the low risk of health impacts associated with the consumption of food crops that may be affected by the landfill operation. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia have released *Guidelines for On-Farm Food Safety for Fresh Produce* which assesses food safety hazards and suggests good agricultural practices to prevent, reduce or eliminate these.

Question 3 – Micro-organisms can be picked up by birds as a result of birds feeding on garbage, but the risk of micro-organisms carried by the birds being deposited on the food crops as a result of flying over market gardens is low. Any risks would be further minimised by the adoption of a total quality management plan, such as HACCP or SQF 2000, as discussed above.

Question 4 - There have been a number of studies undertaken on the potential health risks posed to communities living in close proximity to landfills overseas, but not in Australia. The most widely cited study is the European epidemiological study on the risk of congenital anomalies (birth defects) and cancers around 21 hazardous waste landfill sites in Europe (the EUROHAZCON study) (*Lancet*, 8 August 1998 pp 423-427).

The study found that there was no increased risk of childhood and adult cancers for populations living within 2 km of a landfill site. The study did find that there was a slightly higher risk of congenital anomalies (birth defects) in the study population living within 2 kilometres of hazardous landfill, than in the reference population (those not living within 2 kilometres). However, the limitations of this study and other similar studies have been identified by the World Health Organisation (1998).

These types of studies can only explore whether there is an association between the health outcomes analysed and the environmental hazard under investigation, such as a landfill, but they cannot say whether or not the hazard caused the health outcomes. This is because these studies do not take into account other factors that may contribute to adverse health effects observed other than the landfill, such as family history of disease, lifestyle factors such as smoking, use of medicines and occupation, which might themselves be associated with the health outcomes being studied.

Based on these limitations, the World Health Organisation (1998) concluded it is inappropriate to draw firm conclusions on the possible health effects of landfill sites. DHS will continue to monitor literature in this area in order to provide health advice to EPA in relation to landfill applications.

If there are any questions in relation to this letter, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

References

Dolk, H. *et al.*, (1998) Risk of congenital anomalies near hazardous waste landfill sites in Europe: the EUROHAZCON study. *Lancet* Volume 352 pp 423 -427

Department of Environment (1978) Co-operative programme of research on the behaviour of hazardous wastes in landfill sites. Final Report of the Policy Review Committee. London.

World Health Organisation (1998) Health Effects from Landfills: Impact of the Latest Research. Report on a WHO meeting. European Health Target 10. Web site <http://www.who.dk>

15 March 2002

Mr. R. Gipp.

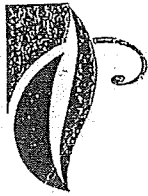
Dear Mr. Gipp,

Dandenong Water

Mr. [REDACTED] of Frankston has shown me some information regarding the quality of water that is being discharged from a treatment operation in Dandenong. As you are aware, a number of the heavy metals listed are cumulative poisons (mercury and lead in particular) and another chromium in its hexavalent form is known to be carcinogenic. It is therefore essential that waters containing these metals, even in initially very low concentration, are not used in a way that allows the metals to enter the food chain. The use of the "treated" water for watering market gardens for example, should be forbidden. In another state, I have seen water containing very low levels of the toxic metal thallium discharged into a low volume flow stream. Evaporation was such that the concentration increased to such an extent that the stream water became poisonous to cattle and a number died.

Waters containing a metal ion mix such as that shown on the list even in the currently "acceptable" concentrations listed need to be treated very carefully indeed.

Yours sincerely,



City of
Casey

71.67.2
HD/ms

2 October 2002.

Environment Protection Authority
South Metropolitan Region
45 Princes Highway
DANDENONG VIC 3175

Dear Sir or Madam

Advice in relation to the Lyndhurst Landfill

The Conservation Advisory Committee of the City of Casey has recently raised concerns in relation to the approval of new residential subdivisions in Lynbrook and Lyndhurst, highlighting the close proximity of these areas to the Lyndhurst Landfill and the possible impact that the disposal of hazardous wastes at this facility may have on residents.

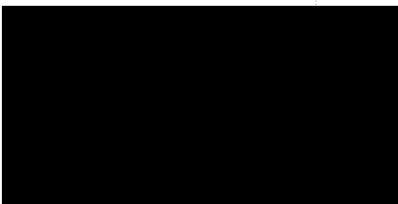
It is noted, for your information, that the Lynbrook and Lyndhurst areas (north of Thompsons Road) are affected by an adopted Development Plan under the Casey Planning Scheme (the Lynbrook Development Plan). At present, this document does not recognise the presence of the Lyndhurst Landfill, nor does it provide any respective guidelines (e.g. restrictive buffers) in relation to development in proximity to the landfill.

Accordingly, I am writing to seek the advice of the EPA Victoria in relation to the following:

- The approved operations of the facility;
- The categories of waste that are/can be accepted; and,
- Any buffer or other land use controls that do/should apply to the facility, or its components thereof.
- Your recommendations for restrictions or guidelines that should be included in the Lynbrook Development Plan. These would, in turn, be applied in relation to the assessment of planning permit applications, in particular those for proposed residential subdivisions.

Following receipt of this information, City of Casey officers will, if necessary, seek further discussions with the EPA Victoria. Please contact [REDACTED] at the City of Casey on [REDACTED] should you have any queries about this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Princes Highway
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Ausdoc DX 30460 Berwick
Email caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
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ABN 43 320 295 742

Our Ref: ES511

[REDACTED]
City of Casey
PO Box 1000
Narre Warren VICTORIA 3805

28 November 2002

DX 30460 Berwick

Dear [REDACTED]

ADVICE IN RELATION TO LYNDHURST LANDFILL

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2002. Please find below our response to the dot pointed issues listed in your letter.

Operations of Lyndhurst Landfill

EPA Licence ES511 sets out the requirements for operation of the Lyndhurst Landfill. In accordance with the licence, the categories of waste that can be deposited at the site include: putrescible, solid inert and a limited range of Prescribed Industrial Waste (PIW). I enclose copy of the licence for your reference.

