

Marlene Kairouz MP

STATE MEMBER FOR KOROROIT



Mr Les Willmott
Chair, Metropolitan Waste Recovery Group
Level 4, Tower 4, World Trade Centre,
18-38 Siddeley Street, Melbourne VIC 3005

15th of December 2015

Dear Mr Willmott,

RE: Formal submission regarding the Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (MWRRIP).

On behalf of members of my community and my electorate of Kororoit I write to convey the heightened and real concerns regarding the Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (MWRRIP) in its current form. I support the view of my electorate and local community that the MWRRIP requires at best a substantial re-working or at worst, complete abandonment.

Kororoit is a metropolitan electorate located approximately 13 kilometres west of Melbourne and is made of the suburbs of Albanvale, Burnside, Burnside Heights, Cairnlea, Deer Park, Derrimut, Kings Park, Ravenhall and Rockbank and parts of Caroline Springs, Mount Cottrell, Plumpton and Truganina.

Kororoit includes residential and industrial precincts and contains areas of rapid growth. The Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) has approved two precinct structure plans and is currently overseeing the preparation of a number of other precinct structure plans in Kororoit. They include:

- Rockbank (approved) – 7,932 dwellings and 22,000 residentsⁱ.
- Rockbank North (approved) - 7,300 dwellings and more than 20,000 residentsⁱⁱ.
- Kororoit & Plumpton (in preparation) - 18,000 dwellings and 50,000 residentsⁱⁱⁱ.
- Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains (in preparation) - 7,200 dwellings and 20,000 residents^{iv}.

With planning advanced for over 110,000 people to reside in these precincts within a few years, it appears incongruent that at the same time the MWRRIP promotes increased landfill capacity in my electorate.



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The MWRRIP is also in direct conflict with a number of existing Government policies and plans and undermines a significant election commitment made to my local community by the Premier. On behalf of the Government, he committed that any proposal to expand the Deer Park landfill will be assessed by an independent panel.^v Members of my community have, on many occasions, reminded me of this clear position.

My concerns with the MWRRIP relate to community engagement, the lack of solutions to reduce reliance on landfill, the potential for detrimental impact on the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne and assumptions made regarding the Deer Park landfill. Specifically:

- As a strategic planning document, the MWRRIP will have a disproportionately negative impact on the northern and western suburbs, proposing that these communities bear the entire future burden of accommodating Melbourne's waste to landfill.
- The MWRRIP appears to be based on significant consultation with landfill operators without any detail of how the waste industry has been independently analysed. This does not appear to be an objective approach to such an important issue.
- The MWRRIP is riddled with mixed references, such as 'landfill', 'waste hub', 'resource and recovery'. This is confusing and contributes to a lack of clarity in the document.
- The ten priorities of the MWRRIP are not backed up by any performance indicators.
- The plan fails to identify a clear course of action to ensure there is a reduction of waste to landfill for the duration of the plan. The Victorian waste hierarchy rightly acknowledges landfill as being the worst approach to waste management but the MWRRIP focuses mostly on landfill supply without proper assessments.
- A number of inaccurate assumptions are made regarding the Deer Park landfill in my electorate of Kororoit. The MWRRIP refers—both in writing and in the map—to the Boral quarry. The quarry site is not approved for landfill. The map also designates grassland areas as landfill and fails to acknowledge adjacent residential property or correctional facilities.
- The MWRRIP assumes buffers to landfill are external to a site rather than internalised as per EPA policy.
- The MWRRIP recognises that there is enough landfill capacity in the current system for the next decade yet promotes further landfill capacity in my electorate— to provide for Metropolitan Melbourne.
- Hopkins Road is a vital and major north-south arterial for the western suburbs of Melbourne, linking Werribee to Sydenham. Approximately 8,000 vehicles per day currently travel on this major route with the MPA projecting this to grow to 60,000+ vehicles per day. Hopkins Road will become as vital to the western suburbs as Springvale Road is to the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Construction on the

Caroline Springs Railway Station is underway and any landfill expansion and related impacts to Hopkins Road will compromise access for residents.

Mismanagement of the Deer Park landfill in particular is a major issue of concern in my community and electorate, with local residents often complaining about persistent odour problems, dumped rubbish and litter escaping. The EPA recently found the operators had breached numerous conditions of their permit.

A consistent theme of local residents is that it is unacceptable that such an important plan effectively rewards historically substandard operators, while providing policy support for unilateral landfill expansion in the northern and western suburbs.

As the local member of Parliament for the Kororoit District, I am obliged to highlight these issues of concern—issues which my community believe should be carefully and comprehensively addressed.

Yours sincerely,



Marlene Kairouz MP

Member for Kororoit

ⁱ Rockbank Precinct Structure Plan, November 2014, Metropolitan Planning Authority.

ⁱⁱ Rockbank North Precinct Structure Plan, March 2012,, Growth Areas Authority.:

ⁱⁱⁱ Kororoit and Plumpton Landowner Newsletter, Draft Future Urban Structure, November 2014, Metropolitan Planning Authority

^{iv} Mt. Atkinson and Tarneit Plains Landowner Newsletter, Draft Future Urban Structure, April 2015, Metropolitan Planning Authority

^v <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/west/premier-daniel-andrews-vows-to-call-in-any-ravenhall-landfill-expansion-permit/news-story/995da2cd120eb9f814c83542b168d124>