

Jennifer Howard MP
State Member for Ipswich



Jim Madden MP
State Member for Ipswich West

Lance McCallum MP
State Member for Bundamba


Charis Mullen MP
State Member for Jordan

3 September 2020

Ms Toni Power
Coordinator General
Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation
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CC

The Honourable Kate Jones MP
Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation
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Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: <u>5625.1625</u>	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 10 SEP 2020	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
MP: <u>MR MCCALLUM</u>	
Clerk's Signature: <u>SP</u>	

Dear Coordinator General

We write with regards to the proposed Remondis Energy to Waste facility that has been deemed a 'declared project' pursuant to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

At the outset we acknowledge that:

- i) Your declaration and current consideration of the project is independent of executive government;
- ii) The declaration does not in any way imply government approval of, support for, or commitment to the project;
- iii) The project proponent will still need to obtain necessary development approvals from Ipswich City Council;
- iv) The project would need to comply with relevant planning and environment laws and planning instruments; and
- v) Draft Terms of Reference for an Environmental Impact Statement have not yet been issued.

Nevertheless, in our capacity as local state community representatives we wish to faithfully convey the views of the community that we serve.

Significant community concerns have been raised with us with respect to the Remondis Waste to Energy proposal and whether a project of this type is fundamentally suitable for what is now a rapidly growing urban city area.

As you will appreciate, much has changed since Ipswich City Council originally approved waste activities at the current dump site in Swanbank more than 20 years ago.

There has, and continues to be, significant population and urban growth throughout Redbank Plains, Ripley and surrounding suburbs.

Consequently, residents and families are living in closer proximity than ever before to waste industry activities and there is frequent and constant community feedback to our offices around issues such as corporate behaviour, odour, dust suppression and trucking.

With respect to the Remondis project specifically, community feedback to date has been exclusively negative.

Issues raised include, but are not limited to:

- Air pollution and resultant health impacts
- Encouraging greater waste over reuse and recycling
- Impacts on the natural environment
- Resultant impacts from increased trucking of waste to the site

We are of the view that the current proposed project is inappropriate to be located in the middle of a high growth urban area that has already seen large population growth and development.

We believe there are more viable alternatives that could be explored with the proponent, such as:

- A state-of-the-art recycling facility at the current site in Swanbank, which would deliver more jobs locally, is a higher order use under the Queensland Waste Strategy and has greater community support; or
- Relocating the project to a more suitable location away from a fast growing, highly populated urban area.

We note a coordinated project declaration does not exempt the project proponent from the need to obtain necessary development approvals from Ipswich City Council.

We also note Section 27(1)(b) of *the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (the Act) which requires that relevant planning schemes or policy frameworks of a local government, the State or the Commonwealth must be taken into account in any decision to declare a project a coordinated project.

You will be aware that locally in Ipswich, the State Government issued an emergency Temporary Local Planning Instrument to allow time for Ipswich City Council to update its planning scheme, which is currently underway and is not yet finalised.

Therefore, we are also of the view that no proper assessment can be made until council has finalised its updated planning scheme.

Having reviewed the Initial Advice Statement that is available on your website, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that:

- i) The document is dated April 2020, yet the project timetable¹ lists 'Coordinated project and DES approvals' to occur in 2018-19 and 'Detailed Design and Approvals' to occur in 2019-20.
- ii) Appendix B is missing entirely.

These are two obvious and basic errors that undermine the confidence and credibility the Initial Advice Statement document.

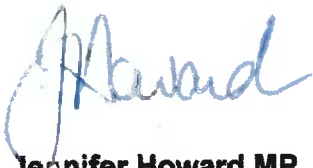
¹ Table 1, p19.

Finally, we also understand the project has the potential to impact high value koala habitats and will therefore trigger processes under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

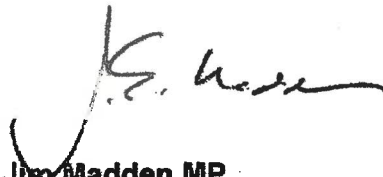
We trust you will take these matters into account as you consider the views of community stakeholders and the public interest.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss any of these matters in more detail.

Yours sincerely



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