

Landfill Submission

My name is Jude van Aalst. I am a resident of Ocean View. I am a teacher at Big Rock Primary, the local school at Brighton and I am the mother of 4 children.

I grew up making day trips from Outram to spend weekends and holidays at Brighton Beach. I fell in love with the place and now I am lucky enough to live there.

There are many reasons why I do not support the Smooth Hill Landfill and I would like to share some of them with you today.

Even with safety measures in place, my family and I would no longer trust the safety of the water. It would stop us from swimming and surfing at Brighton beach or paddling at the mouth of Otokia Creek, activities that we enjoy almost daily during the warmer months. The risk of pollution would always be at the back of our minds.

I believe the landfill would risk the Otokia Creek and Marsh Habitat. My kids have been involved with this Trust through planting trees with the school and volunteering their time to deliver pamphlets for them. They are devastated to know that their efforts to conserve this habitat could be wiped out with the introduction of the landfill.

As a family, we enjoy walking and exploring the surrounding Brighton areas. We like to head up Big Stone Road and McLaren Gully Road and this is another activity that we will have to stop participating in if the Landfill goes ahead. The increase of traffic, especially trucks, and the increased risk of fire is a real concern for me and I would not feel comfortable to continue our adventures in this area.

I reuse, recycle and compost as much as I can. I do not want other people's rubbish on my doorstep. Building a site to bury this rubbish is an outdated concept. In this day and age, where the world is trying its hardest to save our environment and with the huge advances in technology there has to be another way.

I will leave you with 4 quotes from my four children:

Isobelle, 14 years old: A landfill will stop our Big Stone Road walks because the roads will be super busy with trucks which will make it dangerous, the sea will be polluted and no one will want to swim in it. It will also smell, and no one wants that.

Alice, 12 years old: A landfill would ruin the environment and all these years I have enjoyed playing in the water. I won't be able to do it anymore because it will be polluted.

Esme, 9 years old: I don't want the landfill because we won't be able to swim in the sea and all the sea animals might die.

Jed, 6 years old: I don't want the dump because it is really bad for the environment.

Thank you for listening to my submission.