

More time to find 'suitable' landfill site



The Gara Valley Environment Preservation Association believes the extension of the use of the present landfill site on Long Swamp Rd offers the Council a chance to find a more suitable site for the future than the Waterfall Way site.

The decision by Armidale Dumaresq Council to extend the life of Armidale's existing dump site has been welcomed by community groups, in particular the Gara Valley Environment Preservation Association (GVEPA), who are opposed to the location of a new dump site adjacent to the World Heritage listed Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

The GVEPA believes that Armidale Dumaresq Council must make use of the four year extension on the existing dump site in order to begin a new search for a suitable dump site for the region, a site that does not threaten the World Heritage listed National Parks.

The GVEPA claims that the new 'inert' facility that has been proposed by Armidale Dumaresq Council has a different set of requirements from the site selection criteria that were devised some 10 years ago and used to identify the current proposed site.

The GVEPA believes

that this is a valuable window of opportunity that Council must use to make the best decision for the current and, especially the future residents of Armidale.

Since GVEPA launched its campaign against Council's proposal to locate a regional dump adjacent to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, thousands of concerned residents of Armidale and visitors to the town have signed a petition calling on Armidale Dumaresq Council to abort its decision to locate the new mega-dump near such an ecologically sensitive and vulnerable area.

"The petitions are not in full swing yet and thousands of signatures have already been gathered," said John Hamel, President of GVEPA.

"The response has been amazing as people can finally see the proximity of the wilderness area to the proposed dump from the photo on the petitions we have distributed."

"It is also a real concern that most people

were totally unaware of any dump proposal and many were shocked to hear about its exact location. We encourage concerned citizens to inform themselves of this serious threat to our fragile environment by visiting our website www.worldheritagedump.com."

Mr Hamel is also concerned as to why Armidale Dumaresq Council appear to be steadfast in pursuit of this particular parcel of land considering the opposition from environmental groups and the community.

"Council now have the available time to carry out a search for the best site available, not just ones that landowners are prepared to sell," Mr hamel added.

"In the current political and environmental climate a lot of attention, from both the media and the public, is being focused on the health of our rivers and waterways," said Mr Hamel.