

Waste fuels fears

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

A proposed waste-to-energy plant in Dandenong South has been met by an overwhelming public backlash from hundreds of residents over air quality and health concerns.

The Environment Protection Authority and the plant's proponent Great Southern Waste have agreed to hold off the plant's assessment - so to stage a public conference to respond to the "high community interest".

Residents - as close as 1.4 kilometres from

tions, decrying the 70 Ordish Road site's proximity to Dandenong Creek, schools, colleges, kindergartens, places of worship and homes.

A 280-signature petition's covering letter stated homes were already impacted by two waste-related facilities, an organics garden and a commercial and industrial waste facility.

"Local residents have already made numerous complaints and reports to local council and EPA regarding the weird smells around our area.

"This (waste-to-energy plant) will definitely

A Keysborough South resident wrote that the proposal would "literally shatter mine and so many other families' dreams".

"How can our kids still go to the local parks where there is air pollution, weird smells?"

Another wrote: "I appreciate and encourage the new technology however the location must be reselected. It cannot be built so close to our homes!"

On 3 March, the EPA will hold a '20b' community conference to "better understand the views and concerns of the community and stakeholders".

Independently chaired, the meeting will discuss "possible resolutions" to public objections, the EPA stated.

The EPA has also sought extra technical details from the plant's proponent Great Southern Waste

The list of 28 items included details on air emissions, odours, accidental emissions, air monitoring and auditing of waste fed into the plant.

Great Southern Waste is required to respond by 2 March.

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