

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 June 2018 1:19 PM
To: EPD, Customer Services
Subject: Objection to Fyshwick Material Waste EIS, Application No: 201700053

Categories: Green Category

I strongly object to the absurd proposal to construct a massive 7,275m² waste transfer shed a mere 3.2 km from the Parliamentary Triangle and 4.2 km from Parliament House.

The report "Waste Fires in Australia: Cause for Concern?" (environment.gov.au), advises that waste facilities are prone to fires with toxic fumes resulting in large scale evacuations. The danger of fire will increase commensurate with the predicted rise in summer temperatures and the increasing use of lithium-ion batteries in household and other goods. The flammability of these batteries is such that the UN aviation agency prohibits their shipment on passenger aircraft.

The proposed operator of the Fyshwick facility, Capital Recycling Solutions, claims in section 6.11.5 of the EIS that the post-mitigation risk of fires is "very low". So would have all the operators of waste facilities where fires occurred and smoldered at times for weeks and even months. As happened in the case of Fukushima, unexpected occurrences and human error tend to disprove theoretical calculations of the risk factor. According to the *Fire and Rescue NSW, Annual Report 2016-17* (p. 8), 5,036 "rubbish fires" had to be attended to in NSW in one year alone.

With the unusually strong winds we have recently experienced in Canberra, it cannot be ruled out that toxic fumes from even a small fire at the proposed Fyshwick site could result in the Parliamentary Triangle having to be evacuated. Should the winds blow into the opposite direction, the airport would have to be closed.

As a nation occupying a whole continent, Australia would become the laughing stock of the world if its parliament could not sit due to toxic fumes from a near-by waste facility. Does your Assembly really want to go down in history as one which lacked the foresight to prevent the construction of a massive 7,275m² waste transfer shed in the vicinity of parliament house on account of the persuasiveness of a commercial operator?

With proper precautions, a fire such as described above, might occur only once in five or ten years. The odours from the facility, however, will be transported by winds in a similar way. No doubt Canberra will be no longer recommended as one of the world's top tourist destinations when these odours greet tourists on arrival at the airport and when touring the Parliamentary Triangle.