

PLANNING REF : 250959
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 12 Canberra Lake Way
: Charvil
: RG10 9DH
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Lee Cripps
DATE SUBMITTED : 09/06/2025

COMMENTS:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to Planning Application 250959, which proposes the demolition of two buildings and a garage, and the change of use from a service station to a fuel oil storage and distribution facility. This proposal raises significant concerns regarding both transport impacts and environmental risks, particularly given the site's proximity to Canberra Lake, Orrell Lake, the Loddon River, and ultimately the River Thames. The environmental sensitivity and strategic importance of these water bodies make the proposed development highly inappropriate.

From a transport perspective, the application would result in a marked increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic through the local area. The surrounding infrastructure, which includes narrow roads not designed for high-volume industrial traffic, is ill-equipped to manage the anticipated increase in large fuel delivery and distribution vehicles. This raises significant safety concerns for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists, and threatens to worsen congestion and air quality in the area. The proposed mitigation measures, such as limited car parking and refurbished hardstanding, fall short of addressing the strain this facility would place on local infrastructure.

Of even greater concern are the environmental implications of the proposal. The installation of eight large-capacity fuel oil storage tanks poses an ongoing risk of spillage, leakage, and contaminated surface runoff. These risks are particularly acute given the site's proximity not only to Canberra Lake and Orrell Lake, but also to the Loddon River a tributary of the River Thames. Any fuel contamination entering the Loddon could quickly spread downstream, endangering aquatic ecosystems, public health, and drinking water supplies in a much wider region, including the Thames catchment area.

The strategic environmental importance of the River Thames and its tributaries cannot be overstated. These waterways support a vast range of biodiversity and serve as critical ecological corridors. Contamination from fuel oil, even at low levels, could have severe and lasting effects on flora, fauna, and the broader environmental integrity of the region. The proposal provides no convincing safeguards to prevent such contamination, and any incident however small could have consequences far beyond the immediate vicinity of the site.

In summary, this application presents unacceptable risks to public safety, environmental quality, and the ecological health of vital watercourses. I strongly urge the planning committee to reject Planning Application 250959 in the interest of safeguarding our community, our infrastructure, and our environment for current and future generations.

Sincerely,
Lee Cripps