

# EMTAG

Esperance Merivale Tip Action Group  
21/10/2017

Hon. Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
To the Environment and Public Affairs Standing Committee: Petition 014

Dear Mr. Swinbourn,

## **Subject: Petition No. 014 - Proposed Landfill in Esperance**

I am writing on the behalf of EMTAG who submitted to Legislative Council Petition 014. We have noted the replies to your queries from several Government Departments and the Shire of Esperance. We are concerned that information was not requested via the Minister for Environment, from either the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Parks and Wildlife Service(PaWS), or via the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, from the Department of Agriculture and Food(DAF).

The information provided by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation(DWER), seemed unusual because DWER are not in charge of managing the Esperance Lakes and Ramsar Wetlands. The response received from their Hydrologist indicates a lack of understanding of the local hydrology pertaining to the Proposed Rubbish Tip Site and was probably very reliant on the Talis version of information.

There has been no information sought from either the PaWS hydrogeologists and wildlife researchers, who have over 20+ years completed wide ranging and significant research into the wildlife and hydrogeology of the Esperance lakes and Ramsar systems; or from the Esperance Department of Agriculture and Food Hydrologist, who has been working on the hydrology - and surface water modelling as well as deep aquifer modelling- in in the local landscape for more than 20years.

EMTAG are therefore requesting that:

1. further supplementary information for the Standing Committee, Petition 014 be requested from the Minister for Environment from his Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions- Parks and Wildlife Service. In making this request it is suggested the Standing Committee ask that the **'REVIEW OF THE HYDROGEOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY LOT 12 KIRWAN ROAD'** for The Shire of Esperance, 30/06/2017 (Reference: 2011/002198 27.3.8 PRS41220) by the then DPAW, be formally requested from DBCA (Mr. Greg Mair, Regional Manager South Coast, Albany and/ or from Mr. Robert Blok, Regional Manager Esperance.)

2. EMTAG further request that a response to the Standing Committee, Petition 014, be provided by the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development. We consider this appropriate because the construction of a Rubbish Tip on the proposed site, which is part of the catchment for water used by surrounding farms, has the potential to significantly impact the underground water quality and quantity, used by these farms. The farms are totally reliant on groundwater for stock and household use as dams cannot be constructed in this area due to a lack of suitable clay.
  
3. Finally we request further supplementary information be supplied to the Standing Committee by the DAF through a review of the Talis hydrology report examining potential impacts on local farms and landholders. Evidence that we have found from published papers and local hydrological experts, indicates the claim by Talis and the Shire, that water will take 579 years to exit the Lot 12 Kirwan Rd site is unproven; as is their claim that water does not move rapidly through the site via preferred interconnected spongolite channels (Talis have shown no indication of recognition that this is a leaky Karst landscape which the Victorian EPA guidelines state as inappropriate for siting rubbish tips). Previous work done by DAF hydrologists in this type of landscape have shown that water could exit the site in as little as 5 years and subsurface water even faster. Furthermore, no surface, sub-surface water modelling has been completed. Esperance has regularly in the past experienced severe cyclonic derived rainfall events where greater than 200 mm has fallen in 24-48 hours.

In the hope that our requests can be achieved,

I am yours faithfully Nicole Chalmer,

On behalf of Chairman Mark Biven and the EMTAG group.