

>>> Karen Banton <info@berniebantton.com.au> 4/9/2012 10:34 pm >>>

Disclosable Political Donation: no

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Content:

I write to you as the CEO of the Bernie Banton Foundation in respect to the proposed development of the site located at 1 Grand Avenue, Camellia by Remondis Pty Ltd and Billbergia. As you would know, the proposed development site is where the old James Hardie asbestos cement factory was located. My husband, Bernie Banton, worked at Hardie BI (Bradford Insulation) at Camellia for many years and died from mesothelioma following his inhalation of asbestos during his employment.

After reading the related Environmental Assessment regarding the abovementioned proposal, I am strongly opposed to this application, and hence the Bernie Banton Foundation is lodging its objection to this development going ahead. From the Environmental Assessment, I note as follows:

- * The site covers approximately 4.5 hectares [See paragraph 2 of Executive Summary].
- * The site is "substantially sealed at the surface with concrete and bituminous concrete pavements". [See 7.2.1]
- * "Asbestos cement waste and friable asbestos" are located in the fill under the slab. [See 7.1.1]
- * "The site (fill, soil and groundwater) is contaminated by asbestos". [See 7.3.3]
- * It is assumed all the fill at the site contains asbestos [See paragraph 2 of Executive Summary]
- * The installation of services will involve "breaching the site seal and disturbance of the underlying fill material". [See 7.1.2]
- * It is accepted that when disturbing the fill "there will be an increase in the risk of exposure to the identified contamination" [See 7.1.2]
- * It is accepted that during the construction stage there is "the potential to temporarily generate dust". [See 7.5.2]

The assessment speaks in terms of 'minimising' (rather than eliminating) the risk of asbestos dust escaping during the development.

Part 7.5.2 is the most worrying part of the assessment. This part states that over a 6-8 week period, "excavation and trenching activities" will occur below the seal. Part 7.5.2 then seems to provide contradictory statements as to whether or not asbestos dust will be released. Initially it is stated that "as the site contains asbestos....appropriate management practices will be in place to ensure no off-site impacts from this material occur." This sentence suggests to me that "no" off site impact will occur, or in other words, the asbestos will be contained. However in the very next sentence, it states "dust emissions are [to be] minimal". This following sentence indicates to me that there will be asbestos contamination. Just how much contamination will occur is not known.

Part 7.5.2 also states that "dust mitigation measures will be utilised to help reduce any off site impacts". The words "mitigation" and "reduce" are dangerous and ambiguous words. What do these words mean? It is noted that the author of the assessment has chosen not to use words such as "elimination" or

"eliminate". The author of the report gives no guarantees that asbestos dust will not escape from the site into neighbouring areas resulting in asbestos exposures to men, women and children.

Part 4.10 of Appendix D again states that the works will be undertaken "in a manner that minimises fugitive dust", with the engagement of an occupational hygienist "to prepare an air monitoring program for the excavation, storage and offsite removal of fill material containing asbestos" in accordance with the relevant Code. A list of various measures to be implemented to "control" the dust has also been set out. It is in no way clear what the word "control" means here. Again, this is an ambiguous word. Further, it is not obvious to me if there will be a suitably qualified occupational hygienist on site throughout the proposed excavation works over the 6-8 week period.

It is of enormous concern that asbestos dust emissions would occur during the excavation of the old James Hardie site. It is beyond controversy that any exposure to asbestos can result in persons developing asbestos related disease, such as the dreadful and fatal mesothelioma.

Accordingly, before this (or any future development) application regarding this area be considered further, I strongly urge the following:

A comprehensive feasibility study be authorised by the NSW State Government and conducted by appropriate authorities in determining the site's suitability (or otherwise) for re-development (from a health and safety perspective).

Preventing asbestos exposure now and in the future is paramount, ensuring new cases of (ARD) asbestos related disease do not develop decades down the track, within our communities.

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Submission: Online Submission from Karen Banton (object)

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=28047

Submission for Job: #3771 Remondis Integrated Recycling Park

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=3771

Site: #2197 1 Grand Avenue, Camellia

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=2197

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