



CLYDE

'Don't dump on the west'

Council slams plans to ditch city soil on our doorstep

Maryanne Taouk

SERIOUS concerns about the environmental safety of shipping in the equivalent of more than 250 truckloads of soil per day to Clyde has been raised by Parramatta councillors.

The State Government would send more than 760,000 tonnes of crushed rock on two barges a day from Barangaroo to Clyde in plans submitted to Parramatta Council.

After docking at Clyde, the dirt would be trucked to the final dumping ground via James Ruse Dr, Grand Ave and the M4. It would result in an additional 21,875 heavy vehicles on the roads over two years.

Councillors were worried about the impact on local traffic.

"It's time we tell them what we want," Liberal councillor Bob Dwyer said.

"There's already a bottleneck situation on James Ruse Dr and Grand Avenue, are they expecting we wait in traffic for hours for their dirt barges?"



Crushed rock would be shipped from Barangaroo up Parramatta River under the State Government's plans. Picture: Toby Zerna

Labor councillor Patricia Provic said western Sydney was "not a dumping ground".

"It's time Transport NSW showed Clyde some love," she said. "Instead of seeing it as the edge of the city, they should see it as the entry to Parramatta."

The council was also concerned about the potential for barge spillage to pollute Parramatta River.

"We have a plan to clean up the river even more," Liberal councillor Steve Issa said.

"We're working with the catchment group on the possibility of a Silverwater

Park swimming spot and there was a seal spotted in the area just this week.

"What does a barge do to our conservation and cleaning work that we have been carrying out in the last 10 years?"

A swimming facility at Silverwater Park was planned for a spot 200m away from the proposed barge route.

Council staff said the State Government had provided no advice on the final destination of the dirt.

The council will call on Parramatta state Liberal MP Geoff Lee to reconsider the plan.