Lyndbrook Development Plan

To protect sensitive land uses from any off-site effects resulting from normal and upset landfill operating conditions such as offensive odours, noise, litter and dust, an adequate buffer distance should be maintained between the landfill and the sensitive land uses including the residential developments.

It is essential that Council's Municipal Strategic Statement and any other strategic documents such as the Lynbrook Development Plan recognizes the site's existence and hence some limitations on nearby landuse proposals.

EPA would therefore encourage Council to amend the Lynbrook Development Plan to make reference to the Lyndhurst Landfill and to introduce guidelines that require the existing buffer distances to be protected and maintained to prevent inappropriate encroachment of sensitive uses or sensitive zones.

The existing buffer of 800 m between the landfill and the already developed areas of Lyndbrook Estate has been shown to be both appropriate and to provide adequate protection from potential impacts of Lyndhurst landfill.

EPA recommended buffers for landfill operations

EPA publications recommend buffers relevant to acceptance of putrescible and solid inert wastes or broad range of hazardous wastes but are not specific to a range of wastes accepted at Lyndhurst landfill.

Providing Better Service

Reference: 95-00369-04
Enquiries: [REDACTED]

CITY OF CASEY	
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CITY OF
GREATER
DANDENONG



Melbourne's 2nd City

www.greaterdandenong.com

City of Casey
PO Box 1000
NARRE WARREN, VIC, 3805

1 December 2003

Attention: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

RE. BUFFER ZONES SURROUNDING THE LYNDHURST LANDFILL SITE
YOUR REFERENCE: 71.67.2 GB/ms

I thank you for the opportunity of meeting on 9 September 2003 with officials from your Council to discuss issues in the above regard. Please accept my apology for the delay in getting back to you in writing following that meeting.

The buffer zone surrounding the Lyndhurst Landfill site has no statutory affect on any land outside of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. It is not the intention of this Council to in any way petition for the City of Casey to be bound by this buffer or to propose any buffer related conditions on development occurring east of Dandenong- Hastings Road.

Should you require any further points of clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]



All correspondence to: PO Box 200 Dandenong 3175

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Council Contact telephone details overleaf

KEYSBOROUGH
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Parkmore Shopping Centre

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CENTRE
Suite 1, 4th Floor

EPA "Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines for Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills" (BPEM - Landfills), Publication 788, October 2001 provides guidelines for maintaining buffers around the existing landfill including protection of the buffers from encroachment of new residential developments. For putrescible and solid inert waste alone, the BPEM - Landfills recommends a buffer distance of 500m from the nearest residential dwellings.

Further advice is provided in the Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee's *Final Report* (April 2000). This Report recommends at least 2km buffer distance to the nearest sensitive land use (i.e. residential dwellings). Please, note that the report refers to hazardous waste repository or long-term containment facility accepting a much broader range of 'hazardous wastes' than the limited range of PIW permitted for disposal at Lyndhurst.

Based on the recommended buffers set out above, experience with the Lyndhurst landfill and other landfills and the nature of the waste received by the Lyndhurst landfill, it is important that the Lyndbrook Development Plan should seek to ensure that the current buffer of at least 800 m between the landfill and the residential development is maintained.

Following closure and rehabilitation of the landfill, it would be appropriate to reconsider the appropriate use of the land currently identified as part of the buffer zone.

Further Information

EPA undertook a comprehensive Environmental Audit of the Lyndhurst landfill, with the findings of the audit published in EPA Publication 780 PWM *Lyndhurst Landfill, Findings and Recommendations* (September 2001). If you require further information about the site operations, it is recommended that you refer to this publication. Copies of this document as well as the other EPA publications referred to in this letter are available on EPA's website: <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au>.

Please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

ATTENTION: Mr [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] I am a vegetable grower in Dandenong and only a distance of less than 10 meters separates the back boundary of my property from the Lyndhurst landfill.

In a report titled **HAZARDOUS WASTE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT APRIL 2000**, in the section titled site criteria there is a recommended buffer zone between the landfill and my food production area of a minimum of 2000 meters. I would like to know how this buffer zone was decided and what information was used in deciding this, what health concerns there would be for my workers and if you were a vegetable grower in my position what would you do?

My other concern is the birds the landfill attracts to its operation and the affects they can have on my salad crops. In the paddocks I grow crops on in the back half of the farm which are very close to the tip about 20 meters the birds [ravens, crows, Australian white ibis and seagulls] are destroying my crops and there is also the potential for them to spread diseases from the toxic waste in the landfill to my crops. As you can see I am in an awkward position. The landfill won't help with the birds and [REDACTED] said they are not an EPA matter.

[REDACTED] could you please help me to find this information or reply to me by fax.

My fax number is [REDACTED] my phone number is [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Mr

Frankston Rd
Dandenong 3175

22 DEC 2000



ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

SOUTH METRO
REGION

Our Ref: es511

Dear Mr

Thank you for your fax of 5 December 2000 concerning the Pacific Waste Management landfill at Lyndhurst and the Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee (HWCC) report.

The HWCC's final report recommends buffer distances for the establishment of future hazardous waste repositories and long term containment facilities. For your reference, I have enclosed a copy of section 8.5 of the report, which contains the rationale for the selection of buffer distances from such facilities. The report also recommends the phasing out of landfilling of prescribed industrial waste.

On the second point you raised, excessive numbers of birds in an area, attracted by a landfill or other feature such as a water storage, may cause difficulties to a primary producer such as yourself. EPA requires landfills to be managed in such a way that bird numbers are controlled and supports initiatives that may lead to new benchmarks in best practice. In this sense, the Pacific Waste Management Works Approval proposes a test of a net enclosure to keep birds away from the tip face. We have sought a report on the efficacy of this proposal.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

1/45 PRINCES HIGHWAY
DANDENONG
VICTORIA 3175

TEL: (03) 9794 0677
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DX211566

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premises\2.2.01 waste treatment, disposal & recycling\1(e) landfills\pacific waste mgt\es511-
lyndhurst\kelly.doc southmetro np

ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION
AUTHORITYSOUTH METRO
REGION

20 February 2001

Mr

Frankston Rd
Dandenong 3175

Our Ref: ES511

Dear Mr

PACIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT LANDFILL AT LYNDBURST

Thank you for your fax of 5 December 2000 and of 12 February 2001.
Please, accept my apology for late response.

The Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee (HWCC) report.

The HWCC's final report recommends buffer distances for the establishment of future hazardous waste repositories and long term containment facilities. For your reference, I have enclosed a copy of section 8.5 of the report, which contains the rationale for the selection of buffer distances from such facilities. The report also recommends the phasing out of landfilling of prescribed industrial waste.

Excessive number of birds

On the second point you raised, excessive numbers of birds in an area, attracted by a landfill or other feature such as water storage, may cause difficulties to a primary producer such as yourself. EPA requires landfills to be managed in such a way that bird numbers are controlled and supports initiatives that may lead to new benchmarks in best practice. In this sense, the PWM Works Approval application currently with the Authority includes a proposal to test of a net enclosure to keep birds away from the tip face. We have sought a report on the efficacy of this proposal.

EPA response to the complaints about impact of landfill operations

I apologise for not getting back to you personally during busy Christmas and holiday period. However, we have responded as quickly as possible to these and other calls from the public and during last two months EPA have visited the area on 16 occasions, including 6 times in response to your calls. In addition, in January this year EPA officers conducted odour surveillance around boundary of the landfill. The site was visited on 14 occasions.

1/45 PRINCES HIGHWAY
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Off-site odours

EPA has received number of odour complaints in relation to the Taylors Rd landfill. During investigation of these complaints and our surveillance activities mentioned above, we have, on occasions, detected odours at the site boundary but they have not be of sufficient strength to warrant enforcement action for breach of landfill licence.

The PWM licence contains a condition requiring daily cover of waste. Although not directly related to odour complaints, EPA issued a Penalty Infringement Notice to PWM on 9 January this year for lack of daily cover as this may increase the risk of off-site effects.

The emergency event you refer to was a work place incident caused by the waste transporter and was highly unlikely it could have any off-site effects. [REDACTED] attended this incident, and informed you about it at the time.

Wind blown litter

EPA licence requires control of litter within boundary of the landfill. We are aware of a problem that occurred earlier this year as a result of extremely strong easterly wind and are working with the company to improve litter control. The previously mentioned net enclosure may assist in this regard.

Risk of crop contamination

Through its EPA licence, PMW is required to ensure that State Environment Protection Policies are met and landfill operations have no detrimental impact on the environment. Monitoring required by the licence and EPA verification sampling indicates licence compliance is being achieved.

We will continue to closely monitor this aspect of the company's operations. For example, recently EPA has sampled sediment of Taylors Rd drain and Eumennering Creek upstream and downstream of the PWM rain/groundwater discharge point. The results will be made available to the community in the due course.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

100% HETEROLOGOUS.

Providing Better Service

Reference: WH-HC/ P065887-01
Enquiries: [REDACTED]

CITY OF
GREATER
DANDENONG



Melbourne's 2nd City

September 27, 2000

[REDACTED]
President
Colemans Road Ratepayers' Association
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I write in response to your letter of August 27, 2000 addressed to the Mayor and Councillors raising a number of concerns with regard to the future of the Lyndhurst landfill. A copy of your correspondence has been circulated to all Councillors and I am sure they will take note of the concerns of your Association in any future planning decisions regarding this landfill operation.

I have also referred your letter to Council's [REDACTED] with a request for him to ensure his staff are aware of the interest of your Association in any planning application received from the operators of the Lyndhurst landfill. This action will ensure you are advised of any application received.

Council has also recently made amendments to its Deed of Delegation to require that any application dealing with any aspect of landfill operations in the city be brought to its attention. This change to the Delegations was a direct consequence of the approval given to the operators of the Lyndhurst landfill two years ago to allow changes to the contours of the final fill levels on the landfill site. While I still believe officers acted appropriately in that situation, Councillors have taken action to ensure that such a situation does not arise again.

You were also present at the Council meeting of September 25, 2000 when Councillors asked questions concerning the application by the operator of the Lyndhurst landfill site to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for works approval to change contour levels at the site. As you would have heard at the meeting, Council staff have been asked to provide information to Councillors about the application and discuss what response Council should provide to the EPA on our capacity as a referral authority for the works approval application. Council's Group Manager City Development will be co-ordinating the response to this question from Councillors and I am sure would be pleased to discuss with you the concerns of your Association.



All correspondence to: PO Box 200 Springvale 3171

Council Contact telephone details overleaf www.cgd.vic.gov.au

SPRINGVALE OFFICE
397-405 Springvale Road

DANDENONG OFFICE
39 Clow Street

KEYSBOROUGH
Shop A7
Parkmore Shopping Centre

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE
Suite 1, 4th Floor
329 Thomas Street
Dandenong

Thank you for your letter. Mr [REDACTED] will ensure your Association is advised of our response to the EPA on the works approval application. Mr [REDACTED] will also advise you of any future applications we receive from the operators of the Lyndhurst landfill for changes to current planning conditions.

Mr [REDACTED] can be contacted by telephone on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss this matter with him directly.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

This licence allows the licence holder to discharge or deposit waste to land at the premises subject to the attached conditions.

LICENCE HOLDER: SITA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

REGISTERED ADDRESS: 68-84 WATERVIEW CLOSE, HAMPTON PARK 3976

PREMISES ADDRESS: CORNER OF BAYLISS ROAD AND TAYLORS
ROAD, LYNDHURST BEING LOT 1, 2 & 3 OF
LODGED PLAN 34157, 45 BAYLISS ROAD,
LYNDHURST

LICENCE NUMBER: ES 511

DATE OF ISSUE: 17 OCTOBER 1990

DATE OF TRANSFER: 28 MAY 1998

DATE OF AMENDMENT: 4 OCTOBER 1999

.....
JACEK JOZEF MAMBORT
DELEGATE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

EPA Waste Discharge Licence No. ES 511

- (d) the volume of leachate pumped from the sump system each week for treatment must be measured and recorded.

