

Public comment submission: Wyndham Landfill application for works approval

#11

COMPLETE



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PAGE 1: You and your contact details

Q1: First name [REDACTED]
Q2: Surname [REDACTED]
Q3: Postcode 3030
Q4: Email address [REDACTED]
Q5: Phone number [REDACTED]
Q6: Is this your only submission for this works approval application? Yes

PAGE 2: Your submission

Q7: Issues

Proposal is not compliant with principles of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and/or State Environmental Planning Policy	Very High
Energy and greenhouse gas emissions	Very High
Existing site or Applicant's performance and compliance	High
Waste generation / storage / treatment	Very High
Design issues and proposed technology	Very High
Environmental management	Very High
Sustainability	Very High

Q8: Potential impacts

Ground water resources	Very High
Noise amenity	Medium
Health risks and/or hazards	Very High
Air (e.g. emissions, dust or odour)	High
Land and soil resources	High
Surface water resources	High

PAGE 3: Issue details

Q9: Issue 1 (Optional)

1. The visual pollution caused by the expanding mountain of waste that can be seen from many locations in the west of the City of Wyndham. This was not so much of a problem when the first two cells were constructed, as they didn't rise above the surrounding trees. The later cells have been raised to a height of 44m AHD, and extend upwards to a height way above the neighbouring trees.

Q10: Issue 2 (Optional)

2. The principle that Wyndham Council are operating the landfill as a short term money making enterprise, and are accepting waste from Councils from all over Melbourne and Geelong. If they only needed to dispose of rubbish from within the Wyndham area, then there would not be a need for such a large and high landfill operation. Wyndham residents were never consulted by Council if they were prepared to accept all of this extra waste from the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Q11: Issue 3 (Optional)

If the EPA were to grant this permit, then the local community will effectively be excluded from any involvement in decision making involving issues with the landfill operation for upwards of 30 years. Wyndham Council may say that they work with a Community Reference Group on local concerns, but the Council control who will be a member of that group, when they meet, and they only release selected information to them for consideration.

Q12: Issue 4 (Optional)

I am strongly opposed to Council asking to increase the size and height of the first landfill cells. It is well documented that they were not properly lined, and there is a potential for discharge into the water table. Adding more waste to these cells will only compound the problem that they pose.

Q13: Issue 5 (Optional)

My final concern is the impact of this ugly tip mountain has on the sense of Community Pride and achievement that has built up within this city. We are finally getting over the former stigma caused by odours emanating from the Western Treatment Plant at Cocoroc, and now the Wyndham Council are attempting to add another unnecessary blight on the reputation of the west.

PAGE 4: Endorsement and submission

Q14: Do you object or approve the proposal?

Object,

Please provide an explanation
Mr W J Strong 24 Wattle Ave Werribee.
wstrong@labyrinth.net.au 05 February 2017. To:
Environment Protection Authority Victoria. Objection to
Wyndham Landfill works Approval Application. This is
my submission and objection to Wyndham City
Council's application for a works approval to extend
their landfill at 470 Wests Road Werribee. Their
proposal is to construct four new large landfill cell
areas (each made up of multiple cells) and raise the
height of existing cells 1A, 2 and 3. I am a concerned
resident of Wyndham and I wish to strongly object to
the above application by Wyndham Council to seek a
EPA Works Approval for such an extensive scope of
works under the one EPA approval. I am asking that
the current system be maintained, whereby the

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Wyndham Council seek an EPA Works Approval individually, for each cell, prior to construction of each new cell. My reasons for objecting to the current application are as follows –

1. The visual pollution caused by the expanding mountain of waste that can be seen from many locations in the west of the City of Wyndham. This was not so much of a problem when the first two cells were constructed, as they didn't rise above the surrounding trees. The later cells have been raised to a height of 44m AHD, and extend upwards to a height way above the neighbouring trees.
2. The principle that Wyndham Council are operating the landfill as a short term money making enterprise, and are accepting waste from Councils from all over Melbourne and Geelong. If they only needed to dispose of rubbish from within the Wyndham area, then there would not be a need for such a large and high landfill operation. Wyndham residents were never consulted by Council if they were prepared to accept all of this extra waste from the Melbourne metropolitan area.
3. This proposal in effect creates an unlimited potential dumping ground for Melbourne's waste for many years into the future. It does nothing to encourage recycling and recovering of waste from industry or in the wider community.
4. If the EPA were to grant this permit, then the local community will effectively be excluded from any involvement in decision making involving issues with the landfill operation for upwards of 30 years. Wyndham Council may say that they work with a Community Reference Group on local concerns, but the Council control who will be a member of that group, when they meet, and they only release selected information to them for consideration.
5. The discharge of odours from the current landfill are very offensive. While this is not a continuous problem, an increase in the size of the landfill above ground level, means an increase in the potential source of odours. The current criteria for reporting odour problems are very restrictive, and don't allow a detailed survey of the problems to be registered.
6. I am strongly opposed to Council asking to increase the size and height of the first landfill cells. It is well documented that they were not properly lined, and there is a potential for discharge into the water table. Adding more waste to these cells will only compound the problem that they pose.
7. Fire Safety. A few years ago there was a previous incident where a cell caught fire and burned for several days. Attempts to extinguish it resulted in contaminated water being exposed to the environment. Then last year one of the landfill cells caught fire (or as the Council explained it – it had a hot spot). Council proposed pumping water into the cell, which apparently is an inappropriate method of handling the problem. I am not convinced that the operators of the Wests Road landfill are capable of dealing with fire in the current landfill. Expanding the site many times over will only exasperate the potential problems.
8. I am concerned as to the possible impact that this large landfill will have on the nearby RAMSAR bird areas, downstream of the tip site. I have not seen any report

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on the possible impact to these wetlands and their inhabitants, if a spillage or contamination from the Wests Road site was to occur. Increasing the size of the landfill will only add to the possible dangers of anything happening 9. My final concern is the impact of this ugly tip mountain has on the sense of Community Pride and achievement that has built up within this city. We are finally getting over the former stigma caused by odours emanating from the Western Treatment Plant at Cocoroc, and now the Wyndham Council are attempting to add another unnecessary blight on the reputation of the west. I strongly oppose the granting of this blanket Works Approval to the Wyndham Council, and ask that the present system of progressive applications be retained. Yours sincerely,
Bill Strong 03 97415108

Q15: Additional materials (Optional)

Respondent skipped this question