



ENV_15-02107-FULL_06

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15 February 2016

Dear Ms Gibson,

Application 15/02107/FULL - Relocation of Phoenix Gym to Fifield Road

I had hoped that we could now all just wait for the WSP report and consign this whole thing where it belongs. Unfortunately Mr Phillip Rowe in his recent email to you dated February 9 has muddied the waters again in a way that cannot simply be ignored.

In his convoluted quoting of rainfall figures intended to discredit a phrase in my earlier letter he has completely missed the point. It is a complete waste of time and effort to argue about whether this January in Fifield was one of the 4 wettest since 1910. Our local experience does not bear that out given the photographic evidence we have provided from very wet recent years ... but no matter. The real issue is that when runoff water collects in similar circumstances near by it does not simply disappear into the ground as we are asked to believe it will. This topic has been completely avoided by Mr Rowe, with no attempt whatever to address either that or the fact that ephemeral ponds will be already half full when they are most needed.

As the dissipation of collected runoff into the ground is the central premise for the proposed water management it seems more relevant than quibbling about how much rain has fallen on Fifield this January.

Then there is an attempt to dismiss a photo because it is showing the opposite side of the road ! To those who find themselves having to live with or make their way through these conditions when they develop not much time is wasted worrying about which side of the road is the wettest or where the water on the road has come from. The other photos from a few metres away I think are pretty clear that this is an irrelevance. It all demonstrates the prevailing conditions in this area.

Which brings me once again to the continuing tendency to quote sections of OGAFCA reports out of context. I have raised this issue several times now but it seems to have had no effect. I really do wish they would stop doing it as it does not show them in a good light and smacks rather of desperation.

It is very puzzling that rather than gratefully accept the warnings we have tried to offer in order to avoid a completely nonsensical outcome and to avoid the Phoenix Gym stepping down into the same puddle the rest of us already occupy the resolve seems to be to plough on regardless with blinkers on.

So finally we come to the business of the SEW pipeline. Once again there seems to be an inability to see the point. However many influential professional connections there may be and however normal the process of consultation with utilities it seems inescapable that the proposed western SUDs pond as it is currently designed and offered if put into practice would have the crown of the 1.2 m diameter pipe intruding into it to some degree - perhaps by as much as 0.3 m. We are only amateurs, but it surely cannot be right to have such a glaring potential problem at the outset ? At the very least surely the layout of the site will need to be reconsidered and the western pond moved ?

Yours sincerely,

Rod Lord

OGAFCA Environment Work Group