

Smeaton Grange Resource Recovery Facility SSD 7424

I strongly object to the proposed Smeaton Grange Resource Recovery Facility (Application No SSD 7424) for the following reasons:

1. The facility is only 120 metres away from homes in the quiet community of Currans Hill. Benedict does not have any other facilities this close to residential homes. Regardless of their experience in this industry, this is just too close to homes and will have a negative impact on the neighbouring community of Currans Hill. These negative impacts will be further outlined below.

2. Kenny Creek is in close proximity to the proposed facility. Kenny Creek is a protected waterway that will be affected by dust from materials such as; concrete, fibro, cement and plaster board as well as seeds from weeds and plants being received by and held at the facility. There is also a contingency plan for receiving asbestos which may be hidden within materials received by the facility. Asbestos dust (and dust from other materials) can be blown from the facility and trucks en-route to the facility. Inhalation of this dust is a concern with homes and a Child Care Centre being situated in close proximity to the site. Many of the residences close to the proposed site have vegetable gardens and in turn consume vegetables from these gardens. It is a concern with contaminants in the air, that these contaminants will be absorbed by the vegetables and the soil. This will make the vegetables a health risk to consume. There seems to be no protection for the nearby Sporting Facilities, Cafes, Child Care Centre, Dance Studios or homes from this risk.

The water at this facility is to be recycled. Given the potential for contaminants within this recycled water the concern is that the property and surrounding soil/creek will be subjected to these contaminants. The proposed site is too close to the Kenny Creek and it's plant and animal life.

3. This proposal must not be looked at in isolation, but must include the collective effects of having the proposed Hot Dip Galvanising Plant adjacent to the proposed Smeaton Grange Resource Recovery Facility. Health concerns (such as cancer clusters, asthma and other respiratory disorders) of having either one of these facilities so close to homes is bad enough, but having both of these facilities proposed so close to homes is totally unacceptable. Planners must take this into consideration before approving such proposals.

4. The neighbouring suburb of Currans Hill is a small suburb, however it is home to relatively large parcels of Original Cumberland Plain Forest which is under preservation. These Forests are home to native animals including turtles, echidnas, waterfowl, native ducks, kookaburras, owls, noisy miners and many types of parrots. There has been no National Parks and Wildlife impact report relating to these sensitive conservation areas. I am concerned what the impact on local wildlife and vegetation will be, having a Resource Recovery Facility in such close proximity and a proposed Hot Dip Galvanising Plant adjacent to this facility.

5. The Resource Recovery Facility is also to operate 24 hours a day. This is unacceptable with the suburb of Currans Hill being located so close to the proposed facility. Currans Hill is a very quiet and tranquil suburb. Noise from this facility will negatively impact on the sleep (and in turn health) of those living in nearby residences. There is no quiet way of parking trucks and unloading the materials proposed to be delivered to the facility, at any time of the day or night. Even having this facility operating during the day will impact on sleep of shift workers living nearby and the tranquillity enjoyed by local residents.

6. Having a Resource Recovery Facility in this area sets an undesirable precedent for future development. There seems to be no impact study for nearby businesses, homes (120 metres away) or the Child Care Centre located approximately 300 metres away. There is also no lighting impact study on nearby residences.

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7. Vegetation matter delivered to the site may arrive several days after being removed from its original site, meaning it may already have started to decompose, causing an offensive odour when delivered to the facility. Add to this our Summer having temperatures of over 42 degrees Celsius and high humidity and the odour will be intolerable for nearby residences. Timbers delivered to the site could potentially attract vermin such as; mice, rats, termites and ibis that will impact on local residences and businesses as well.

8. Traffic congestion along Hartley Road, Narellan Road, Curran Hill Drive and Camden Valley Way will be negatively impacted by the building of the Resource Recovery Facility and the Hot Dip Galvanising Plant in Smeaton Grange. This will affect school travel to and from Magdalene High School, Mount Annan Christian College and Mount Annan High School, along with the Child Care Centre. With the proposed extra 250 truck movements a day (from the proposed Hot Dip Galvanising Plant adjacent to the proposed Resource Recovery Facility) nearby residents will find it near impossible to commute to work and get to train stations. Even though the roads of Smeaton Grange are two-laned, one lane is usually blocked by parked cars.

Adding extra B-doubles and large semi-trailers to this environment is a potentially dangerous mix with a child care centre and a school in the vicinity.

9. Prices of homes nearby to the proposed facility are also likely to fall. This is unfair and through no fault of local home owners. It is unfair for nearby home owners to be penalised financially due to the building of this facility.

10. There is no buffer zone between Smeaton Grange as an Industrial Suburb and Currans Hill as a residential area. This is bad planning and needs to be corrected now. It would be fair to have this site re-zoned to only allow light/passive industry.