Post-closure Monitoring

- 3.5 Subsequent to cessation of waste disposal activities on the premises, the ground water monitoring bores referred to in condition number 3.2(a) must be maintained by the licence holder and the monitoring program referred to in conditions numbered 3.2(d) to 3.2(g) inclusive maintained for a further period as specified by the Authority not exceeding ten years.
- 3.6 Subsequent to cessation of waste disposal activities on the premises, the leachate collection sumps referred to in condition number 3.3(a) must be maintained by the licence holder and the monitoring program referred to in conditions numbered 3.3(d) to 3.3(f) inclusive maintained for a further period as specified by the Authority not exceeding ten years.

Methane Gas Collection System

- 3.7 Within twelve months of the completion of each cell a series of perimeter methane wells must be installed. Each well must be fitted with a valve to regulate gas flow.
- 3.8 Within three months of the completion of the Melbourne Water Corporation floodway gas monitoring probes No. 11 and No. 12 consisting of slotted PVC placed in gravel packed boreholes with a bentonite seal located above the gravel and slotting must be installed at the locations shown on plan of the premises (groundwater and air monitoring sampling points) in Part 4 of this licence.
- 3.9 (a) A landfill gas extraction system must be established in the landfill consisting of perimeter wells installed at approximately 50 metre intervals, and
- (b) treatment and disposal facilities for the landfill gas collected must where necessary be acoustically shielded and must consist of:
- (i) blowers located within an enclosed structure;
 - (ii) condensate knockout equipment;
 - (iii) a conventional candlestick type flare or ground effects flare, and
 - (iv) a suitable pipeline allowing for pumping of landfill gas off-site to an electricity generation facility at Narre Warren North.
- 3.10 The flare referred to in Condition 3.9 (b)(iii) must only be operated when no landfill gas is pumped off-site or not enough gas is drawn to prevent gas migration and associated odours as a result of excessive cumulation of gas in landfill cells.
- 3.11 The flare described in Condition 3.9(b)(iii) must operate smokelessly at all times.
- 3.12 The valve isolating the flare from the landfill gas supply must be closed at all times, except for periods described in Condition 3.10.
- 3.13 The licence holder must ensure that the flare is brought in operation as soon as practicable if any of the conditions specified in Condition 3.10 occur.
- 3.14 The rates of gas flaring off referred to in Condition 3.13 must be sufficient to minimise migration of landfill gas and associated odour beyond the boundaries of the premises.

Our Ref: MA000625

Ms [REDACTED]
Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East Inc
PO Box 41
HAMPTON PARK VIC 3976

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

LYNDHURST HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 2003.

Responses to the key questions set out in your letter are provided below.

EPA Process for Acceptance of Prescribed Industrial Waste at Lyndhurst

In October 1990 EPA issued a licence allowing disposal of municipal waste at Lyndhurst landfill. In 1991 EPA received a Works Approval application from the landfill operator to receive Prescribed Industrial Waste at Lyndhurst. As part of EPA's assessment process, a public conference on this application was held on 9 May 1991. Following EPA's assessment, a Works Approval was issued and then an amended licence allowing disposal of a limited range of prescribed industrial waste at Lyndhurst landfill was issued in late 1991.

The requirements for third party comment and consultation in relation to works approvals are set out in the Environment Protection Act 1970.

Buffer

Section 8.4 of the 'Final Report' of the Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee (HWCC) (April 2000) recommends that no sensitive uses (defined as residential use, child care centre, pre-school or primary school) be permitted within 2km of a repository or long term containment facility. This recommendation was subsequently accepted by the Government.

These recommendations can only be applied to future facilities and do not directly apply to existing facilities. The buffers reflect the desire of the community to go beyond worlds best practice in relation to the siting and design of such facilities, building in multiple levels of redundancy.



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There is a need for Lyndhurst, and other existing facilities, to continue accepting prescribed waste for several years to provide a bridge between the current situation and the longer-term future. This is in accordance with the conclusions of the HWCC and is also in line with the Government's strategy for improved industrial waste management. Further the recent Works Approval will significantly improve the current standard of landfilling whilst alternative facilities are established.

EPA is continuing to work with the City of Greater Dandenong and the City of Casey to ensure that there are no new sensitive developments established in close proximity to Lyndhurst landfill.

Environmental Audit

EPA's Environmental Audit of Lyndhurst landfill was designed to address key questions about the landfill's operation raised by the community at a meeting with the landfill operator and EPA in December 2000. Accordingly, the Audit examined management practices at the landfill as well as potential impacts of the landfill on groundwater or surface water, in particular Eumemmering Creek. In relation to this, the audit found no impact on Eumemmering Creek and established that groundwater around the facility was not contaminated.

A change in groundwater quality was identified however, with an increase in groundwater salt levels detected at some monitoring bores. These increased salt levels do not present a risk to human health, but make the groundwater less suitable for potential uses such as irrigation or stock watering. Whilst groundwater around the site is not currently used, it must be protected in case of future uses.

There are a number of possible causes for the increased salt levels, including natural evaporation processes. Groundwater monitoring around the landfill will be increased so that the cause of change can be identified and remedied.

In relation to human health risks, the Department of Human Services (DHS) concluded in a letter dated 23 November 2001 that: "the health risks posed by the landfill operation were minimal".

Financial Assurance

A financial assurance proposal covering 30 years after the closure of the landfill has been submitted by the landfill operator to EPA for review. EPA is currently assessing this proposal.



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Amended Licence

We note your suggestions for items to be included in the amended licence for Lyndhurst landfill. It is likely that a number of your suggestions will be included in the amended licence. We will be in touch with you after the amended licence has been issued and would be pleased to answer any questions you have at that time.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] South Metropolitan Operations (Tel. [REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely



EPA
VICTORIA

because this is our home

40 City Road Southbank Vic 3006 GPO Box 4395QQ Melbourne Vic 3001 Tel 03 9695 2700 Fax 03 9695 2710 ABN 85 899 617 894 DX 210082

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Dandenong Leader

<http://dandenong-leader.whereilive.com.au>

VIDEO: Dandenong mum blames son's deformities on toxic waste

NEWS HEALTH 22 MAR 10 @ 08:00AM BY SALLY SPALDING

A DANDENONG mother whose son was born without eyes has blamed her child's deformity on toxic waste dumped near her former home.

