ATTACHMENT B

Statement of grounds

Ground
If works are completed in accordance with Works Approval No. 138994, the use of the works will result in:
(a) emission of waste to the environment; and
(b) disposal of waste,
which will unreasonably and adversely affect the interests of Melton City Council.

Particulars of ground
1. The interests of Melton City Council relevant to the above ground include the objectives of a Council at section 3C of the Local Government Act 1989 and the duties of a responsible authority and planning authority at sections 14 and 14A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
2. The emission of waste referred to in part (a) of the above ground includes odour and landfill gas.
3. In relation to odour, the application material in accordance with which condition WA.G2 of the Works Approval requires the works to be constructed, does not realistically simulate the landfill odour emissions and lacks appropriate verification. Residents near to the existing Melbourne Regional Landfill currently experience unreasonable and adverse odour impacts. Those impacts will be exacerbated by the expansion of the landfill.
4. In relation to landfill gas, the Premises Plan at Schedule 1B of the Works Approval is contrary to best practice as described in section 5.1.5 of the Best practice environmental management: Siting, design, operation and rehabilitation of landfills (EPA publication 788.3, August 2015), in that the buffers required for landfill gas migration, safety and amenity impacts are not owned or under the control of the landfill operator. This will unreasonably and adversely impact upon the development potential of land beyond the landfill premises. This impact will affect nearby landowners and Council as the responsible authority and planning authority considering the future use and development of land in this growth area.
5. The disposal of waste referred to in part (b) of the above ground refers to ‘disposal’ being the least preferred method for the management of wastes within the wastes hierarchy. The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan 2016 estimated at the time of publication that the existing Melbourne Regional Landfill had approval for approximately 7 to 10 years of landfill space, without Works Approval No. 138994. Approval of an additional seven landfill cells is contrary to the wastes hierarchy at section 11 of the Environment Protection Act 1970 and policy direction to reduce waste sent to landfill in the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan Victoria 2015-44 and Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan 2016. This distortion of policy objectives will unreasonably prolong the adverse impacts of the landfill on nearby residents, including odour impacts, and suppress the realisation of appropriate State waste policy objectives.