

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 9:00 PM
To: EPD, Customer Services
Subject: NI 2018-27 Application No: 201700053 Submission opposing the MRF at Fyshwick

Categories: Green Category

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to oppose the MRF Waste to Energy Plant including an incinerator at Fyshwick. I knew about it but thought this idea had been canned so was shocked to hear incinerating rubbish was still on!

Isn't burning rubbish what they do in third world slums?

The ACT Government needs to oversee a reduction in rubbish not increase air pollution by allowing the incineration of rubbish!!!!

If it is safe, put it next to the ACT Legislative assembly not near us.

I feel like we are being experimented on, and see this as an intrusion on our rights as many people in Queanbeyan are on a lower income and have English as a second language.

REASONS

We bought a flat a year ago on the Fyshwick side of Queanbeyan and have leased a vegetable garden plot at Oaks Estate.

I ride and drive though Fyshwick every day as I often travel to Manuka and Kingston. I sometimes go to Bunnings three times a day as we are renovating. Well what a waste of effort, because if this goes ahead we will be living next to the arse end of Canberra and no-one will want to live in Queanbeyan near a polluting waste treatment facility that is burning toxic materials.

A waste processing facility with an incinerator should be away from people not at Fyshwick near where we shop and travel through regularly. I am very concerned about being exposed to unacceptable health risks while gardening at Oaks Estate and living at Queanbeyan as well as the traffic risk of increased garbage truck movements. If this facility opens and we get cancer we will sue the ACT government for allowing this health affecting facility to open in an area frequented by people and near our home.

People are being paid an incentive to no longer have wood fires to improve air quality. So why should a private operator be allowed to burn as this will make air quality worse?

I have visited the waste treatment facility west of Tarago while studying a Masters of Env Science and all they do there is capture methane and turn it into power and it is contained in a deep cut mine and miles from anywhere. The six semis that transfer the daily rubbish train with approximately 52 carriages from Sydney do not have to encounter the traffic of Fyshwick. West of Tarago and Mugga Lane are much better locations for waste treatment due to their isolation.

IT IS CRAZY TO INCINERATE WASTE IN A BUSINESS CENTRE THAT PEOPLE FREQUENT NEAR LARGE NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS

An alternative to reduce waste is to have reverse vending machines at every shopping centre and collect organic waste from restaurants etc that produce a high volume of organic waste.

Regards

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give - Winston Churchill

Notes to help you write an objection to EIS Application No. 201700053

Please lodge your objection to the Fyshwick Material Waste Facility (MRF) proposal by responding to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Government Scoping Document is the basis for the EIS that is now open for comment with the closing date for responses set at **27th June 2018.**

To help you respond either by email or letter we have put together general information to guide you through the issues raised at the public meetings that reinforce why that proposal should not be allowed at this site. There are informative submissions on the EPSDD website for your reference.

We have also included links to the EIS Document and other submissions.

Topics of objection

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- **Health Risks** – The Health Report in the EIS is inadequate and fails to assess the air inversion issue for this inner south area, the hazardous working conditions inside a supposedly sealed shed and the increased diesel fumes concentrated by slow moving heavy vehicles on the single through lanes of Ipswich St. The NSW EPA has assessed the Queanbeyan/Canberra area as having the highest reading of 2.5 particulates outside of Sydney. Those with asthma and hay fever are aware of the breathing difficulties. Not taken into account is the cumulative effect on human health from activities in the adjacent scrap metal yard which is the rail freight to Port Botany, integral to the project.

- **Odour** - The most obvious impact for locals living close to the proposal is smell, all the red bin waste and commercial bin waste from Canberra and surrounds will be processed in the shed to be built with the fumes drawn up via 6 storey high chimneys and pumped into the air to swirl around our area. You will smell it! CRS have not justified a major part of its proposal by comparison with sheds that transfer both red bin (wet) and dry waste in the one facility. The similar Banksmeadow transfer terminal in Sydney found it could only handle the single stream of red bin waste to Woodlawn despite intending both.
- **Traffic** - All garbage trucks along with much larger articulated and B Double vehicles will need to access and leave the site each day. This equates to 460 extra garbage truck movements on Ipswich St alone. This is already a congested traffic area and these numbers will bring Fyshwick traffic around the site close to a standstill when it is operating. The EIS has not accounted for the lunch time peak for traffic in the area nor can modelling be done on an average truck movement in and out of the site but is required to address a worst case scenario. The trucks will travel mainly between 7am and 4pm so the average is more likely to be one every 2 not 4 minutes. Obviously queueing will occur as happens at Mugga now.
- **Noise** – Those that live in Old Narrabundah are already aware of the noise from heavy vehicles each night when background noise is minimal, add to this another industry with longer than usual processing operational hours and increased truck movements as proposed just to interrupt your peace and quiet for longer each day. Residents closest to this site will also have to battle with the noise from heavy machinery processing the waste late into the evening and early in the morning. There are residents living within 100m on Wiluna St.
- **Fire Risk** – The proponents do not have the best record for alleviating fire risk in their metal yard. The ACT Fire Service has been called seven times to the proponent’s current operation in Lithgow St Fyshwick over the last four years. The proponents are not handling unsorted/contaminated product, including putrescible waste which is a dangerous combustible, so we can only imagine how often the ACT Fire Service may attend the site if this proposal goes ahead. What comes from fire is toxic fumes that effect on site workers, all those close by and those in the direction of the wind. Businesses in the area would be closed down and we could be ordered to leave our homes while the fire was brought under control. Fires in waste transfer stations can burn for days.
- **Life of our Existing Mugga Lane Facility** – There is no issue of poor waste management in the ACT. We have environmental targets second to none. The Mugga Lane landfill operation has legislation which supports some 30 years of operation from 2015. The environmental offsets were all in place ahead of time.
The Mugga bioreactor collecting methane to produce electricity is more efficient than at Woodlawn (Tarago) where CRS say the waste will go. We own Mugga. We have the most