Yasmina Cirak's claims come after Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti expressed concern about the hazardous waste zone in Dandenong South.

>> VIDEO: Yasmina Cirak shares her story (left)

When Ms Cirak's son Cerjan was born 13 months ago he was not expected to live past five weeks.

He had a hole in his heart, no eye sockets or eyeballs, one kidney, was minus a rib, and had narrow nostrils and a floppy larynx.

Ms Cirak, 20, said she blamed her son's defects on the "foul-smelling" air she inhaled while living on Kirkham Rd in Dandenong South during her pregnancy.

"I fell pregnant there and stayed there until Cerjan was six weeks old," she said.

Married less than a year, Ms Cirak said the next 12 months were a nightmare.

"My marriage broke down, the list of my son's deformities kept growing."

Her son is now thriving under her care.

"We feed him chicken soup and bread to make him strong. His hearing is normal and he has a good appetite," she said.

Ms Cirak now lives with her mother and feels safer in central Dandenong.

"I personally wouldn't want to have any more children. What sort of future would they have in this toxic city?"

Department of Human Services spokesman Bram Alexander said Victoria's chief health officer was compiling and comparing health data from Dandenong and similar socio-economic areas in response to Cr Memeti's concerns.

>> Related stories: Dandenong South health study investigated

Health report demanded for Dandenong South

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WHERE I LIVE
COM.AU

Baby deaths

BY NICOLE WILLIAMS

NEWBORN babies are 42 per cent less likely to survive after being delivered at Dandenong Hospital than other Victorian hospitals, new State Government figures reveal.

The State Government report released last month, prepared by the Department of Health with Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, examined the perinatal (immediately before and after birth) mortality rate of babies born at 32 weeks or more gestation between 2005 and 2009.

But Dandenong Hospital blamed external factors for the figures.

"Many women attending Dandenong Hospital are recent arrivals to Australia and have difficulty accessing pregnancy care," a spokesperson said.

"Refugee arrivals are particularly vulnerable and we are working with those communities to better provide pregnancy care and better understand their needs."

The report compared 24 public hospitals around the state and Dandenong Hospital was second only to Latrobe Regional Hospital in Traralgon, where babies were 57 per cent less likely to survive.

The figures included stillbirths and deaths that occurred within 28 days of life and excluded terminations, deaths due to congenital anomalies and very premature babies.

All hospitals needed to review every perinatal death to identify opportunities to improve care procedures and systems, according to the report.

The Dandenong Hospital spokesperson said the hospital was aware of the issue and had been constantly monitoring and reviewing the pregnancy outcomes.

"We are aware that the rate of pregnancy loss among women attending Dandenong Hospital is higher than we would like," she said.

"We have been looking very closely at this over the past three to four years and have identified some likely causes."

Recent migrants and refugees were highlighted as a likely cause, as well as pregnancy complications caused by avoidable factors such as smoking in pregnancy.

The spokesperson said an expert panel investigated all perinatal deaths at the hospital and recommendations were used to improve services.

"We are increasing the number of pregnancy care clinics we have with the aim of improving access to care for all women but particularly for those who find it difficult to pay for care in private rooms," she said.

"We are also looking at how care is provided to different groups of women to see if we can better meet women's needs and so improve outcomes."

NEWS

VIDEO: Dandenong mum blames son's deformities on toxic waste

NEWS HEALTH 22 MAR 10 @ 08:00AM BY SALLY SPALDING

Comments

Betul Turkarsla... writes:

Posted on 29 Mar 10 at 06:07pm

If there are so many families that are affected by the toxic wastes in Dandenong South, why isn't anyone speaking up?

Pregnant women and children that are living in that area can also be affected by these toxic wastes in Dandenong South. The residents in Dandenong South should start to speak up before it too late!

'My toxic nightmare' was very touching story. It was really brave of Yasmina to tell her story on her son Cerjan and the condition that they are in. May God bless you both. xo

Naima Guevarra writes:

Posted on 27 Mar 10 at 10:10am

I just would like to comment on yasmina's courage and how proud i am that she stuck to her child and is trying to do the best possible for his sake. Yas you are the strongest woman i know and i am so proud of you, your son is lucky he has a mother like you who is willing to fight for him and all the other children that may one day suffer due to the toxic waste. I pray that one day they do find out what the smell is and hopefully also do something about it . Best wishes to yas and cerjan .

nikola writes:

Posted on 25 Mar 10 at 03:02pm

The manufacture and incineration of plastics such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC, commonly used in consumer product packaging and medical devices) is a major source of dioxin. Dioxins are also formed as byproducts of chemical processes involving chlorine, such as the manufacture of pesticides and the bleaching of paper.

Two of the most serious health effects of dioxin exposure are cancer and endocrine disruption. The petrochemicals that are so pervasive in our environment have especially adverse effects on rapidly growing fetuses and infants. Laboratory animals exposed before birth to one form of dioxin displayed physical deformities, retarded growth, and changes in physiology. Adverse effects on learning and behavior were also evident.

Many of the most studied plastics and other petroleum products are synthetic hormone disruptors known as xenoestrogens. They mimic the effects of estrogen in the body and disrupt normal hormone function and balance.

nikica writes:

Posted on 25 Mar 10 at 02:52pm

Toxic Petrochemical Ingredients

"Prop"

Isopropyl Alcohol or Isopropanol

Produced as a byproduct of the petroleum and natural gas industries.

