

Dump stink continues

THE GROUP leading a campaign against the nominated site on Waterfall Way for a new landfill says it is not a 'lone voice' on the issue.

The Gara Valley Environment Preservation Association Incorporated (GVEPA Inc) has claimed that Kempsey Shire Council, New England MP Tony Windsor and the Citizens Wildlife Corridor group have joined the cause.

A statement from GVEPA said 'it is believed that a number of written objections had been received.'

But Armidale Dumaresq mayor Brian Chetwynd has accused GVEPA of overstating their claim.

Cr Chetwynd said the correspondence from Kempsey Shire Council and Mr Windsor was letters asking council to respond to letters they

had received from GVEPA.

"So all the complaints have come from either GVEPA directly or GVEPA-initiated activities," he said.

GVEPA said Kempsey Shire Council had also raised an objection to the placement of any landfill in the Macleay Catchment, which also serves as Kempsey's drinking water.

But the mayor said GVEPA was simply repeating the same unjustified and untrue statements.

Twelve months ago, he said, he had spoken to the Kempsey newspaper in response to letters GVEPA had written, claiming that council was 'about to build a landfill that was going to unload its leachate into the Macleay Catchment and consequently into Kempsey's water sup-

ply.'

"That is simply not true. It's just scaremongering," he said.

GVEPA also accused council of being disingenuous in not telling Kempsey Council that the proposed regional dump could be in any location within the Strategic Alliance council area which includes the Uralla, Walcha, Guyra, and Armidale Dumaresq Council areas.

"The majority of this region does not drain into the Macleay River," it said.

GVEPA claimed that the failure to take the issue to the Strategic Alliance further indicated 'a reluctance by council to embrace a true regional solution to the waste problem.'

Cr Chetwynd said council's investigation of the site would continue for at least six and possi-

bly 12 months.

"If the geological and hydrological drilling reveal any issue, then it won't proceed any further," he said.

"I have consistently said that, if there is the slightest risk to the environment as a result of the information we get, that site will be removed," he said.

The mayor accused GVEPA of a 'not in my backyard' attitude.

"There are three issues here - one or several members of GVEPA are neighbours or near-neighbours of this particular site, members of GVEPA were represented on the committee that selected the site, and every individual or group will have the chance to present their case or their facts to any future environmental impact statement," he said.



BRIAN CHETWYND