

From: marian.pham
To: airpollutioninquiry
Subject: Barro Landfill
Date: Tuesday, 16 March 2021 3:17:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

The Sunshine Barro landfill is located as little as 80m away from residents who lived there well before the site was approved for landfill use, despite recommended 200m buffer zone. There have been 4 hotspot fires burning for around 2 years now. Residents in the suburbs of Kealba, St Albans and North Sunshine have been experiencing headaches, nausea, asthma and psychological distress. The state, local and federal authorities have ignored all of our pleas for help and requests for answers. Similarly, the EPA gave done little to ease the concerns of residents affected. Some of us have written to D'Ambrosio, Suleyman, Mullino, the EPA and the Brimbank council- not one of these individuals/organisations have had the decency to even respond.

I write to you all to express the disgust, frustration and disbelief of the local community regarding the fires burning at the Barro landfill.

The fires have now been burning for almost 2 years, with the last 2-3 weeks being intolerable to those living in the neighbouring suburbs.

EPA and Barro are working to put the fires out however progress has been slow-going. The fires are still burning, the process cannot be sped up and the EPA refuse to fine the company despite fining individuals that drop cigarette butts on the street! Not only that, we have no assurances that Barro will be banned from reopening this landfill (which should never have been approved) following the extinguishing of the fires.

The community is fed up living in third world conditions. Clean air is not a privilege, it's a right. A serious error has been made to allow the opening of a landfill so close to well established suburbs. It needs to be rectified and the permit revoked.

Here's how we think you can help us:

We would like to know the details of the investigation into how the fires began, clearly something has gone terribly wrong with the landfill operations.

We would like access to and a clear explanation of the air quality monitoring that is being undertaken at the site.

We would like a clear time frame of when we can expect the fires to be fully extinguished.

We would like to know the life expectancy of the landfill and when their permits, approvals are complete.

We do not want this landfill 80m from our homes. We would like the permit revoked.

Please take our concerns into consideration. This issue is seriously affecting our health and wellbeing. It's your duty and responsibility to act on this.

Regards,

Marian Pham

Sent from my iPhone