Used as rubbing alcohol, a mild antiseptic, and for fever reduction. Found in paint thinners, racing fuels, fuel line deicers, antifreeze, paint removers, cleaners, and disinfectants. It is extensively used in medications (aspirins, Alka-Seltzer, Witch-hazel astringent, etc.) and many cosmetics, from make-up to shampoos and moisture lotions. Twice as toxic as ethanol, and IS absorbed through the skin. Also, has a longer cumulative effect in the body due to toxicity of its oxidation product, acetone. Isopropyl intoxication can cause skin irritation, nausea, vomiting,

headache, dizziness, mental depression, narcosis, coma and death.
Propyl Alcohol or Propanol

Similar to the effects of isopropyl alcohol but has an additional drying effect on the skin.

Graeme Hodgson writes:

Posted on 25 Mar 10 at 11:49am

The 18th and 19th centuries saw coal miners dying from miners lung and gold miners dying from various poisons. The 20th century brought asbestos, agent orange and other chemicals. Now the follies of the 20th century are being manifested with inadequate protection from toxic waste, housing in close proximity to toxic producing industries and toxic waste dumps, and an apparent lack of concern from industry, government and regulators. Will those in power ever learn? Adequate buffer zones and full neutralisation of all of toxic waste within the plant are a must. I hope something positive comes out of Yasmina's story but past history indicates otherwise.

SB writes:

Posted on 25 Mar 10 at 09:45am

What about the residents of Lyndhurst and Lynbrook? Being an ex resident of Lynbrook we were much closer to the site and not to mention the growing site in Hallam. The smell some days literally knocked you out when you stepped outside. Hence why I am an ex resident

Bill Gani. JP writes:

Posted on 25 Mar 10 at 01:49am

Well done Yasmina for being so brave in coming and reporting what has happend in your life with baby Cerjan, lets hope others can come forward. God bless you both.
Great job Sally with your report also Jim Memeti and council for being persistant in bringing it to the Governments attention.
We must as a community stand by one another and realy not give up on this one.... Also fully agree with Jani Breider comments.

Bill Gani JP. (pres)
Australian Albanian Community Dandenong.

Sandra writes:

Posted on 24 Mar 10 at 11:01pm

I'm just curious as to why she had 4 ultrasounds and NONE of them showed up the fact her son only has one kidney? Surely there might be some negligence with the sonographer performing these scans?
Best of luck Yasmina, I really hope your story gets some tests done on the smell coming from Kirkham road..
Your such an inspiration, you son is just gorgeous and he looks like such a happy child

Lyn writes:

Posted on 24 Mar 10 at 07:25pm

My prayers are with you and your son yasmina, just out of curiosity does anyone else know of any other babies who were born with diformities whose mothers also resided in dandenong south while they were pregnant?

Karen writes:

Posted on 23 Mar 10 at 08:06pm

Hi Yasmina, we met at My Time a few weeks back and I had a lovely cuddle with your adorable son. If there's anything I can do for you, or if you'd just like to go out for coffee and a chat some time, feel free to give me a shout at salix_03 at yahoo dot com and we can catch up again. I hope you and your gorgeous son are well!

All the best,
Karen.

rory writes:

Posted on 23 Mar 10 at 04:48pm

this is a strong story well done leader and the reporter for breaking it.

Jani Breider writes:

Posted on 22 Mar 10 at 11:17pm

How brave of Ms Cirak to come forward to tell her story about her beautiful son Cerjan who has been affected by what Ms Cirak believes to be the very bad odours she experienced in Dandenong South while she was pregnant.

We need more people like Ms Cirak to tell their stories about the effects on their health from the bad smells in Dandenong South to make sure that the Government does a proper and full health study on Dandenong South. We also need the EPA to be monitoring the air in Dandenong South for a full range of toxins and over a long period of time, not just a few hours or a day. With such a large industrial area in the Dandenong South area, the EPA needs to put in a permanent monitoring station or stations which can monitor for a range of toxins.

a mom from MAPS writes:

Posted on 22 Mar 10 at 10:24am

We have an online support group for families of children born without eyes, a condition called anophthalmia. If this mum would like to connect with us, and be able to share with many other parents of children born without eyes from all over the world, she can contact us via our website:

<http://www.maparentsupport.com>

Sincerely,

MAPS: Microphthalmia Anophthalmia Parent Support

<http://www.whereilive.com.au>

WHERE I LIVE
LOCAL NEWS, SPORT & EVENTS 8000.AU

Buffer zone deal

Posted on 16 February 2012. Tags: news

RATWISE members, from left, Geraldine Gonsalvez, Bernadette Barker, Anthony Barker, Marjorie Gipp, Thelma Wakelam, Robert Gipp and Ray Tormey at the site of the Taylors Road Landfill



By Bridget Cook and Nicole Williams

THE City of Casey is set to call on the State Government to introduce a one kilometre buffer zone around the Lyndhurst landfill – a move supported by a local action group.

At a Casey council meeting on Tuesday 7 February, Councillor Amanda Stapledon moved a motion to write to the Minister for Planning Matthew Guy requesting that a one kilometre buffer be established around the Taylors Road Landfill.

Land within the buffer area would be subject to obtaining a planning permit for sensitive uses, including food industries, children's services and residential development, under the proposed amendment.

It also stated that the amendment be prepared in consultation with the City of Greater Dandenong.

A C125 planning scheme amendment to rezone the Lyndhurst tip from a Farming Zone to Industrial 1 Zone was approved by the EPA last month, which will allow toxic soil to be treated at the site.

Cr Stapledon said while she acknowledged that the majority of the facility and the buffer zone would fall on Greater Dandenong land, the council must remain mindful that Casey residents live nearby and some also worked in the industrial estate that butts up to the landfill.

"With the proposed C125 Planning Scheme Amendment at Taylors Road Landfill and with the knowledge that no buffer exists alongside this facility with factories residing directly on the boundary one business being a bakery, it is imperative that a reverse offsite buffers is applied as soon as is absolutely possible," she said. "It is important that local residents and businesses are assured that we as a council are taking the necessary steps to alleviate any concerns that may exist and take responsible action by making this request to the State Government."

Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East (RATWISE) president Thelma Wakelam applauded Casey's initiative, but said there were a number of concerns with the proposal.

