

**Submission Responding to  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement:  
Materials Recovery Facility Fyshwick: April 2018**

**To the Director General of ACT Planning. [EPDCustomerServices@act.gov.au](mailto:EPDCustomerServices@act.gov.au)**

I refer to the above-mentioned Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I have many concerns about this project.

1. The addition of a very large number of heavy duty garbage trucks into an already busy road system in Fyshwick will have serious negative consequences. This road system already has some intersections at or near capacity, especially the Monaro Highway / Ipswich Street intersections at Canberra Avenue and Newcastle Street. Accident risk will increase. Also this will add considerably to atmospheric pollution as the trucks will most likely be diesel.
2. The project is expected to seriously impact surrounding businesses and nearby current and future residents because of increased traffic congestion, smell, noise and dust. Quick opening and closing doors are ineffective if they are constantly opening and closing due to frequent traffic entering and exiting. The site is already heavily polluted from its previous use as a fuel depot. The ongoing viability of Fyshwick in its current role seems to be at considerable risk due to the potential addition of just this one business.
3. The site is very close to Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve and there are residential areas nearby in Fyshwick, Narrabundah and Kingston. There appears to be a very high likelihood that the facility will be injurious to the health of both humans and wildlife even during normal operation, let alone if unexpected disastrous events occur to the processing at the site (such as the recent fire in a metal recycling plant in Underwood St, Beard).
4. Current Canberra rubbish facilities are located at more remote locations in Canberra which are dedicated to waste handling, and further away from residential areas. As Canberra continues to grow in population, it makes no sense to locate a new materials recovery facility in a central area very close to existing residential areas. Also, existing Canberra

rubbish facilities have some years of capacity available and hence, there appears to be no immediate urgency for a new facility.

5. The proposed facility is understood to be the largest in Australia. This would on the face of it appear excessive for the ACT. We should not be producing this amount of waste and it is too risky for a single private operator have a monopoly.
6. An independent air quality assessment report is needed which assesses the existing base levels of air pollution (which could be significant) and the impact of the proposed development. We do not know if even a small amount of additional pollution will tip the area over unhealthy levels (if it is not already there).
7. A number of concerns bring into question whether the draft EIS and Scoping Document have lawful foundations. Some of these follow.
8. The applicant does not yet own all the land for which a draft EIS has been submitted and a development application approved (also questionable).
9. Rail use is a prohibited use under Territory law for Block 11, Section 8.
10. There are a number of deficiencies with the Development Application including that the applicant did not own the land and it was lodged under the incorrect track.
11. There is considerable inconsistency between the various documents about the intended or approved use of the land (for example, the DA application, DA approval, Direct Sale Panel advice to the Minister). Uses proposed or approved variously include heavy rail siding, metal recycling facility, hard stand, processing of red bin waste.
12. The whole process is inappropriately proceeding before the ACT government has finalised its Waste Feasibility Study. This study should identify better waste management options in more appropriate locations.

In summary, this seems to be an ill-conceived project that should be terminated as soon as possible. The ongoing uncertainty resulting from prolonging this potential project will continue to cause concern in the community, placing existing Fyshwick businesses at risk and potentially impacting the value of nearby residential properties.

