

Porters Creek Waste Transfer Station

25.4.2023

CEO, City of Ryde

Dear Mr Rylands

I represent the 416 Group which was formed over 20 years ago in response to problems residents of Killara and Lindfield living west of Lady Game Drive were experiencing with noise and smells from the Porters Creek waste transfer station on Wicks Road, Macquarie Park. The history is on our website <https://www.416group.org>

The problems diminished once the storage and grinding of green waste on the site ended. Today we consider that the site is responsibly managed overall although some residents are disturbed by early morning noise and on days when road base processing activity is high.

We note that the current EPA license, 13044 required a Noise Impact Assessment to be submitted by 1 April 2022. By this email we request a copy of that assessment.

Residents, the NPWS and community groups committed to the protection of the Lane Cove National Park are very concerned by the proposal by Downers/Transport for NSW for 24-hour activity on the site for upto five years in support of the Warringah Freeway Upgrade. We have participated in a flawed community consultation process and have made submissions. The matter rests with the Department of Planning. Particular concerns are the proposed hours and scale of operation, breach of EPA requirements, impact on the national park and ineffectiveness of proposed noise mitigation - a 2 storey wall of shipping containers (was not effective in the days of the green waste grinding).

We wrote to Council on this matter on 4.5.22 and followed up on 28.9.22 and have received no reply. The email trail is below. I am writing to you now following up again for a reply.

The feeling of the community and NPWS is that the Lane Cove National Park, fragile at the best of times, is under siege. On another matter we thank Council for its comprehensive 100 page report regarding the proposed 18 storey office tower at Eden Gardens, 307 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park. The Sydney North Planning Panel subsequently refused the application. We believe the proposal would have set an Australian precedent for a large tower immediately adjacent to a national park. The proponent is now appealing in the Land and Environment Court. We and other community groups are actively in support of Council's defence of that appeal.

Yours Sincerely

Julian Ledger

President, 416 Group

0409454396

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**RE: RE: Porters Creek Depot

**Date:**2022-09-28 11:59

**From:**Julius Pucci <JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au>

**To:**"mail@416group.org" <mail@416group.org>, Julian Ledger  
<julianledger@optusnet.com.au>

Good morning Julian,

I have passed your query on to my manager, who returns to work next week.

Kind regards,

**Julius Pucci**

Environmental Engineer Waste  
BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

**M** +61434568038

**E** [JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au)

**W** [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)

**From:** 416group <mail@416group.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 September 2022 11:41 AM

**To:** Julius Pucci <JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** Fwd: RE: Porters Creek Depot

Dear Julius

I am following up on the email below which I don't believe has been responded to. We have now seen some information regarding Downers' plans to use the site and have made submissions. My question is whether Council's operations will continue concurrently with those of Downers (if approved). Any other information you are able to provide would be appreciated. Concerns include hours of operation, scale of the activity, duration and the noise mitigation proposed.

Regards

Julian Ledger

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**RE: Porters Creek Depot

**Date:**2022-05-04 10:14  
**From:**"Julian Ledger" <julianledger@optusnet.com.au>  
**To:**"Julius Pucci" <JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au>  
**Cc:**"Craig Jenns" <CraigJe@ryde.nsw.gov.au>, <mail@416group.org>

Dear Julius

Thank you for your reply back in January and for the information provided. This year residents have experienced much less noise from the Porters Creek Depot and so thank you to Craig Jenns, yourself and Council for that consideration. I would add that long term resident are quite familiar with the types of noise and their sources and we in particular recognise that there will be construction noise from this sector of Macquarie Park as new properties are developed.

Albert Drive residents have received the attached flier from Transport for NSW and noise monitoring has taken place in April. Can you advise if the Wicks Road Logistics Facility mentioned is Council's Depot or the similar recycling operations to the west referred to in your email? WE are seeking further information from Transport and in particular the proposed hours of operation.

The 416 Group has rebuilt and updated its website which is on the link below.

