



12 September 2017

Mr Brett Phillips
A/g Deputy Director-General
EPSDD
GPO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Brett

I am writing concerning the proposed housing development on Section 66, Deakin (On Kent Street, directly opposite Carruthers Street). Can you please advise whether your directorate supports or has endorsed the current consultation being undertaken by Purdon Associates on behalf of the Hindmarsh Group for this proposed development?

<http://purdon.com.au/consultation/4-Section-66-Deakin>

If so, isn't the proposal to place residences immediately adjacent and down slope of what appears to be an unstable, permeable and toxic tip site, potentially dangerous?

Given that the tip site is now within Red Hill Nature Reserve, would allowing residential development close to this tip site place an extra onus on the ACT Government to prevent leaching, runoff and dust contamination and to address other management issues?

If the ACT Government did grant a Variation to the Territory Plan and toxicity issues arose, would the ACT Government be responsible for decontaminating the site and/or compensating those living in the apartments proposed at the new development and pay for any medical treatment? Given that up to 500 apartments are proposed, this is a significant responsibility.

Are there plans to undertake a Master Plan for the Red Hill Nature Reserve precinct? Would this proposed development be informed by this Master Plan?

Illustrations of the proposed development showed the buildings going near the boundary of Section 66. Is it reasonable to assume that any bushfire protection would therefore be undertaken in Red Hill Nature Reserve? What would be your response to bushfire mitigation in the Reserve?

By way of background, I have been informed about the history of Deakin Dump and this points to the need for extreme caution:

- The original tip was established in the 1950s against a cliff of a dug-out, clay quarry. Rubbish seems to be have placed directly on a sawdust base.



- Once the quarry face was back-filled, the tip material was then placed in an eroded creek gully termed a "Washaway Creek".
- During the tip's operation, fires within the tip were common while even decades after the tip's closure, subsurface smouldering continued.
- It seems highly unlikely that the tip is either stable or impermeable.
- It is unclear exactly what was dumped at the tip but it is clear that it includes a mix of household, backyard, building and industrial waste.
- Building waste deposited at the tip includes asbestos, which has moved to the current surface and has become exposed requiring mediation and capping (the exposure seems to be an ongoing issue).
- It is believed that waste from the Royal Australian Mint was dumped at the tip and this may include drums and loose material of highly toxic chemicals such as Chromium, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), acids and inks.
- Household materials including pesticides and garden sprays are also thought to be contained in the tip.
- It is likely that hospital waste was also deposited at the Deakin Tip as, for a while, it and a tip along Flinders Way were the only operational tips in Canberra
- For many years the tip suffered from out-of-hours, unsupervised dumping where rubbish was scattered over the wider area rather than deposited at the active tip face.

The Canberra Times has a wealth of information including pertinent articles appearing on 5 Mar 1992, 4 Sep 1991, 8 Sep 1991, 31 Aug 1991, 20 Jan 1985, 17 April 1963, 3 Feb 1970, 21 Dec 1967 and 20 Jan 1964.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R Kingsland". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Ross Kingsland
President
Red Hill Regenerators