"It is excellent and RATWISE is very pleased with their direction," she said.

"The councils will need to work together to assist Casey to come up with a workable motion."

Ms Wakelam said RATWISE was concerned with how the buffer zone would be implemented and how to safeguard the policy against abuse.

"We have questions about the implementation – will it be retrospective?" she said.

"And will the council take into consideration the recommendation of a two-kilometre buffer by the Hazard Waste Site Committee?"

Ms Wakelam said the C125 planning scheme amendment meant time to act was short and both councils needed to move quickly.

"Now is the time for them to push very hard," she said.

"And we are urging people to act now towards a revocation of the planning scheme amendment by contacting their local Member for Parliament."

For more details, contact Thelma Wakelam on 0414 998 337 or visit www.facebook.com/RATWISE.

Toxic play zone fears grow

By CAM LUCADOU-WELLS

AN early-learning centre has recently opened about 800 metres east of the Lyndhurst hazardous waste dump, igniting renewed debate over suitable buffer distances from the landfill.

The early-learning centre opened last year, its operators unaware of its proximity to the landfill's eastern-most cells which are licensed to hold toxic materials such as arsenic, cyanide, lead and prescribed industrial wastes.

A spokesperson for the centre said odours from the dump has increased of late.

"At times there are odours however luckily this is infrequent.

"When this occurs we limit outside play where possible and also close all doors.

"I believe that if there is any risk to the community's health then there should be plans put in place to eliminate the risk, whether it be movement of the site or actual closure."

MP backs calls to close hazardous waste dump

GREATER Dandenong mayor Jim Memeti will push for the early shutdown of the Lyndhurst toxic waste landfill after a recent "wake-up call" fire at the site.

Cr Memeti, who says he first ran for council out of concerns of health impacts to residents in surrounding suburbs, said it was timely ahead of November's state election for the council to push for the ALP and the Coalition to state

a position on shifting the landfill.

He said he was prepared to take the rare action of temporarily stepping down from the mayor's chair to move for such a motion during the 24 March council meeting.

"I've always been concerned that the landfill is so close to residences. The fire [on 23 February] shows the landfill needs to be away from a residential

area," Cr Memeti said.

"It was a wake-up call. I know the community was very concerned on that day. There's always that fear in the back of your mind.

"What if the fire wasn't controlled and got out of hand? These things could have been a lot worse - you could never feel safe in case something happens, as well as with the deliveries of the waste travelling through our city."

Isaacs MP Mark Dreyfus, who last week called for the landfill's early closure, said the landfill's closeness to local homes and businesses "continues to raise concerns".

"As I have argued previously, this site needs to be closed down and a new site found to accept Victoria's hazardous waste," he said.

"It is imperative that safe buffer zones

are ensured between new developments and hazardous waste facilities to protect residents, workers and the environment," he said.

Residents against Toxic Waste in the South East spokeswoman Theima Wakelam said a one-kilometre minimum buffer zone was needed for all types of businesses and residences surrounding hazardous waste landfills.

"Those people who work within that buffer zone spend almost more time there than at home."

The council, which has maintained a long-held opposition to the landfill's location, approved a permit for the early-learning centre in 2012.

Greater Dandenong mayor Jim Memeti, who was unaware of the permit approval and construction of the centre,

said it illustrated the need for a greater buffer. Environment Protection Authority Victoria guidelines recommend a 500-metre buffer for landfills which accept putrescible waste.

That same standard applies to Lyndhurst yet the guidelines are silent on buffers for prescribed industrial waste.

Last month's fire at the site elicited a CFA warning message to residents in Lynbrook, Lyndhurst and Dandenong South - in some cases living more than a kilometre from the site.

The landfill's operator, SITA, at the time stated the fire's smoke was not toxic and didn't escape beyond its boundaries.

"SITA's Taylor's Road landfill is an essential part of managing Victoria's waste needs and provides the appropriate buffer distances as set out in the EPA requirements," a spokeswoman said at the time.

Greater Dandenong Council were unable to comment by deadline.

NEWS

Battle of the toxic tip

BY CATHERINE WATSON

WHEN Ray Tormey bought a house in Lyndhurst three years ago, he looked across the Western Port Highway and wondered about the apparently vacant land on the other side.

As he soon found out, it was the Lyndhurst tip, the only Victorian landfill licensed to accept toxic wastes.

Last month, the news got worse when Planning Minister Matthew Guy said the site would be rezoned from farming to industrial 1, enabling it to process contaminated soil from all over Melbourne.

Mr Tormey said the new category A waste cell storing the residue would be exactly one kilometre from his house.

He is one of many residents of Lyndhurst, Lynbrook and Hampton Park hoping to attend when Parliament debates the rezoning, probably this week.

"People can't get their heads around what these terms mean," he said. "When we talk about toxic waste, we are talking about poison."

The subject is a touchy one in Lyndhurst, where about 50 houses are listed for sale.

When the *Weekly* turned up to photograph Mr Tormey and his neighbours last week, another neighbour accused the group of devaluing the neighbourhood.

Casey Council recently wrote to the state



Dishing the dirt: Ray Tormey, third from left, and his neighbours say they need their politicians to support them in their battle.

Picture: Wayne Hawkins

government asking it to amend the planning scheme to create a one-kilometre buffer zone around the landfill as soon as possible.

This won't help residents of Lyndhurst and Lynbrook who are just outside the one-kilometre boundary.

However, a letter from the Environment Protection Authority to Casey Council in 2002, before the landfill was accepting hazardous materials, quoted the *Hazardous Waste Consultative Committee's Final Report* (April 2000) as recommending "at least a 2km buffer distance to the nearest sensitive land use (i.e residential dwellings)" if hazardous waste

was accepted. Mr Tormey is unimpressed with the support for residents from Greater Dandenong and Casey councils so far.

In 2006, Greater Dandenong launched a fruitless \$500,000 Supreme Court action to halt the toxic waste dump. It won the appeal but the former state government 'called in' the proposal to ensure it went ahead.