advanced glass treatment in our recycling Facility at Hume. The Waste Feasibility Study, an important government investigation over more than 2 years has a major recommendation for food and garden organics to go into our new green bins to be composted. This proposal is to rail more than 80% of the waste delivered to Fyshwick into landfill 70 km away. We have reduced waste to landfill by 30% in the time that the ACT population has more than doubled so we don't need to give CRS a monopoly on our waste management or to locate any waste facility at Fyshwick. Minister Fitzharris's call to industry in February 2017 sites the Hume Waste Precinct and the area across the Monaro Highway at Hume as a centre of excellence for waste management in Australia.

- **Recycle** – The claim is to achieve a further 20% of recycle product from our bins however world figures from like facilities only show figures of between 2% and 10%. Our existing Mugga facility is already achieving these figures so the Fyshwick site would not boost the community's expectation of a better recycling model.
- **Devaluing our Assets** – Our land is our major asset in ACT and it could be argued that the land opposite this site known as East Lake could suffer heavy losses in price expectation if this proposal went ahead. East Lake is at the notification stage and will in the future house 9000 people living in buildings up to 6 storeys high. These price devaluations will impact on property owners in Fyshwick, Symonston, Narrabundah and the Kingston Foreshore. The ACT government owns a 5.8h site in Lithgow St and Canberra Ave. Future development proposals will similarly be devalued with proximity to a red bin waste facility.
- **Are we the Capital of Australia?** – Why would we jeopardise opportunities to sell our city to the world in the best possible way. This site is within 4.2km from most National buildings and the Parliamentary triangle. Why risk smell, fire or even a toxic bloom close to these National treasures and tourism attractions.
- **What of the impacts to business in the same street** – The EIS offers little in consideration to the future of the existing businesses in this area. Shoppers will stay away and the viability of the businesses will be at risk, tenants will want out of their leases and landlords will be left with poor prospects for attracting new business into their premises. CRS has done no assessment of the property devaluations as promised at its presentations to community.
- **Our Wetlands** – Little to no risk is the statement in the EIS. However this Shell site is seriously contaminated with hydrocarbons which have possibly leached into the groundwater and soil and may have migrated off site. This risk has been too easily dismissed in the EIS and the proposal offers no protection to Jerrabomberra Creek but rather exposes it to further ecological harm. No proper hydrological assessment is contained in the EIS.

- **Could we be stuck with a lemon** –There is no evidence that the NSW Government, through their Woodlawn facility, will take all the unrecyclable waste from the ACT through this site. Why would the NSW Government legislate for Woodlawn to take some 240,000tpa from the ACT which will shorten the life of its major landfill site accepting around 20% of Sydney’s red bin waste? There is also no evidence to support the claim that the ACT Government will allow contracts to CRS on any kerbside waste. Only commercial will be available.
- **ACT Waste Feasibility Study** – This paper recommends diversion of organics from landfill, however, this proposal for Fyshwick diverts organic waste from Mugga landfill to another at Woodlawn about 70km away. We can do better as a city because we have the space at Mugga to improve our organic recycling and help achieve community expectations, along with government targets, in the future on recycling. In the ACT Waste Strategy 2011-2025 *The ACT Government has adopted the policy that the ACT must continue to manage its own waste (i.e. not send it away for disposal). As such consideration has been given to the selection of areas within the ACT suitable for landfill into the future.* This strategy policy feeds into the Waste Feasibility Study recently released. HAVE YOUR SAY now until to 2 July.
- **Waste to Energy** –The proposal for the Fyshwick site does not include the burning of waste however the option of a future incinerator is still part of the ACTPLA scoping document and can be put forward as stage 2, even though the proponents deny this is their intention. The CRS Application to Government in this EIS process clearly advises stage 1 to be the MRF and stage 2 to be the waste to energy incinerator as “ancillary” which is developers speak in order to receive clear passage from government.

Please encourage everyone you know to write an objection, our members of the ACT Legislative Assemble need to know the community does not want this type of waste site in Fyshwick.

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WHO TO WRITE TO:-

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State you are opposing the EIS

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NI 2018-27

Application No: 201700053

Submission opposing the MRF at Fyshwick

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Email:

EPDCustomerServices@act.gov.au

Mail to:

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate Customer Service

GPO Box 158

Canberra ACT 2601

Hand to:

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's

Customer Service Centre

[16 Challis Street, Dickson.](#)

If you wish to make a submission it must:

- be in writing
- detail the reasons for the submission
- must be received by the Directorate during the notification period.

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