

I strongly oppose the application for the Resource Recycling Facility at Smeaton Grange due to the following:

1. The facility is close to residential homes (approximately 120 metres away)

It is inevitable there will be noise, dust, lighting and odour coming from this site. There will be multi-axle trucks dropping loads including rail ballasts, bricks and concrete. An excavator to load waste for separation to be stored in piles and later reloaded back onto trucks for removal. It is predicted that nearby residents may receive noise which exceeds the maximum noise criteria for Council Environmental Noise Policy.

Dust cannot be avoided when dumping bricks, building materials and concrete. Older building materials may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead paint. Dust from these types of materials are hazardous to the health of nearby residents. Many nearby residents have vegetable gardens and consume vegetables from these gardens. It is a concern that the contaminants in the air will be absorbed into the soil and vegetables, making them a health risk to consume.

Offensive odours from rotting vegetation will also be intolerable for local residents, especially in the Summer as temperatures reach over 42 degrees Celsius and humidity is high. 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. Timbers delivered to the site could potentially attract; mice, rats, termites and ibis that will impact on local residences and businesses as well.

2. It is close to Child care centres

There is a child care centre located only a few hundred metres from the proposed site. At this facility children play outside, which may be harmful to them due to potentially airborne asbestos and other particles found in dust from the facility.

3. It is close to the wildlife area surrounding Kenny Creek (just metres from the proposed facility) and parcels of the Original Cumberland Plain Forest.

There are many native animals and birds that live in the area surrounding Kenny Creek and throughout the parcels of Original Cumberland Plain Forest. Airborne pollutants, extended lighting periods, increased noise and vibrations and run off from the site could be detrimental to the wellbeing and survival of wildlife in this area.

4. It is close to outdoor recreational areas, sporting and play grounds

Local families outdoor facilities such as play grounds, BBQ areas and sporting grounds. Noise, dust and odour would rob local families of the ability to enjoy these facilities.

5. Hours of operation

The Resource Recovery Facility is to operate 24 hours a day. This is unacceptable with the suburb of Currans Hill being located so close. Currans Hill is a very quiet and peaceful suburb. Noise from this facility will negatively impact on the sleep (and in turn health) of those living in nearby residences. This relentless noise is not considerate to nearby residents.

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 forever.

6. Traffic congestion

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.

7. 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, child care centres and schools. There is also no lighting impact study on nearby residences.
8. Value of nearby homes are also likely to fall. This is through no fault of local land owners and is unfair that nearby homeowners should be penalised financially due to the building of this facility.
9. Many Currans Hill residents were under the impression that Smeaton Grange was for light industry and were only happy to live there because of this. This type of industry should not be allowed within at least 1 km of residential properties. 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.

Please note: This proposal must not be looked at in isolation, but must include the communal 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) from 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.