

Response from Minister Chris Steel MLA re-Fyshwick Waste facilities

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Fri 11/09/2020 3:53 PM

To: ISCCC Chairperson <Chair@isccc.org.au>

1. Commit to an ongoing waste management policy that rules out any future waste to energy plant, or waste facility leading to reduced air quality or other adverse health impacts, mass importation of waste from interstate, or that threatens the light industrial and bulk retail future of Fyshwick and residential future of East Lake.

ACT Labor in Government has banned Waste to Energy. We introduced the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act which includes the proximity principle in managing waste. At the Meeting of Environment Ministers Chris Steel MLA has been advocating for a national approach to waste levy's to address improper interstate waste transfers.

2. Establish an air quality monitoring station in Fyshwick.

There are a range of different enquiries currently underway that touch on air quality, mainly in the context of bushfire smoke but are directly relevant to the issue of localised air quality monitoring. ACT Labor if re-elected will build on the outcomes of these enquiries, particularly the Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements, to develop a strategic approach to air quality monitoring.

3. Consider the cumulative impact of current and proposed waste facilities in Fyshwick.

The cumulative impacts of multiple facilities and proposals is considered by the Planning and Land Authority in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application assessment process.

4. Change the ACT Territory Plan so that such major waste facilities are prohibited as a land use in Fyshwick.

The ACT's Waste Management Strategy outlined that resource recovery facilities should be co-located at Hume. The development approvals process considers government policies, such as the Waste Strategy. A re-elected Labor Government will consider if further changes are required, noting that a comprehensive review of the planning system is under way. This process will result in changes to the Territory Plan, guided by Canberrans.