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5. Preferred option for decision by the EPA

[More Information](#)

(Required)

- Do not assess
- Assess - Referral information
- Assess - Environmental review - no public review
- Assess - Public environmental review

6. What are the reasons for your preferred option for decision of the EPA?

Note: Please give succinct reasons for your recommendation. Your comments should not exceed 500 words (about one A4 page).

The Bouvard Coast Care Group (BCCG) is a community based, not for profit, environmental organisation that cares for the coastal sand dune system that borders the west side of the Tim's Thicket Waste Facility. The BCCG understands that it is necessary to provide septage facilities, however on review of this proposal we have a number of concerns as follows:

- 1) There are errors of fact & omissions in the Talis document that forms part of this application, the major ones of which are listed below.
- 2) Omission 1.1.7. The sub-surface irrigation field is positioned directly over a contaminated waste site to the west of the septage facility. This was historically a general rubbish disposal waste site filled from late 1994 up to about 1998 to a depth of approximately 13.5 meters, with both dry waste and non-dry waste contaminants. These include a number of 40 litre waste drums that contained 2-4-5- Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid, other metal and chemical drums of unknown content, old refrigerators & other white goods, asbestos fencing, old tyres and putrescibles such as cardboard, wood, heavy metals including zinc, copper and magnesium, gas bottles, steel & aluminium.

This proposal adds considerable additional waste water that will be pumped onto this area. This will significantly increase the leaching of contaminants from the waste underneath into the water table from which the local scheme water supply is bored, and from which many residents draw their own bore water for home grown fruit & veg.
- 3) Error of fact 2.1.1.5. There are two damp water course lakes within 500m of the selected site and certainly within the irrigation plume effect.
- 4) Questionable 2.1.1.5. We question the validity of the soil assessment of "course grained soil" as most of the soil covering the irrigation field was brought in from another location. This is over the top of the 13.5m deep contaminated waste which is then over Tamala Limestone which is described as unsuitable for septic disposal by the Dept. of Mining.

5) Error of fact 2.1.3.3. The site of the irrigation field is in the reserve No. 24198 (Murray Location 1943) which is specifically set aside for the designated purpose of "Camping & Recreation" by the Governor of WA in May 1995 and cannot be rezoned by a Town Planning Scheme. A change of designation to allow this facility would change the designation of the whole 24198 reserve which borders adjacent residential areas. The original land swap agreement with DEC, by which the MCC are bound in bulletin 375, were subject to a public consultation review and therefore this change of use should be subject to the same level of review.

6) Error of fact 2.1.2.2. There have been many complaints about all aspects of this site to MCC, through the press and through State Members of parliament from 1995 onward and there are a number of residents concerned about this application.

There are too many issues here for this proposal not to be scrutinised through a public environmental review, and we hope that the EPA will consider our request.