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6 June 2024

Mr Dean Winter
Member for Franklin
Via Clerk of the House

Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Winter

I write in response to a question you raised on behalf of your constituents on 22 May 2024.

The Government acknowledges there are concerns among some members of the Risdon Vale community around the waste reprocessing and storage facility at Scotts Road, operated by ReProcess Tas Pty Ltd - part of the Spectran Group. We expect that all businesses operating in Tasmania will comply with the requirements of Tasmania's environmental laws.

We acknowledge this situation may be creating some angst for local residents and I have written to the EPA to highlight this impact. I am also meeting with residents on 12 June 2024 to further understand their concerns.

I am advised the facility processes around 60 050 tonnes of waste material per year and, by virtue of its nature and scale, is a Level 2 waste depot under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (the Act). As a result, I understand the activity does not have approval to operate and must be assessed under the Act.

The Board of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will carry out this assessment once it receives a revised Development Application. Should the activity be approved, the EPA will impose conditions as appropriate to ensure environmental risks are managed under a permit issued by the Clarence City Council. In the meantime, the EPA will regulate the site under an Environment Protection Notice, contravention of this carries potential for significant penalties.

The EPA, in conjunction with Clarence City Council, is also investigating complaints from neighbours of the facility relating to dust, odour and noise. I am advised the EPA inspected the site on 8 May 2024 to determine appropriate environmental conditions and restrictions to be imposed in an Environment Protection Notice. The site inspection involved a senior EPA investigator who has commenced formal enquiries into allegations of dust, odour and noise nuisance, and environmental impact from nearby residents.

I understand the director of the EPA also met local residents on 17 May to hear their concerns and to discuss the future management of the site and the role of the EPA. The Director undertook to continue to engage with community representatives.

I continue to take a keen interest in this matter and thank the Member for his question.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister Parks and Environment