"The councils claim their hands are tied because of the state government but they have to support their residents," Mr Tormey said.

"They can't just shake their heads and say there's nothing they can do."

GREATER DANDENONG

Candidates asked for site plans

GREATER Dandenong Council will call on the Victorian Premier and local candidates in the upcoming state election to reveal their position on the future of the controversial Lyndhurst Landfill Site.

At last Monday's meeting, council reaffirmed its long-held goal to close the Taylors Rd landfill in Dandenong South, which is managed by SITA Australia.

Councillors voted to seek advice from the Victorian Premier on his government's position on the site, as well as those of the candidates in the seat of Carrum in this year's state election.

Since concerns were raised in 2007, a community reference group was set up and a health study undertaken in 2011 into concerns emissions from the landfill and nearby industrial zone had increased illness in the community.

The assessment, by the Department of Health, concluded there was no evidence that living in the area had led to an increase in either cancer or pregnancy and birth abnormalities.

Mayor Jim Memeti said a recent tip fire, during which residents were urged to stay indoors, had heightened the community's concerns.

INBRIEF

Labor wins Lyndhurst on low vote

Labor candidate Martin Pakula has claimed victory in the Lyndhurst state byelection despite a historically low primary vote in the traditionally safe ALP seat. After counting on Saturday night, the ALP primary vote had plunged to 40.9 per cent. Its first-preference vote had previously never dipped below 50 per cent. Mr Pakula's spokesman did not wish to comment on the 14.6 per cent swing against Labor, instead declaring it was "the first day of the Napthine minority government". The Liberal-National Coalition — which did not field a candidate — and Labor now have 43 lower house seats each, with Frankston Independent MP and former Liberal Geoff Shaw holding the balance of power. There were large swings for minor parties in the byelection: Family First's Stephen Nowland polled second on primaries with 14.1 per cent, followed by Geraldine Gonsalvez (Democratic Labor Party), Hung Vo (Independent) and Nina Springle (Greens). Mr Pakula replaces Tim Holding, who had been in Parliament since 1999.

Cranbourne police, said the hoon meeting was set up on Facebook. Highway patrol units from Casey, Dandenong and Gardinia attended.

Re: '\$100,000 tip fine benefits locals'

Since when is it OK to bribe the public? If the EPA and council were serious about the nauseating odours from this above-ground, so-called landfill, they would investigate why it stinks or close it down as it cannot be controlled.

A \$100,000 fine is minimal to a huge company like Sita. Is this a one-off fine or does the EPA have to have multiple complaints before they can impose another fine for which the community "benefits"?

People who reside within one kilometre of the landfill have to keep their doors and windows closed. Goodness knows what the washing smells like. How will a walk in the park be enjoyable?

People caught in this plight and whose properties are devalued deserve better.

F Anderson, Clyde

RESIDENTS AGAINST TOXIC WASTE IN THE SOUTH EAST

Inc. No. A0038288B

P.O. Box 180, Dingley 3172 Chairperson: Thelma Wakelam 0414 998 337



16/3/12

Dear Members of Parliament,

Justice Morris, former President of Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) said in his speech on 'Inherent Conflicts in the Planning System' given at an Urban Development Institute of Australia [Victoria] luncheon, May 2007 that,

"Decisions about land use and development remain relevant for many years. Hence good decisions must display long term thinking, and not just pander to short term needs."

RATWISE is of the view that the C125 amendment to the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme, which is now before you for your consideration, is not a good decision displaying long term thinking and that it must be revoked.

The C125 amendment changes the site known as the Lyndhurst tip from a farming zone into an Industry 1 zone in order to facilitate the development of hazardous waste treatment facilities.

RATWISE asks,

1. Did the Planning panel consider the consequences for all Ind 1 zones in Victoria, of allowing the storage and treatment of hazardous waste, including Cat A (the most hazardous of all) in an Ind 1 zone at the Lyndhurst tip?
2. Was the panel aware the C125 amendment will see more hazardous waste industries successfully applying to establish in Ind 1 zones?
3. Will the C125 amendment result in applications to further develop the Lyndhurst tip site for the treatment and storage of toxic and other hazardous waste?
4. Is it good planning for the storage and treatment of toxic and hazardous waste in the middle of an area being developed for industries such as warehouses and distribution centres?
5. How was a decision made that an Ind 1 zone is appropriate for treatment of contaminated soil when a permit exists for one in an Ind 2 zone and also in a Special Use Ind 3 (a petrochemical Industry zone)?
6. Is there a need for planning schemes to be amended to ensure that hazardous waste facilities will not be permitted to establish in Ind 1 zones?

(RATWISE suggests that there may need to be changes to the land use term 'Materials Recycling' under Ind 1 zoning in that 'materials to be collected, dismantled, treated, processed, stored, recycled, sold, used, or surplus materials' must not be prescribed industrial wastes [PIW]. There may also be a need to ensure that hazardous waste at a refuse disposal in an Ind 1 zone is prohibited.)

RATWISE is also of the view that,

7. The Lyndhurst tip will fill in the near future and there is a need for the government to find an alternative site for the containment of residual hazardous wastes.
8. The government needs to develop a hazardous waste policy that will result in the phasing out of disposal of hazardous waste to landfill and that this policy is communicated to the public.

"people have a natural right to live in a clean and safe environment"

9. The PIW landfill levy should continue to be used to support the reduction in hazardous waste produced and going to landfill.

RATWISE believes a whole State approach is needed when assessing the C125, not to rely on Lyndhurst into the future, but work towards keeping hazardous waste out of our suburbs. Support is sought from all parties.

In concluding, **RATWISE** has received 593 letters of petition directed to Members of Parliament on the C125 amendment, indicating considerable community concern about the amendment and the storage and treatment of hazardous waste it facilitates. This community concern, along with the planning matters raised above, shows the inappropriateness of the C125 amendment to the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. **RATWISE** therefore asks Parliament to revoke the amendment in accord with section 38 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Sincerely,

Thelma Wakelam,
President

Residents Against Toxic Waste In the South East Inc