

# Trouble in the shire over proposed Armidale tip site

By CATHERINE SUDHOLZ

PLANS to locate Armidale's new landfill site on a site bordering the farmland properties of *Sherraloy* and *Edington*, 12km east of Armidale off Waterfall Way, has become the subject of a protest by some residents.

In April, Armidale Dumaresq Council decided unanimously on the site bordering *Sherraloy* (193ha) - owned by Derry and Gail Crisp, and *Edington* (467ha) - owned by Ken and Diedre Waters.

The consultants commissioned for the project, Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd, selected *Sherraloy/Edington* as

the preferred site from 10 it was asked to investigate.

Council's waste management committee and the landfill community consultative committee backed that recommendation.

Now a sign reading 'Council's proposed regional rubbish dump. World Heritage Gateway. Ask Why?' has been erected in a nearby paddock along Waterfall Way protesting the proposed landfill site.

The sign, which first appeared over the June long weekend, is accompanied by plastic bags tied along the fence.

Armidale Dumaresq Council general manager Shane Burns

confirmed council was continuing to look at a new landfill site in the area.

"One of the properties that we're looking at which council is doing an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) on is a property which is owned by one of the councillors and also Derry Crisp," Mr Burns said.

"Obviously there's going to be some people that are not going to be happy about a potential landfill going in that area," he said.

A total of 100ha would be required for the landfill development and an internal access road of about one kilometre to link with Waterfall Way.

The new site would have the

capacity to take the city's waste for more than 50 years. The current site is about 40 years old and its life span has been put at less than two years.

Mr Burns said he was not aware of any recent developments that would have prompted the sign to be erected in the last couple of weeks.

"We've been very transparent in the process," he said.

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

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