



11 NOV 2012

Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you to request that the Federal Government not provide funding for the establishment of a toxic waste dump near Copping in southern Tasmania, presumably from the Regional Development Australia Fund.

A great many Tasmanians have concerns with the proposed Category C landfill at Copping, for example that it is being progressed in the absence of a state-wide hazardous waste policy, and that the site is unsuitable and the proposed containment linings unreliable.

There is also the significant matter of the proposal lacking any sort of social licence, as evidenced by the thousands of signatories to a petition against the dump. It seems this is yet another example of governments and politicians seeking to ride roughshod over a local community and its legitimate interests.

Also relevant is the conflict of interest between the social and environmental responsibilities of the four councils behind the dump - Clarence, Kingborough, Sorell and Tasman - and their interest in running the facility at a profit.

In light of all this I urge you to not fund the Copping Category C landfill and to make a public statement to that effect. I would also like to see the Federal Government assist the Tasmanian Government to develop a hazardous waste policy consistent with the national waste policy, and that this be done as a priority in light of the large volume of toxic waste to be dealt with from the Hobart railyards site and Antarctic bases in particular.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison

cc. The Hon Simon Crean MP (Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government), The Hon Lara Giddings MP (Premier of Tasmania) and Mr Ron Ward (Chairman Southern Waste Solutions)