

**BBS**

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# Toxic dump walkout



QUIT: Jenny Hill and Sam Akl at the open-gate entry to the dump site, left.

**By NARELLE TOWIE  
Environment  
Reporter**

TWO Capel councillors have resigned in protest over the dumping of toxic chemicals metres from homes in the South-West.

Jenny Fuller Hill and Sam Akl resigned on Tuesday after the council agreed to allow Millennium Inorganic Chemicals to continue dumping waste in Dalzellup, near Bunbury, for another three years from 2010.

The councillors said the dumping of toxic waste 180m from homes should stop immediately.

The dump has been operating for 20 years.

The resignations follow a report in last

week's *The Sunday Times* revealing MIC's slurry residue from processing titanium dioxide contained heavy metals, radioactive thorium and dioxins.

Environmental crusader Erin Brockovich and Australian legal firm Shine Lawyers are investigating if residents have grounds to sue for damages.

In their resignation letter Ms Hill and Mr Akl said: "Any questions in relation to (the dump's) impact on residents' health or the environment was answered by council staff that residents need to raise these questions with other government departments and that it was not the responsibility of council.

"We believe these matters cannot be fully dele-

gated, as council has a duty of care to residents. On this basis we have no other option than to resign."

Capel Mayor Murray Scott said the council considered all relevant information for any planning application.

"If the councillors can't accept the decisions of the majority of the council then that is their decision," he said.

MIC maintains its waste is non-toxic because its chemical concentrations are too low to be dangerous to humans.

But MIC registered the Dalzellup waste facility as contaminated with the DEC in May 2007.

In breach of the contaminated sites act, DEC

officials have so far not processed the application to classify the site, so it is not listed on the DEC Contaminated Sites Database — a public record.

"The site is recorded on the Reported Sites Register, and information regarding the site is available to anyone requesting a summary of records," a DEC spokeswoman said.

The health of residents in Dalzellup is not being monitored by the company, the Department of Health or the DEC.

Greens MP Giz Watson has called for the waste dump to be moved away from residential areas.

 [towien@sundaytimes.  
news@td.com.au](mailto:towien@sundaytimes.news@td.com.au)

## Erin's new WA fight

Satterley Group says residents told of dump



Last week's report.