

Thursday, 29 November 2012

To the Editor  
The Mercury Newspaper  
By email: [mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au](mailto:mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au)

Dear Editor,

Claims that the engineered C cell proposed for the Copping landfill facility is a 'cheap and dirty solution' are outlandish and incorrect (*Letters: M. Shrapnel and A. Nienhaus – 29 November*).

If members of the community are to make informed opinions about the C cell project, they need to base their views on the facts.

The Hobart railyard budget of \$50m is not all for soil remediation and disposal, but also includes allocations for other purposes such as planning.

The project referred to in the Letter was in Springvale, Victoria (not Springfield) and, including the approvals and commissioning processes, took around two-and-a-half years rather than the stated three months.

The Springvale soil was contaminated with PCBs at a level greater than allowable in a Category C cell, so it had to be treated. Under those circumstances an appropriate treatment process will be undertaken before waste is accepted for placement into the C cell at Copping.

It is important to note that the 'remediated' soil at Springvale was still unsuitable as clean fill and had to be removed to a landfill.

Thermal desorption only works on organics. It will not remediate metal contaminated soil, such as the soil to come from the Hobart railyards.

Southern Waste Solutions is not a 'dubious landfill business'. It is a legally incorporated joint authority owned by Clarence City, Kingborough, Sorell and Tasman Councils, charged with the role of managing the Copping landfill site.

It must also be clarified that waste from the Burnie Pulp Mill site was sent untreated to Queensland, not remediated on site, as per claims made by Shane Humphreys (*On-site fix of railyards evils urged – 29.11.12*).

I encourage anyone in the community who would like to know more about the Copping C cell proposal to visit our website at: <http://swstas.com.au>.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Bell  
CEO  
Southern Waste Solutions