Regards

Julian Ledger

416 Group

**From:** Julius Pucci <JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 10:13 AM  
**To:** julianledger@optusnet.com.au  
**Cc:** Craig Jenns <CraigJe@ryde.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Porters Creek Depot

Good Morning Julian,

I refer to your email of 10/1/2022.

Since our discussions with Judy Szittner last year, the Porters Creek site manager has advised that no crushing has occurred to his knowledge before 7:00am. Council's operating hours for works, including crushing, are 7:00am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. However, there may be times where operations occur outside these hours, including for scheduled activities such as the delivery of materials (acceptance of recyclable road profilings and export of recyclable materials). Where required, the depot also assists in supporting emergency relief activities, which may also occur outside these hours.

As you may be aware, noise may emanate from sites adjacent to Council's operation, including similar recycling operations to the west, the North Ryde Waste Transfer Station to the east, the M2 motorway, and a variety of new construction works in the general vicinity. These nearby activities have no association with Council's Porters Creek Depot operations.

With regard to approval of Council's Porters Creek Depot site operations, please find attached a copy of Council's Environment Protection Licence (Number 13044), which specifies the EPA's conditions for site operations for your information.

If any individual residents have a complaint relating to activities specifically taking place at Council's Porters Creek Depot, these can be investigated by registering the complaint with Council's customer service on 02 9552 8222, Monday to Friday from 8am to 5.30pm. Please note that residents are able to call outside of these hours, however the calls will be directed to Council's afterhours contractor, who will register the complaint as an afterhours report.

To further assist with communications between the 416 Group and Council's Porters Creek management, including establishing if noise is the result of Council works taking place at the Depot, you as the President of the 416 Group can contact the Construction Recycling Manager, Mr Craig Jenns, directly on 9952 8414.

With regard to registering complaints with the EPA where warranted, here is a link to the EPA website, with related information: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/neighbourhood-noise/preventing-neighbourhood-noise>

Kind regards,

Julius Pucci.

**Julius Pucci**

Environmental Engineer Waste  
BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

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**E** [JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au)

**W** [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)

**From:** Julian Ledger <[julianledger@optusnet.com.au](mailto:julianledger@optusnet.com.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 4:51 PM

**To:** Julius Pucci <[JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JuliusP@ryde.nsw.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Craig Jenns <[CraigJe@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CraigJe@ryde.nsw.gov.au)>; [mail@416group.org.au](mailto:mail@416group.org.au)

**Subject:** Porters Creek Depot

Dear Julius

I am a resident of Killara and serve as the President of the 416 Group. The group is a community environmental organisation that represents the interests of the residents of 750 homes in Killara and Lindfield west of Lady Game Drive. Over its 20-year history, besides planning issues in the Ku-ring-gai LGA the group has particularly focused on matters affecting the Lane Cove National Park and residential areas surrounding it. These have included Porters Creek, proposed services centres on the M2 (proposal abandoned), rail bridge through the park (tunnel developed instead) and more recently high rise proposed at Eden Gardens.

With respect to Porters Creek the problems in the past were noise and smell from green waste. For many years members of the 416 Group served on a consultative committee convened by the operator. Noise monitoring was conducted from the back of homes along Albert Drive and resulted in operational changes. Green waste storage was ended for which we were grateful.

As you know from your communication with Albert Drive resident Judy Szittner in 2021 early morning noise from Porters Creek has again been affecting residents and particularly those with bedrooms facing the Depot.

As far as we can tell (I am at 53 Albert Drive) this is from two sources:

- Regular heavy metal banging against metal at the waste transfer centre
- Crushing and dozing of road waste in periodic cycles

Mrs Szittner got an undertaking that "additional efforts will be made to preclude crushing works on site prior to 7:00am".

I would be grateful if you could direct me to the Development Approval governing the site. Of particular interest are:

- Approved operating hours
- Maximum height permitted of bunding
- Maximum Db at the nearest residences and whether this varies by time of day
- Any other information which may be relevant

Where the 416 Group or an individual resident has a noise concern or thinks the Depot may be operating outside its approval can you advise the process for bringing this to the attention of the City of Ryde and the EPA

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

Julian Ledger. President

0409454396