

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

**PETITION NO.** E2/2005

**TITLE OF PETITION:** Unsuitable Landfill Proposal

The petition of the undersigned residents draws to the attention of the House that the proposed landfill to be located at Mangalore is considered unsuitable on environmental grounds.

The location of the landfill is said to contravene Best Practice Environmental Management for the siting of landfills as indicated in the authoritative Victorian Environmental Protection Agency's document: entitled "Best Practise Environmental Management Siting, Design Operation and Rehabilitation of landfills", in as much it is located in a gully comprising sandstone and fractured dolerite rock which is a natural drainage line.

The vegetation in the gully has been described by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as old growth blue gum forest, which is listed under the Tasmanian Regional Forests Agreement (RFA). The landfill is said to be directly upstream of fourteen agricultural and domestic water bores located in the Brighton/Jordan River catchment area. Contamination of this groundwater resource would be considered a major blow to the area. Furthermore, the proponents have not considered other sites and their investigative works were preformed after their original application was submitted.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the House show cause why they have entertained the proposal, take notice of these glaringly negative aspects, and take steps to reject this proposal outright.

### GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE:

The Board of Environmental Management and Pollution Control assessed the application for this disposal site in 2002. The development application was subsequently considered by the Southern Midlands Council, which initially refused it. The matter is currently in the jurisdiction of the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal (RMPAT). I have no role in the RMPAT process and believe that RMPAT is the appropriate body to resolve the matters raised by the petitioners. I understand that a hearing date will be set for February 2006.



Judy Jackson MHA  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Date:

