



## Inner South Canberra Community Council

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA  
Minister for Planning and Land Management

cc Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction  
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment  
Ms Jo Clay MLA  
Mr Rob Evans, President, Fyshwick Business Association

Dear Mr Gentleman

### **Planning and Development Amendment Act 2021**

I write to congratulate you for bringing forward the above legislation. In doing so, you have addressed widely held concerns about waste facilities proposed for Fyshwick. The ISCCC notes that this legislation responds to tripartite commitments made during the 2020 election campaign.

- In early September 2020, when Minister Steel announced that ACT Labor would not support the proposal for a household garbage processing and recycling plant in Fyshwick, he noted that the Government's waste strategy clearly stated that major recycling facilities should be co-located in the more industrial area of Hume.
- Also, in September 2020 ACT Greens issued a statement position on waste facility proposals which noted that the community had justifiable concerns about environmental and air quality impacts. The Greens advocated a moratorium on the approval of new waste facilities including the Fragmentiser.
- The Canberra Liberals advocated a moratorium on waste facilities in Fyshwick.

Your Presentation Speech referred to the environmental impacts, impacts on amenity for surrounding businesses and their customers, the impacts on residents in nearby suburbs, and traffic impacts from the CRS and Hi Quality proposals. You also expressed concern about the potential for large-scale importation of waste from other jurisdictions. The ISCCC shares these concerns.

It is in this context that we wish to raise the issue of the expansion of the Fyshwick Metal Recycling Facility, which will shred whole cars in the open air (the Fragmentiser). As you will be aware, Access Recycling plans to significantly expand its Lithgow Street metal recycling facility by adding three new processing machines for crushing and cutting scrap metal and separating the metal from waste.

In our view the assessment of the DA for this expansion was highly flawed. In October 2020 Mr Ponton informed the ISCCC that the DA sought approval for installation of a concrete slab, fence and machinery within the existing recycling facility. Although this was a major expansion of operations, it

was not considered to be a proposal for 'a recycling facility'. The decision to process the DA through the Merit Track meant that consideration of the major human health and environmental impacts was inadequate.

For example, the ACT EPA *Separation Distance Guidelines for Air Emissions* 2018 apply because the proposed expanded facility will have a major impact for the surrounding mixed use industrial area. Harvey Norman and AllBids and other established businesses are within 60m and will be exposed to increased noise and toxic air emissions.

Further, there will be significant noise from grinding, shredding and crushing of metal and the use of vibrating separators. The proposed new machinery, an Italian Zato metal shredder and hammermill, operates at 115-120 dBA. This is equivalent to the sound level of a jet plane at take-off. These factors were not given appropriate consideration in the approval of the DA. The ISCCC notes that this facility would not have been able to gain approval under environmental and planning legislation in other Australian jurisdictions.

Despite the commitments made during the election campaign regarding waste processing facilities, the DA was approved on 30 October 2020. In the circumstances, the ISCCC considers that this approval was highly inappropriate.

In the view of the ISCCC:

- It would be very difficult for our residents to understand how this proposal can proceed, given the pre-election commitments;
- The Fragmentiser, like the other proposals mentioned above would involve trucking around 30,000 tonnes of material per annum into Fyshwick – which clearly qualifies it to be classified as a major waste facility; and
- The environmental and other impacts referred to in your Presentation Speech are equally of concern in the case of the Fragmentiser.

The ISCCC considers that the new Act should be amended to extend its coverage to the major expansion of the Fyshwick Metal Recycling Facility.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely



Gary Kent  
Chair  
16 February 2021