

Do you want a clean, green future for Tasmania?

If we are serious about maintaining Tasmania's clean, green reputation and environmental credentials, we all need to take responsibility for the waste we produce.

Here are the facts you should know about the controlled waste disposal cell proposed for the existing landfill site at Copping:

- *Southern Waste Solutions – a joint authority owned by local government – has been operating the Copping landfill site for over a decade, during which time it has been subject to regular independent environmental testing and has always met or exceeded the required standards.*
- *Tasmania is the only state in Australia without a controlled waste disposal cell. Currently, we either export waste interstate (to someone else's backyard) or simply stockpile it on various sites around Tasmania. Export options will be very limited in the future and better options are needed for managing stockpiles. Tasmania needs to address this issue now.*
- *The selection of a controlled waste facility has been on the drawing board since 1993 when a research and review process first started, resulting in the selection of Copping as a landfill site.*
- *The cell proposal has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and will be engineered to world's best practice, using environmentally sustainable waste handling and storage technologies.*
- *The proposed cell will be located well within the boundary of the existing approved landfill, which is recognised Australia-wide for its excellent environmental track record. Before anything is constructed, the EPA will assess the final design and engineering features that will be used to protect surface water and ground water from pollution. During construction, an independent engineer will supervise and verify to the EPA the quality of the C Cell.*

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- *Before any controlled waste is accepted for disposal at the site, it will first be independently tested in a laboratory and will then undergo prior-approval by the EPA.*
- *There are four grades of contaminated materials regulated by the EPA. The first three can be accepted by the facility but the fourth type, which presents the highest environmental risk, will NOT be permitted for disposal.*
- *The site will NOT process any toxic or radioactive wastes or dispose of any liquids such as acids, alkalis, paints, solvents, septic and grey waters, grease trap liquids, pesticides, herbicides, medical waste or oil. Only materials that can be shoveled will be accepted.*
- *Industrial sludges that can be shoveled are already accepted at the landfill subject to stringent environmental approvals, and medical waste has been disposed at the site for several years, but only after it has been treated to reach a level of general waste.*
- *Waste will be stored in the engineered cell in a way that ensures it cannot cause harm to the environment through emissions to air, soil or water contamination.*
- *Controlled waste accepted for disposal at the facility will only be transported in enclosed containers on vehicles approved by the EPA. Vehicles must meet environmental permit conditions to respond to any spills and road accidents.*
- *Surrounding residents and the local community will not be adversely affected by the cell.*
- *The facility will give Tasmanian industries and businesses the ability to clear legacy waste so as to reduce any existing threats to the environment. In addition, the facility will offer increased quarantine protection measures for the state.*
- *Our clean green future, economic prosperity and jobs within the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, agriculture, food and aquaculture, dairy, red meat, mining and mineral processing sectors count on this facility being built.*

These facts are provided by Southern Waste Solutions in response to questions put to us by concerned citizens.

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On Friday, 31 August local residents held a public meeting to voice their concerns. At this meeting we agreed to further inform the community on the safety and best practice engineering behind the project.

Over the coming weeks we will be accepting public submissions and answering any questions to help allay any concerns the community may have.

We are holding a public meeting at the Copping Hall on Wednesday, 12 September from 7pm for any members of the community who would like to know more about the facility.

Written submissions will be collected on the night and can also be sent to:

Southern Waste Solutions
PO Box 216
New Town 7008

Or via email to: southernwastesolutionstas@gmail.com.

This is an environmentally responsible and ethical response to a long-standing waste challenge. It is vital for all Tasmanians that we have the proper infrastructure to protect public health and our environment at world's best practice level as well as support our industries, businesses and jobs.