

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

23 March, 2020

Email: Richard.Wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: West Gate Tunnel Project [REDACTED]

We refer to our letter dated 4 March, 2020, to which we have not received any reply.

Moorabool Shire Council and our community have still not been afforded proper consultation with regard to the proposal for [REDACTED] to accept, store, and potentially dispose of uncategorised contaminated soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project.

[REDACTED] provided limited opportunities for the community to obtain information about the proposal. This included a stall at a market and one at a local festival. The other two opportunities were a maximum of 40 people in a room with posters and project representatives, offered over four one hour sessions. If the full capacity of people went to each session, a maximum of 320 people were able to attend the sessions. It was also noted that these were held predominantly in working hours, further restricting the cohort of community that could attend.

Council does not consider this to be adequate community consultation for such a controversial project.

As per our previous correspondence, Council is yet to receive any technical information pertaining to this proposal, including non-commercially sensitive information about the potential impacts to our assets and road infrastructure. At the very least this document is required for Council to comment as the authority responsible for maintenance and repair. To reiterate our previous correspondence, it is imperative that Council be provided with all technical reports and materials in draft so that Council might be afforded the opportunity to make comment on these documents before they are finalised and before any decision is made on the basis of them.

These concerns are reflected in the recent motion carried in the Upper House, which motion is attached for your information. No doubt you are aware of its content.

It is again noted that Council has not yet received notification that a decision has been made on whether or not you will use your powers under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in relation to the disposal of soil from the West Gate Tunnel project at [REDACTED].

You are aware that Council disputes that proper or adequate consultation has been afforded it to this point and that in these circumstances use of section 20(4) is inappropriate.

I appreciate your time on this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer



Media Release

DAVID DAVIS MP

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for Public Transport (Metropolitan) and Transport Infrastructure
Shadow Minister for Equality, Federal-State Relations, Priority Precincts and the Arts
State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

Wednesday 18 March 2020

Victorian Upper House says no to dumping toxic waste in Bacchus Marsh

The Upper House of the Victorian Parliament today voted to —

1. Oppose any decision by the Andrews Labor Government, or its agencies, to dump toxic soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project at the Maddingley Brown Coal mine, Bacchus Marsh, in the Shire of Moorabool;
2. Notes that proper community consultation and a full environmental assessment has not been undertaken by the West Gate Tunnel Authority, Transurban or other entities associated with the project; and
3. Further notes that the site of the proposed dump site, near Bacchus Marsh Grammar School and the town centre, makes it inappropriate to for the transport and dumping of the contaminated soil on the Bacchus Marsh community.

Comments attributable to Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, David Davis:

“Only Labor MPs voted in support of dumping toxic soil in Bacchus Marsh, including local Labor MP’s Gayle Tierney and Jaala Pulford who failed even to contribute to the debate.

“The Liberal Nationals MPs and, to their credit, the cross bench MPs stood side by side with the Bacchus Marsh community and gave voice to their justified concerns.

“Bacchus Marsh is simply too environmentally sensitive to become Andrews’ toxic spoil dump and only Labor disagrees.”

Comments attributable to Member for Western Victoria, Bev McArthur:

“This vote will give great heart to the Bacchus Marsh community.

“No local Labor MP had the courage to attend last week’s public community meeting and no local Labor MP (Tierney and Pulford) even had the courage to speak up for their community in Parliament today.”

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