

Dump's ghetto image

By CATHERINE SUDHOLZ

A GHETTO image is how the drive between Armidale and the coast has been described by a landowner if plans for the city's new landfill go ahead at the proposed location 12km east of Armidale off the Waterfall Way.

Christian Quaife owns Strathaven which borders the properties of Sherraloy, owned by Derry and Gail Crisp, and Edington owned by Ken and Diedre Waters, where Armidale Dumaresq Council intends building a new landfill.

"I've got an olive grove no more than 500 metres from the site and the roadside collection rubbish is going to go out there.

"If there's some insect pest, that could be from anywhere, and it's dumped 500m away, I've got concerns about what it is capable of doing to the orchard," Mr Quaife said.

Protesting the landfill, Mr Quaife has placed a large sign in his paddock, which fronts Waterfall Way, at the suggestion of some neighbours.

"The background to the sign was just to let people know where the site roughly was," he said.

"I've had a heap of calls from people less than half a kilometre away who had no idea a dump is to go in there."

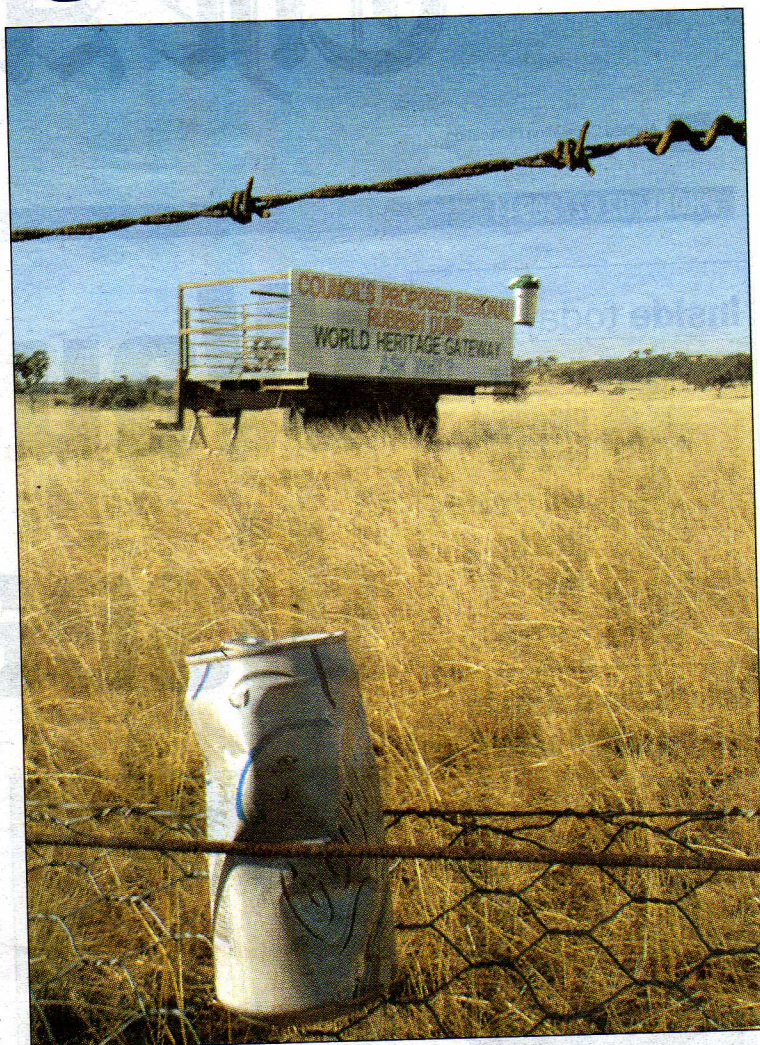
Mr Quaife believes there would be a negative impact on the environment and tourism by having the landfill at the location.

"Apart from the environmental side of things, I can't imagine moteliere are going to be happy with it," he said.

"It just seems ridiculous to me that with the strategic alliance, we've got four centres, Guyra, Uralla, Walcha and Armidale and all the trucks are going to come through the middle of Armidale to get to a dump on the eastern side of the city."

Mr Quaife said a landfill at the proposed site would present 'a ghetto type image' to people passing by.

"The NRMA has just voted it one of the top 10 drives in NSW and I can't imagine dump trucks, bags, looking onto a dump can be good for the image at all," he said.



DUMP THE DUMP: The protest sign on the proposed landfill site

"We've also got big concerns that it's only a couple of kilometres as the crow flies to the Blue Hole. It's there that the World Heritage starts so there's no kind of an impediment if there's a problem.

"It's also one of the few remaining wildlife corridors between the Gara River and Eastwood State Forest and regardless of the amount of trees to go in, with the kind of predatory birds and animals it's going to bring in, I can't imagine it being too much of a native wildlife corridor for very long."

Mr Quaife said he had been in regular contact with the council over his concerns.

"Basically the response I've got from council to all my questions is that it will be covered in the EIS. I've been told there will be plenty of opportunity for input at that stage," he said.

ADC general manager Shane Burns said while some adjoining landholders would not be happy about a potential landfill going in that area, council "had been very transparent in the process."

"People would have known about it from what we had on our website and what was in the papers previously," he said.

"We've been making sure that we try to be as transparent and open with the process as possible."