



The site stinks: Report

Advice urges waste centre refusal

By LOUISE THROWER

DEVELOPERS of a north Goulburn waste and recycling centre could be going back to the drawing board after a consultant recommended its refusal.

Independent consultant Paul Hume says Denrith Pty Ltd's plan for the Bridge St facility poses an "unacceptable risk" in terms of odour, traffic impact on the nearest home 30 metres away and on balance, is "not in the public interest."

He also criticised the fact the company did not canvas alternative sites, instead relying on its ownership of the former fuel depot, off Sydney Rd.

His report to the Southern Regional Planning Panel will play a major role in decision making. The panel will consider the \$2.2 million project sitting next Tuesday in Goulburn at the Council Chambers.

The company wants to handle up to 20,000 tonnes of putrescible waste and 8000 tonnes of recyclables per annum at the site. Their ultimate plan is to take the city's waste and transfer it to the Woodlawn Bioreactor, via rail, although negotiations and contracts are far from complete. Recyclables would come from a relocated Endeavour Industries.

The development application, lodged in February 2011, has provoked community outcry over



OPPONENT: Member of the North Goulburn Action Group and local teacher, Kevin Watchirs has opposed Denrith Pty Ltd's plans for a waste or resource transfer station in Bridge St. Behind him is the nearest residence to the site, posted with a 'no tip' sign like several others in the area.

the location, but not the concept. Mr Hume's report has picked up on many of these, along with agencies' concerns.

Chief among these was the Health Department's argument that Denrith had not provided enough information about odour filtration systems to be used or proof that it worked elsewhere.

"There is an unacceptable level of risk in relying on engineering

solutions for such developments, as there are no alternative options if the technology fails," the department stated.

It said the safest way of protecting the community was by providing a larger buffer distance. Furthermore, the department recommended that putrescible waste handling should occur in a separate building to recycling.

Denrith amended its plans in

response, including greater odour controls, but Health still wasn't convinced.

Mr Hume argued that although technically SEPP 33 (Hazardous and Offensive Development) did not apply to the project, a rigorous assessment, taking this legislation into account, was warranted.

"Whether meeting the definition of 'potentially offensive

development' in SEPP 33 or not, this development is considered potentially offensive as the proposed tonnage throughput is only 2000 tonnes below the threshold for requiring an Environment Protection Licence and it is located 30 metres from a residential dwelling and within 250m of other dwellings," he wrote.

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