

Hon. Mark McGowan
Minister for Environment
20th Floor Governor Stirling Tower,
197 St Georges Terrace Perth 6000

16th January 2007

RE: RED HILL WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

May I firstly state that we are not the type of people who enjoy raising issues and nor do we find much satisfaction in doing so, however we have recently been convicted that it is absolutely necessary to continue to do so in relation to this matter, in the overall interests of the rapidly growing Parkerville community and indeed our own family.

We wrote some two years ago to the Minister at the time (Dr Judy Edwards) regarding the Environmental Impact and Issues related to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. We received a response on behalf of the Minister from Dr Ross Field dated 10 May 2005 (please see attached initial correspondence and response) that gave some assurances as to the future activity at the above site and their ongoing compliance. It would appear that all those assurances are purely rhetoric and the Red Hill Waste Management Facility has continued with greater environmental impact than ever before, particularly now given approval has been granted and construction underway for a Class IV cell for contaminated waste.

In Dr Fields response he states that *“The Minister has been advised that no application has been lodged with DoE regarding proposed extensions of the site to include further landfill cells”* A new cell is in construction as we speak and most of the local community were not consulted, many people that we have spoken to did not have any opportunity to comment even though they are strongly opposed to it.

Dr Field further states *“With regard to noise and vibration occurring whilst blasting..... a number of complaints were registered at the time Dr Edwards has been advised that EMRC have notified DoE that no further blasting will occur onsite”* At the end of last year my wife noticed on at least two occasions blasting occurred once again that made all the windows and doors in our house shake and many cracks appear in the walls where they join the cornices.

The wind blown litter/rubbish pollution, odour, dust and the visible appearance of the site from the south looking north have never been as prominent and intrusive as in recent times. The massive dirt mounds adjacent increasing by at least 3 to 5 times their original size (when we were assured in our first correspondence that these would only diminish in size over the past two years) these dirt mounds are now visible from Toodyay Rd to the south and are a horrific outlook and eyesore for the residences on Hidden Valley Rd looking North. This has also increased the dirt and dust particles in the air (a similar effect to the sand movement of the Lancelin sand dunes), the erosion of this dirt on a

windy day is appalling and you can often visibly see the mass of sand movement being blown by the wind off the top of these mounds. It is common to wake up to layers of dust and sand on our motor vehicles, outdoor furniture etc. and with all the surrounding houses on rain water tanks this creates many of its own ongoing dilemmas.

We continue to find wind blown litter throughout the rear of our property and in the adjacent public open space and John Forrest National Park and are tired of picking it up. The noise in recent times has also become unbearable with our children and us being woken by the sound of massive earth moving equipment moving dirt and reversing, this continues throughout the day from 7am through to 5pm every day except Sunday (and public holidays).

As recommended in our initial correspondence, the only reasonable outcome in the interests of the environment (including one of Perth's original and premier National Parks) is for the activities of the Red Hill Landfill Facility to decrease and for it to be relocated in a less environmentally impacting area than present. The massive growth of residences currently being built and in development (as many as 2,532 proposed lots/residences and 7,142 people in the immediate area) make a site like Red Hill Waste Management Facility unsustainable and unviable. To continue such a site is to compromise the health, safety and well being of the current and proposed communities and indeed the John Forrest National Park.

Thank you for your time and assistance in addressing these concerning matters and if we can add any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

cc: Jay Radisich - Member for Swan Hills
Charlie Gregorini - Mayor City of Swan (c/o Jayne Rogers)

Original in the post