

Proposed Smooth Hill Landfill

I have been a resident of Brighton for the last 22 years.

Prior to that I was a regular beach goer for nearly 50 years, having grown up in Green Island. I swim at the beach most days in the summer, and regularly go fishing out to sea, launching off the beach.

This is the best beach in Dunedin, without a doubt. It is safe, relatively shallow, no strong rips or tides, good access, very strong surf club, and, has a safe warm lagoon for little children to play in. Thousands of Dunedin children have had their first beach experience at Brighton. You see them every fine day in summer, splashing in safe clean water. No where else in Dunedin can you do this.

And the DCC wants to put all this at risk.

The possibility of destroying this with pollutants from a rubbish tip – and this is what it is – a rubbish tip, not a fancy named landfill, fills me with dread. It keeps me, and others in the area awake at night. Not to mention the worry over the devaluing of property values.

Please don't let this happen.

I believe that this proposal should have been turned down by the Otago Regional Council at the initial application.

The application was rushed through under secrecy to beat a law change that would have prevented it being even lodged. If this current law prevents it now, why can it be progressed?

If this building met the earthquake code of 2000, and the code was changed in 2010, the building would have to meet the 2010 law, not the 2000 requirements.

Another reason why it should not have proceeded was the appalling lack of information provided in the initial application. The ORC raised this, and unfortunately, gave them time to submit more detail. Reading submissions from others, it appears that there is still a lack of detail in a lot of areas.

I consider that a lot of this detail is vague on purpose – like stating no food would be dumped there, only to find out from the so called bird control expert, that indeed food waste will be included in the rubbish.

This food waste, and the resulting huge bird populations that it will attract, are actually the major reason why this application needs to be refused. Birds will be present in very large numbers, and the mitigation measures mentioned by the DCC contracted "expert" are a joke. He mentions poisoning amongst other token methods, but says they will only poison Black Backed Gulls – how will Tui, bellbirds, falcons and other native species know not to touch the baits?

This tip site is ridiculously close to the Dunedin International Airport, and less than half the safe distance allowed.

If a birdstrike downed a Boeing 737, or an Airbus, as currently flying in and out of Dunedin up to 26 times a day, and killed up to 160 passengers and crew, who would be responsible?

Imagine the headlines in the ODT

Disaster near Dunedin – 160 killed in downed Air NZ Airbus thought to have been caused by birdstrike

Hardly Dunedin Airport, as they have vehemently opposed this proposed site from the beginning. (Well not quite, as they were not even informed initially). And this in spite of being told by Ms Bidrose or Ms Graham not to lodge any objections. Thankfully they did..

The blame would sit squarely with the DCC for placing a tip in such a dangerous, unlawful place. And the cost to Dunedin City – that is the ratepayers - would be unimaginable.

It may also fall on the Otago Regional Council if they give approval.

The fact that this site was investigated and chosen 30 years ago, and despite Ms Graham's protestations at a public meeting in Ocean View otherwise, no other sites have been investigated. They are relying on 30 year old information and technology and refuse to consider other options.

Such as the Brown's site at Winton which has the ability to take all Dunedin's waste for the next 100 years. And is ready to take rubbish today.

Or the proposed incinerator at Glenavy. This is actually more than a proposal – land has been purchased , and as it is beside the railway main trunk line, would be ideal to burn Dunedin's waste. It needs to operate 24 hours a day, and will need all the waste in can consume.

Or the Palmer's quarry at Logan point.

Or the old cement works at Burnside – promoted by the current owners Nash and Ross as available.

None investigated by the DCC as they had already made up their mind.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views.