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# WALSH CHALLENGES ON DUMP POLLUTION DANGER

A conservationist warned yesterday he would seek an inquiry if the NT Port Authority did not restrain the Darwin City Council from opening the Ludmilla dump.

Mr Bill Walsh repeated his claims that the dump would pollute the harbor despite denials by the authority and the council.

The Harbormaster, Captain Carl Allridge, and the Town Clerk, Mr Bill Sullivan, inspected the dump site this week after Mr Walsh's first warning.

## MANGROVES

The authority's execu-

tive member, Mr Les Buenfeld, said later the harbor would not be polluted as any pollutants would be stopped by the mangroves if they got into the Ludmilla Creek.

But, in a letter to Mr Buenfeld yesterday, Mr Walsh said it was absurd to suggest the mangroves would miraculously stop any pollution.

"If it was that easy,

the world's water pollution problem would be over," he said.

He accused the authority of failing to do its duty in enforcing its two anti-pollution laws, as it had failed for years to prosecute BP Australia "for flagrant oil pollution" from its Dinah Beach depot.

Mr Walsh, an independent candidate for the Territory's Federal seat, said he would make representations to the Attorney-General if Mr Buenfeld did not restrain the council.

## "APOLOGISE"

He would make the Attorney - General "aware that you are failing to discharge this statutory obligation," and seek an inquiry into his adminis-

tration of the two laws.

Mr Walsh also wrote to the Town Clerk, reiterating his claims that the dump will pollute the harbor, and said the Mayor, Alderman Harold Brennan, should apologise if he was reported correctly in saying: "Mr Walsh doesn't know what he is talking about."

In a letter to the Director of Water Resources, Mr Walsh asked if samples would be taken and made public of water seeping from old garbage dumps in Darwin.

He said it would be a valuable public service if samples from dumps at Mindil Beach, Stuart Park, Snell Street and Douglas Street were analysed and released to the public.

Illustration 11, above: Conservationist, Bill Walsh claims the Ludmilla dump will pollute the Darwin Harbour and calls for samples to be taken from all Darwin land fill sites. Walsh, now deceased, became better known in later years as "Strider". From NT News, September 30, 1972, page 7.

Illustration 12, right: Clearing of land for dump extensions (see Map 1) aroused protests as reported in NT News, July 31, 1974, page 2. A civil engineer shocked the council when he claimed rock below the surface would upset the cost estimates of excavating in the new area. About 14 trenches were dug before work stopped. Five months later Cyclone Tracy destroyed much of Darwin and the wreckage quickly extended the area of the old dump site further west into the mangroves.

# NOSES UP AT DUMP PLAN

by REX CLARK

Ludmilla residents and conservationists are raising a last-minute "stink" over planned extensions to Darwin's garbage dump.

The City Council will tonight decide whether to proceed with the plan.

The Department of the NT has approved the use of 21 hectares (50 acres) to extend the dump.

The land extends from Fitzer Drive almost to Bagot Rd. and west to mangrove swamps.

The residents, who don't like the dump close to their homes anyway, complain that natural bush has already been bulldozed.

Although their objections have been put to the council, another part of their case has caused an upheaval in the council.

A member of the residents' action committee, Mr Bernie Rowan, raised doubts about the cost of using the new area.

Mr Rowan, a civil engineer, suggested that extensive layers of rock just below the surface could upset the council's cost estimates.

He said yesterday the council would have to bulldoze extensively to remove enough rock to reach a feasible dumping depth.

This would outweigh any saving in using soil from the excavation as fill, he said.

His case, which was put to council representatives late last week, was a shock to the council.

A report by the council's engineering staff had not raised the possibility of excavation problems.

Test holes were only sunk yesterday to check the rock strata below the extension area.

A rush report is being prepared to update details for tonight's full council meeting.

The Town Clerk, Mr Tom Abbott, confirmed the council was investigating "certain aspects" raised by the residents.

He said: "I can only say that we are conducting an investigation into those points. A report will be made to the council."

The extension is also being opposed by the Gwalwa Darraniki land rights association.

The secretary, Mr Bill Day, says the land already cleared is not the area approved by the association early this year for the Aboriginals for use as a dump.

He said Mr Justice Woodward's land rights report recommended the vacant land in the Kukuluk area be vested in the Aboriginals.

Leanyer dump is now used only for dry garbage.

The council's main argument against moving the wet dump there is that the Ludmilla dump is more central.

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