
From:
Sent: Wednesday, 27 June 2018 1:04 AM
To: EPD, Customer Services
Subject: Submission regarding the Materials Recovery Facility in Fyshwick

Categories:

Submission regarding proposed Materials Recovery Facility in Fyshwick

I am strongly opposed to the proposed Materials Recovery Facility in Fyshwick. I believe that it should not go ahead for the following reasons:

- Fyshwick is mainly a retail and light industrial area. It is visited daily by the complete spectrum of Canberrans for retail shopping, food shopping including fresh fruit and vegetables at the Fyshwick Markets and eating out at cafes and restaurants. The proposed site for the Materials Recovery Facility is less than a kilometre away from Fyshwick Markets and close to many cafes and restaurants not to mention the daily workplace for many hard working Canberrans. This Recovery Facility is likely to be large, messy, dirty and smelly – totally inappropriate for the Fyshwick area and its neighbouring suburbs of Narrabundah, Kingston, Red Hill and Manuka. If the government's agenda is proceeded with, and the planned Waste to Energy facility is considered a possibility, it is also likely to be a high health risk to the local area and the broader Canberra area beginning with the Inner South. Canberrans are not likely to blindly allow themselves to be subjected to the long term tragic health consequences of a rubbish incinerator pumping out fumes from a wide range of detritus 24 hours a day.
- There is no evidence that the current waste facility, Mugga Lane Landfill, will not be sufficient for Canberra's rubbish as there is legislation to allow it to operate effectively for the next few decades. There is no need for the Materials Recovery Facility in Canberra. It would astound and alarm me if the ACT was considering importing NSW's waste in order to justify a Waste Recovery Facility. This would irresponsibly put Canberran's future health at risk if the Plan is to import rubbish from NSW to justify a rubbish incinerator or so called Waste to Energy Facility (although the energy created is low). Energy projects that are much safer and effective including projects like methane gas recovery would be a better, less risky investment.
- The risk of fire or other industrial accidents involving waste products has been apparent all over the world and recent events in Fyshwick including the fire in a pile of recycling material leading to health warnings and resulting in monitoring of toxic smoke in 2015 do not encourage confidence in the ACT Government's regulation of safety in recycling yards. Rumours of recent fires involving arsenic from old batteries in Fyshwick where ACT Fire and Rescue were asked to initially stay away are another scary indication of the risk to Canberran's health that the ACT Government may have allowed through lax regulation. This pattern of behaviour and history of industrial accidents and resulting health effects would require at least some further examination before increasing the amount of recycling material in Fyshwick that may indeed lead to further health risks.
- The traffic impact of an endless line of waste trucks at a rate of 460 movements per day on Ipswich Street and likely leaving a trail of rubbish by the less careful operators just does not bear thinking about. Is it worth completely ruining the amenity of the area for existing residents of Narrabundah and the Inner South, the future The East Lake development and people who work in Fyshwick? Of course it's not. I admire Canberra's extensive urban planning but this Waste Recovery Facility proposal, close to residential, extensive employment, retail stores, restaurants and cafes is not compatible with anything I have read so far from the ACT Government.

This proposed Waste Recovery facility is, without question, the wrong proposal for Fyshwick. I will continue to advocate to prevent this from occurring. Please reconsider this proposal and do not allow it to go ahead so close to residential, retail and employment. I wonder why we need one at all given our existing facility appears to be sufficient. I have strongly supported many initiatives by this current government. I love the planning vision of a healthy and well connected city, the socially inclusive approach and the recent advocacy for marriage equality. I would hope that the ACT Government will make equally considered decisions regarding risks to our health from industrial waste and live up to its green credentials in a way that does not risk the health of people in the ACT and maintains the amenity of a livable Fyshwick and surrounding areas.

As a note regarding a Waste to Energy incinerator; this just must not occur. The potential risks when such a plant drops in its effectiveness (as they invariably do) regarding Dioxins and other bio-accumulative pollutants, and their proven consequences regarding cancer circles, rule out such an option. There is a wide range of people living in the vicinity of Fyshwick including young families. Surely this is not a legacy we are willing to role the dice on for the future of Canberra families. Once Dioxins are in the environment they are there to stay.

Yours sincerely,