

**Resource Consent Application
RMS 20.280**

**Submission of Objection from Stephen Chittock
Residing at 45 Bedford Parade, Brighton**

Own property at 1146 Brighton Road

I am opposed to the proposed intention by the DCC to build a solid waste landfill at Smooth Hill.

I believe we urgently need to move away from creating new landfills as this 'old and lazy' technology is only harmful to our environment. It is we who must learn to live with the natural world, not the other way around.

Smooth Hill contains a natural wetland and would be protected under the new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater if this application were lodged today

As one of the tributary streams for the Otokia Creek flowing to the Brighton Beach, it is unacceptable to both –

- a. Remove this wetland from the ecosystem with the loss of flora and fauna.
- b. Risk the pollution to the whole eco-system including Dunedin's most popular swimming beach and the ocean beyond.

To rely on liners to contain the toxic waste and leachates, that all landfills produce, for the next 100– 400 years seems a very short time frame when nature measures it's timeframes in millenniums. What happens if –

- a. It fails and leaks.
- b. At the end of its manufacturer's life.

I know it's not part of this RMA application but there are technologies developing both here and around the world that can recycle or use general waste for productive outcomes –

- 1) Spittelau incineration plant – Austria.
Heats 60,000 homes. Could not a similar plant in Central South Island produce a similar outcome by taking the waste of all the South Island?
- 2) Mint Innovation -NZ.
Extracting gold, copper, and other metals from e-waste.
- 3) Future Posts- NZ.
Turning soft plastics to 50 years+ fence posts.

What could the maximum lifespan of Green Island be as a solid waste site? Can it be extended? Can it also be part of the next generation of waste management solutions?

What is the extent and time frame of any environmental clean up with this site now and likely to be in the future?

If we use the time between now and the final closure of the Green Island landfill to seek sustainable solutions, then we can get the correct outcome.

History shows how the developing world had to solve the problem of safe disposal of human waste. Thanks to the efforts of Thomas Crapper, to revolutionise the flushing toilet. Credited as the greatest invention of the 19th Century, no longer was human waste being thrown into the streets. Initially it went untreated to waterways, but treatment plants evolved and improved to the point they can produce drinkable water directly out of the treatment plant. I'll pass on that test!

Typhoid, once a common form of death, became uncommon but not soon enough for some famous world innovators and leaders such as Wilbur Wright, Prince Albert, George Ferris, or Martha Roosevelt. They all died in their 40's.

I would like to share a couple of personal examples of environmental degradation during my lifetime.

1) Pomahaka River –

For the first 30 years I grew up on the banks of the Pomahaka River, one of NZ's best known brown trout rivers.

- 1960's I went to the Kelso School and our swimming pool was a section of the river above the local bridge. One teacher upstream and one teacher 50m downstream and we swam in-between. Sometimes you would be swimming past trout but if you saw an eel, you broke the school swimming record!
- The river was our recreational playground, as our farm had three miles of river boundary. Swimming, canoeing, fishing, and hunting occupied much of our leisure time.
- 1980's Dairying arrived with mass conversions including our own farm eventually and most of our neighbouring farms as they changed hands.
- 2000's Pomahaka River was nationally registered as one of NZ's most polluted rivers. Today the Pomahaka Landcare Group is reversing the damage.

Why do we have to repeat the mistakes of the past to learn the lessons for today?

2) Kaikorai Estuary -

- 1990 I came to Dunedin in a new career but as a keen hunter I took the opportunity to hunt the estuary one evening. I shot and retrieved 4 – 5 ducks but walking over those mud flats the stench put me off repeating the experience.
- Neither would I take fish to eat from that water although, I drive over it every day and see others doing so. From the road you can see the visual pollution (tyres, road cones and plastic). What you can't see are the leachate and toxins embedded in the mud that I believe scientific tests would still show if sampled today.

I see Andrew Rumsky has detailed very accurately the type of toxins that contaminate the leachate from landfill sites.

Dark Waters -

Just by chance the movie "Dark Waters" was shown on TV last week. It is the second time I've seen the movie, but it struck a chord with me when I first saw it 2 years ago and have read up a bit of the story.

It deals with America's largest civil case against a corporate, where for 20 years lawyer Rob Bilott fought Du Pont over the dumping of PFOS & PFAS in the environment in Parkersburg, West Virginia i.e., the local river and landfill sites both legal and unauthorised. A substantial proportion of the population became poisoned with PFOS, also known as C8 in the manufacture of Teflon.

69,000 blood tests proved what Du Pont already knew, the product and the waste was toxic to human health.

Eventually, Bilott won \$671 million for 3,500 clients. Plus, there was a \$4 billion settlement with the Federal Authorities and Du Pont. PFOS (or C8) is highly toxic, and it is estimated to be detectable in 98% of all American's blood. All from a product that Du Pont first developed in 1938, just 80 years earlier.

Multiply that by thousands of products that today we manufacture, use, and then discard. Often with no planned way to recycle, repurpose, or convert to a useful safe by product.

A hole in the ground with an earth cap and plant a tree on top is still "Dark Ages" technology, where out of sight is out of mind.

Sir David Attenburgh described the Amazon rain forest as the "lungs of the earth." The streams and rivers are it's capillaries and arteries, and the ocean is the heart of the earth.

Your doctor wants you to have a clean bill of health. What about Mother Earth?

Salt Water -

I swim at the Brighton Beach regularly, take my grand-children there and promote the beach to our Air B'n'B guests to visit.

3-4 years ago, I enquired at the ORC on what were the requirements for taking seawater for private use. Karen Bagnell managed my enquiry at that time and the conclusion was, that the ORC can issue a permit to do so if it is not from a protected seashore area, such as the Brighton swimming beach. I was looking at an area just outside of there but if contamination of the Brighton swimming beach were to occur it would also affect the surrounding water.

I still intend to apply for permit in the future and I want my seawater pristine. To quote Bond "I prefer my seawater, salt only, slightly stirred, not contaminated."

Conclusion -

Landfills are environmentally destructive, like bottom dredging is to the seabed, drift net fishing to the oceans or carbon tree planting highly productive farmland.

The different is that a landfill is a ticking time bomb, with no safe way to dispose of it once you have finished with it and whose problem is it two hundred years later?

It's time to look for other alternative solutions now, rather than push it onto future generations to solve the mistakes of our generation.

Did I mention the results of those 69,000 blood tests? The presence of C8 had direct links to the increased instances in the general population of at least 6 major cancer groups.

Leading to both premature deaths and childbirth defects.

I ask the commission to decline this proposal.