

Richard Capuano
28 Campbell St,
St Peters NSW 2044

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Dear Deana Burn and Chris Ritchie,

Re: St Peters Materials Recycling Facility, St Peters (MP 11_0086)

I am the owner/resident of 28 Campbell St – located approximately 50m to the North of the proposed materials recycling facility at 2 Albert St, and have lived in the area since 1998. The site and stockpile is visible from my home.

I am writing to inform you that I vehemently oppose the Part 3A application by Concrete Recyclers (Group) Pty. Ltd. to process the existing sandstone stockpile and establish a commercially viable waste materials recycling facility that would eventually process 150,000 tonnes of sandstone waste per year.

The quantity of waste material that Concrete Recyclers propose to process is staggering and I believe the hazardous nature and excessive hours of operation at the facility will exacerbate existing problems and create further stress on the surrounding area by adding to the already high levels of noise, dirt, dust, pollution, and vehicle and heavy truck movements from existing industrial activity.

The cumulative and long term effects of the facility on the health and well-being of residents have not been adequately assessed, and I am deeply troubled that Concrete recyclers have dismissed many of the adverse effects of their operations simply because of irrelevant and out-dated data and existing problems with industrial activity in the area.

I have also spoken with a number of residents who will be directly affected by the facility. Many raised similar concerns and obviously do not want a rock crushing facility in the area. There is growing concern that the area is being run-down and fast becoming an unsafe place for residents and families to live, and the facility will further drive down property values - without any compensation to home owners.

Most were unaware of the proposal and expressed their anger about the lack of community consultation and not being informed in writing, and we are considering what action will be taken to address this proposal should it be approved.

Resident health and well-being

It is obvious that processing 150,000 tonnes of sandstone and waste material per year will have devastating consequences on the health and well-being of residents and add further stress to the area.

The facility will further exacerbate problems experienced by existing industrial activity in the area, and I note that we are already overwhelmed by dirt, dust, noise, exhaust fumes, pollution and offensive odours that constantly and relentlessly invades our homes - particularly from Alexandria Landfill, Subakette, and Real Foods.

It is unacceptable that Concrete Recyclers have used irrelevant data to compare noise, dust and local air quality in St Peters to a residential location in Randwick that has no industrial activity, and used the existing industrial activity in St Peters to dismiss concerns about the effects of their operations.

I recall watching the sandstone stockpile taking shape when Bradshaws was operating the site. The dust, dirt and noise from activity on the site and subsequent pollution from truck movements was unbearable.

I am deeply concerned that Concrete Recyclers have failed to adequately acknowledge the hazardous nature of rock crushing and subsequent impact of noise and airborne dust particles on residents and the surrounding area, and that they have not adequately assessed the cumulative effects of their activity with existing industrial activity that will only adversely affect the health and well-being of residents.

During hotter periods, the air is thick with dust and exhaust fumes from existing industrial activity and excessive vehicle and heavy truck movements. This would be further intensified once the stockpile is processed high above ground level, resulting in erosion and increased dust and dirt that would be dispersed across the area and settle on roads and near our homes - regardless of whether the site has been 'wetted' (only during operating hours) and/or wind breaks are installed.

The Southerly winds already carry vast quantities of dust from Alexandria Landfill and the proposed site (despite existing natural vegetation). This enters our homes and we are unaware of the current air quality and/or what we're actually breathing.

There are also concerns that asbestos has been disposed at the Alexandria Landfill site without proper safeguards and adequate protections for local residents, and it is not known what waste materials are contained in the stockpile and whether it may contain asbestos and other potentially hazardous materials. This could become a catastrophic health issue should the stockpile be disturbed without proper environmental safeguards.

I regularly experience respiratory problems as a result of the cumulative effects of dust and pollution in the area, and I don't believe the adverse effects of prolonged exposure to dirt, dust, noise, pollution and heavy truck movements has been adequately assessed.

Being a Part 3A proposal, it is unclear if any safeguards and monitoring of the facility will be undertaken to ensure minimal impact on residents, and who we raise our concerns to.

It is our experience that ongoing concerns with industrial activity and the contempt shown toward residents by Alexandria Landfill - who have disregarded resident concerns for many years, results in little confidence that resident concerns will be addressed.

There is currently no guarantee that Concrete Recyclers will consider the health and well-being of residents, and they have already shown their contempt in the Environmental Assessment and other waste material recycling facilities proposed near residential areas.

It also appears there will be a significant amount of water used in the daily operation of the site, raising concern about run-off and further erosion, and stagnant water that could breed mosquitos and increase offensive odours.

It is also not known what will happen to wildlife currently residing in the stockpile, and whether residents will be safeguarded from any invasion from pests seeking a new home.

Truck Movements

Existing roads are already inadequate and struggle with the extremely high volume of vehicle and heavy truck movements every day. Many houses are approximately one metre from the kerb – including my home, and residents are subjected to noise and constant vibration, and dust, dirt, and pollution entering our homes.

The facility could potentially add 1,200+ extra heavy truck movements per week (based on 8 truck movements each hour), and it is troubling that Concrete recyclers have dismissed the substantial impact of extra truck movements generated from their operations. There are also no guarantees that truck movements will be limited to 8 vehicles and may increase without adequate monitoring.

Heavy trucks accessing the site would also carry substantial quantities of dirt along Campbell St/Rd and represents a significant increase in dust, dirt, noise, pollution and exhaust fumes, and the long-term impact of breathing this toxic cocktail has not adequately assessed.

The high volume of heavy trucks already using Campbell St/Rd and accessing Alexandria Landfill via Albert St generate a substantial amount of dirt that is deposited on the road, and it is not uncommon to see dirt flying out the back of heavy trucks - some with loads uncovered, and 'dirty water' dripping off heavy trucks when leaving the Alexandria Landfill that dries and is stirred and spread by the high volume of vehicle movements, and we breathe and constantly battle with the dust that enters our homes.

The high volume of heavy truck movements that already use Campbell St/Rd and access Alexandria Landfill via Albert St. also create traffic jams and excessive exhaust fumes. It is also our experience that many truck drivers will bully drivers and disregard the safety of others as they access Albert St. The facility will significantly add to the volume of heavy trucks that access Albert St, making the area unsafe.

The subsequent increase in heavy truck movements along Campbell St will also add to the constant vibration, which has already resulted in cracks and damage to buildings. It is also counter-productive to pursue any costly improvements to buildings considering the existing problems along Campbell St/Rd.

I have raised the issue with the RMS and Marrickville Council, yet they will not acknowledge the problem of damage caused by vibration, accept responsibility, or provide assistance to maintain our homes. This is unfair and further drives down the value of our homes, and this raises health concerns for residents and the long-term suitability of the area.

Noise

I currently hear truck movements and work being undertaken at the Alexandria Landfill site and surrounding businesses. I am deeply concerned that Concrete Recyclers have dismissed their contribution to noise issues, and believe the constant background noise from the facility will be 'intrusive', especially when operations will commence at 6am and continue till 6pm.

It is my understanding that Marrickville Council associates waste or resource management facilities with excessive noise. The cumulative effect with heavy trucks and existing industrial activity in the area will offer little respite.

It is troubling that the Environmental assessment is dismissive of the impact of the rock crushing operation and existing noise issues in the area, and the excessive hours of operation will affect sleeping patterns and further impact on our health and well-being.

The proposal is ludicrous and I am deeply troubled that Concrete Recyclers are dismissive of the adverse impact that their operations will have on the health and well-being of residents.

We are all definitely opposed to this proposed facility and strongly urge that the project should not be granted approval.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission, please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Kind Regards,
Richard Capuano