

ISCCC inaugural online forum - Tuesday 26 May 2020 at 7pm

Presentation speech on CRS and Hi Quality waste hubs for Fyshwick - Peter Moore

Powerpoint slides align with the text

SLIDE 1: Cover – Waste transfer and processing at Fyshwick

SLIDE 2: MAP of FYSHWICK with blue circles to indicate the location of CRS and Hi Qual hubs

Fyshwick is located in Central Canberra. It is a suburb of the inner south and its businesses are predominantly commercial and large retail. Economically it is our second largest commercial centre at \$2.3 billion per year.

It is a service industry locale where you find many things you seek - antiques, cars, pets' needs, out of hours vets, Second hand books, hardware, building materials, furniture, motor vehicles, beds, tiles, Persian rugs, any floor coverings, auction houses, equipment hire and the list goes on. Who goes to Fyshwick to access waste facilities?

On the map the blue circles locate the two proposed Fyshwick waste transfer and processing hubs.

The CRS waste hub is on 3 hectares between Ipswich and Lithgow Streets. Additionally, it takes over one hectare of public rail corridor for the waste train to Woodlawn.

What government, what community in its right mind would allow a major waste hub with the capacity to receive, process and transfer 300,000 tonnes per annum of waste of unknown origin and unknown content to be located in Fyshwick with most of the waste handled to be freighted by rail to landfill at Woodlawn 70km away.

The CRS hub will be within a kilometre of our southside fresh food markets, three childcare centres, hundreds of residents at Narrabundah and just 500m from the more than 200 residents of the southside Village on Canberra Ave. There is the Molonglo Group's Dairy Rd innovative development 350m away. The waste hub as proposed in the CRS environmental impact statement increases heavy vehicle movements on Ipswich St by 138,000 each year.

Then we come to the High Quality Group's "multi-operational" hub located on Tennant St.

What government, what community in its right mind would allow a second major waste hub, a most complex operation, to be located next to a river corridor where a watercourse is identified to go from the site into the Molonglo River. The amount of waste to be handled at this site at 1.1million tonnes per annum is greater than the whole of Canberra's waste production.

Yet we have under assessment and with some elements already approved by government, proposals for these two major waste hubs both to be located in Fyshwick.

HOW CAN THIS BE?

WELL, We do not have the strong environmental policies and laws of other states. Governments are no longer concerned with interstate transport of waste. There is insufficient monitoring of air quality and noise required by government.

BUT, The law the ACT **does** have with regard to assessment of potential cumulative impacts is **not applied** by government decision makers.

SLIDE 3: Cumulative impact - image of Ipswich St and CRS located adjacent Access and Tigerwaste

Consider the cumulative impacts at the CRS Ipswich and Lithgow Streets location less than 50 m from Harvey Norman and direct neighbours to a range of established retail and service businesses.

The proposed CRS waste hub includes a waste train to Veolia Woodlawn already approved along with a truck freight facility and an additional set of truck activated lights on Ipswich St less than 150m from the Wiluna St lights. The danger of heavy vehicles coming downhill on Ipswich St is apparent to the public but it seems not to the government.

In this image, adjacent the proposed Materials Recovery Facility of the CRS waste hub is located Access Recycling which processes metal waste in an open air operation.

Also adjacent both these waste facilities is the waste transfer station and recycling of Tigerwaste. Here there is onsite concrete crushing and the dust which contains toxic silica is deposited over the surrounding commercial and retail businesses.

SLIDE 4: Waste facilities with greater fire risk – Access Recycling metal yard on Lithgow St

Processes undertaken at waste facilities have higher fire risks than for other industries and can result in greater frequency and severity of fires.

Every waste facility in Canberra has experienced fires. These fires are toxic. The Mitchell fire locked down Belconnen. The Beard fire earlier this year locked down Oaks Estate, Harman and parts of Queanbeyan. Clouds of black smoke from burning tyres was to be seen from many parts of Canberra.

The proposed CRS and Hi Qual operations will be handling highly combustible materials.

SLIDE 5: Access Recycling DA to introduce new processing

Ever since mid-June last year the government has been assessing an application by Access Recycling to bring in new machines for fragmentising ELVs, end of life vehicles.

The fragmentisers are a shredder, pictured here and a hammermill which pulverises metal at 120 decibels of loudness. Dust from the shredding process is another major problem.

In Queensland there is a distance of 1.5km recommended from sensitive receptors for the location of fragmentisers. Our legislation does not even specify this type of machinery. Here sensitive receptors are over the fence.

SLIDE 6: Tigerwaste

Tucked in between the CRS/Access waste site and the commercial buildings in Wiluna and Lithgow Streets is Tigerwaste, a waste transfer and processing operation that has a TTCS licence to operate and apparently largely dealing with building and construction waste. Local businesses have consistently complained about cement dust and excessive noise from this site. The businesses claim that most of the dust that coats this local area emanates from this site. We have been told that there is no EPA authorisation for this site

SLIDE 7: HI Qual Waste Hub

Hi Qual is seeking approval for the establishment of an integrated waste material recovery centre on a 10 hectare site adjacent to a watercourse which flows into the Molonglo River. The Hi Quality Group is a waste

company about which the NSW EPA Manager Regional Waste Compliance said in regard to breaches of NSW environmental law:

“This landfill is in a sensitive environment where the potential for harm is a serious risk. It is disappointing that Hi-Quality appeared not to be taking their environmental obligations seriously across a range of issues,”

Materials to be handled include building and construction waste, asbestos, grease trap liquids, drilling mud, timber, oily liquids and fly ash. The company can't say where the above wastes are to be sourced. Should fly ash for instance come from the Liddell Power Station the fuel may be contaminated. The company would not say what source testing was involved. A range of onsite processing will occur, all located up-hill from the sensitive environment of the Molonglo River.

When an ACTPLA Scoping Document was provided for the proposal a spokesperson for ACT Health said “given the scale of complexity of the proposal, and it's proximity to food and retail businesses, the company should be forced to undertake a formal health-impact assessment as part of its study. Canberra Airport which is 1.6km from the Tennant St site said it was concerned. “We would expect the future use of this facility to have conditions regarding dust and other emissions due to the proximity of the Domayne, Bunnings and other industrial uses in Fyshwick that are very open to public viewing.”

ACT NoWaste raised concerns about the plant's workers being exposed to hazardous waste, and recommended High Quality Group's study include a rigorous and detailed analysis of the “risk”.

A Green's spokesperson said the party was unaware of the details of Hi-Quality Group's proposal.

I believe that Shane Rattenbury, our local member and Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability has joined us this evening. Could the Greens take on notice the following;

How do the Greens consider the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental impact of trans - shipping waste across borders for processing in the highly populated suburb of Fyshwick.

If we want Canberra to be known as Australia's waste capital we are well on track if the ACT Government continues to approve waste proposals for Fyshwick.

SLIDE 8: Inadequate ACT legislation and no cumulative assessment

The ACT does not have the strong environmental policies and legislation of other states. There is insufficient monitoring of air quality and noise.

Government must demand cumulative impact be addressed as required by the Territory Plan.

Further information on these waste proposals will be updated on the ISCCC website.