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Submission opposing the MRF at Fyshwick
EIS 201700053

I object to the proposal to construct a large waste transfer station at Ipswich Street Fyshwick. The site of the former Shell depot is seriously contaminated with hydrocarbons which have seeped into the groundwater and soil and migrated off site. The potential for these to affect our water ways has been too easily dismissed in the Draft EIS.

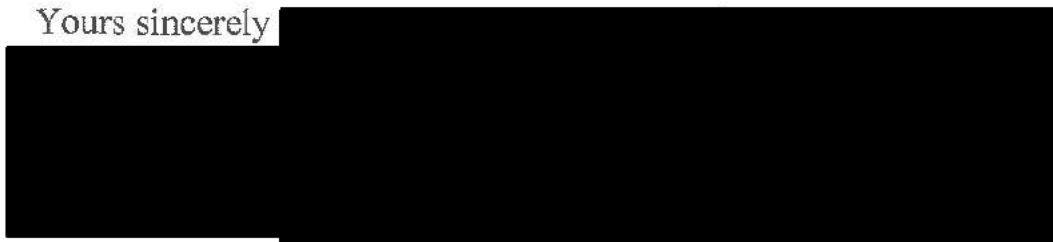
Jerrabomberra Creek is an important and iconic Canberra waterway. It is shameful that this creek and the Wetlands are already significantly degraded by sediment, salinity and heavy metals, all most probably introduced from the Fyshwick light industrial area. There is currently a revitalisation program being undertaken to restore the health of the creek's riparian banks and water quality.

As a community we must take every step we can to protect the environmental integrity of our precious waterways by reducing the adverse environmental impacts that degrade them. The Draft EIS for a MRF on a site which itself is seriously degraded by chemical spillage from its past use as a fuel depot, offers no protection to Jerrabomberra Creek but rather exposes it to further ecological harm. The EIS concludes that there is little risk to the creek since it is 400 metres from the site. This conclusion must be rejected.

No assessment or testing of the stormwater channel/creek on the western side of Ipswich Street, which runs into a pond and thence into the Creek has been undertaken to see if the migration of the hydrocarbon pollution has reached the channel or if the channel is acting as a conduit for that contamination into Jerrabomberra Creek. The ephemeral creek along the railway siding to the north on block 11 also needs additional testing to see if it could become a pathway for contaminants into Jerrabomberra Creek. The most recent site assessment with a comprehensive testing regime was done in 2008 and 2009 for AECOM for Shell. AECOM recommended further study but none appears to have been undertaken.

The EIS should have addressed this issue more thoroughly with a detailed, up to date, testing programme. We ask you as Minister responsible to see that this is completed as it should have been in the EIS. If not then it should be rejected as unsatisfactory. Our waterways deserve our protection.

Yours sincerely

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