

Landfill site a retrograde step

I UNDERSTAND that the Armidale Dumaresq Council is intending to pay \$1.3 million for a paddock 12km from the city along the Grafton Rd to establish a landfill waste site.

Such a decision is gross environmental vandalism. The site 12km from the city would represent a secondary haven for the breeding support and dispersal of feral pests to ravage the native fauna of the surrounding bush, the primary source being the city itself which supports feral cats, dogs and foxes.

Landfill waste management is a 19th century waste management policy and while I realise that as such it sits comfortably with the mentality of most Armidale residents over the age of 40 that does not make it rational or sound policy.

A waste management policy must have at its core the essential of minimising waste production and transfer at source.

Only once this process is optimised should resources be allocated to transfer and dispose of any residual waste.

The council seems able to justify yet another attempt to remedy the obvious geographic limitations of a city Mall which definitely runs east to west while the sun continues to favour the Kmart car park.

Surely then they could justify attempting to manage the city's waste properly. It would seem to be much more within their scope than an endeavour to have the sun relocate and shine on the Mall through the winter.

The decision to locate a landfill site 12km outside the city which is the source of the waste is also morally questionable. Such a policy is rather like a massive binge by a compulsive litter bug.

We expect individuals to be socially responsible for disposing of their litter and sanction them for

throwing it away into the bush.

Yet here is a council preparing to do just that.

Finally the city is host to the university that teaches courses in environment and resource management.

Perhaps it would not be too much to ask for someone from this faculty to take the risk of standing up publically and leading on such an important issue.

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