



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard 22 October 1998

ROCHEDALE LANDFILL SITE

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): I rise tonight to inform the House of the requirements that the Environment Department has imposed on the Brisbane City Council in its operation of the landfill site at Rochedale. As many members of the House, including the member for Redlands—who, unfortunately, is not here—will attest, many years ago I fought hard to stop the dump. Unfortunately, many of the concerns that were expressed then have come to realisation. The promise of world best standards has not been delivered in the operation of the landfill.

Therefore, the Department of Environment and Heritage has taken steps to force the licence operators to spend immediately nearly \$10m to fix the problems. Those steps will ensure that the problems of the present are rectified and will also mean that future problems can be avoided. The stringent guidelines will allow the Department of Environment and Heritage to constantly monitor the performance of the dump and allow for the enforcement of these strict requirements. In fact, any breaches will result in much higher penalties. Further, the department can place extra requirements on the operators to ensure that residents are not subjected to detrimental health effects and diminished lifestyle qualities.

Some of these measures include the installation and operation of a landfill gas and disposal system. The collection and removal of landfill gas is probably the single most significant odour control strategy. The EMP requires full gas collection for closed cells, rather than the precious pilot program in gas collection. Methane levels will be measured above the landfill surface and in site buildings and other structures. Also, future cells will be smaller than the present size of cell 3. I believe that these measures will rectify the present and future problems of the dump. I thank the Department of Environment and Heritage for the effective guidelines that it has placed on the Brisbane City Council in its operation of the Rochedale landfill site.

Time expired.
