

“No McDonalds for the Dandenongs” Guidelines for making objections

Dear fellow concerned resident,

McDonald's have recently lodged an application to build their first fast food outlet in the Dandenong Ranges, at Tecoma. We are concerned that not only will it destroy the unique and relaxed atmosphere of our local village, but will open the flood gates for more throughout our beautiful Dandenong Ranges. Together we can stop it, but we all need to contribute. The best way is to lodge a submission against the plan (i.e. an objection), which is really quite easy, and very powerful. The more objections Council receives, the more likely they are to reject the plan. You do not have to be a local resident to object.

If you wish to stand up against McDonald's, please follow these steps:

1. Scan down the points below and select those issues which concern you. The more issues you mention, the better. As long as you make your points clearly, they can each be made in a few sentences. You can make the task of the letter reviewers easier by using a separate paragraph for each point and by CAPITALISING your key word(s).
2. Your submission must include your **name, postal address** and **daytime phone number**. Furthermore, you must also note these reference details of the McDonald's application:
Application number: YR-2011/647
Address: 1529 Burwood Highway, Tecoma 3160
Description: Convenience restaurant
3. You may also email your submission, including all the details noted above. The email should be headed in the subject field: **Application number YR-2011/647** and addressed to mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
4. Do you have other adult members of your family or perhaps friends & neighbours who feel as you do? Have them complete a separate submission, including all the same reference details noted above, and it can be posted in the same envelope. People Power has just multiplied the strength of your objection!
5. Post your submission as soon as possible to:
Moulisa Sahai, Planning Officer
Yarra Ranges Council
PO Box 105
Lilydale 3140

Please pass on this set of guidelines to another potential objector to keep the whole thing rolling!
- *Congratulations from the No McDonalds Steering Committee, Tecoma Village Action Group*

Issues which residents may wish to consider:

- a) LITTER – We shall doubtless have a serious rubbish problem. Already we regularly find discarded McDonald's containers littering our streets and forests. A new outlet will dramatically increase the volume.
- b) TRAFFIC CONGESTION – Tecoma is already a traffic bottleneck, particularly during those morning and evening periods which coincide with McDonald's peak periods.
- c) LOCAL BUSINESS – Our own local outlets will surely struggle when pitted against a fast-food giant with its massive advertising budget.
- d) LOCAL CHARACTER & AMENITY – The Dandenongs are a scenic icon and, perhaps more importantly, our home. McDonald's fast food outlets simply don't belong here.
- e) SOCIAL DISRUPTION - There are concerns about “hoon” behaviour in the area, and the presence of a 24 hour McDonalds will certainly exacerbate this problem. It is likely that McDonald's will be a rendezvous point for young adults in the early hours of the morning which could lead to vandalism, graffiti, drug trafficking in the carpark and other anti-social behaviour.
- f) SAFETY - The proposed site is almost directly opposite a primary school and kindergarten, and the complex proposed traffic patterns will not be easy for children to negotiate at all.
- g) HEALTH – By taking a stand against McDonald's, we are supporting the fight against obesity for our children and setting a positive example to them.

Do you feel so strongly about McDonald's moving into the Dandenong Ranges that you'd like to join the merry band of volunteers engaged in things like designing posters, letter-boxing, contacting the media and helping with fund-raisers? Good onya! Contact us via email at info@tvag.org.au or go to www.tvag.org.au