

Wednesday, 29 August 2012

To the Editor
The Mercury Newspaper
By email: mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au

Dear Editor,

There is only one thing that will stop the Category C controlled waste facility at Copping from going ahead, and that is a lack of volume of waste, which is an unlikely scenario.

Tasmania is currently the only state in Australia without such a facility and if we are to hang our hat on being a 'clean, green' state, we all need to take responsibility for the waste we produce.

This waste is not coming from overseas or interstate, but rather from existing stockpiles around Tasmania, as well as that being regularly produced by our industries and businesses.

It is only right that we should clean up our legacy waste stockpiles.

Oyster farmers should be pleased at the prospect of our river banks being cleaned up, which the proposed facility will also enable.

Waste accepted at the site will undergo prior-approval by the environmental regulator to ensure it is suitable and compatible for disposal at the facility.

The site will not process any liquids such as alkalis, paints, solvents, pesticides or oil. Industrial sludges are already accepted at the landfill subject to stringent environmental approvals, and clinical waste has been disposed at the site for several years, but only after it has been treated to a level of general waste.

The cell will be engineered to world's best practice and waste will be stored in a way that ensures it cannot cause harm to the environment through emissions to air, soil or water contamination.

Southern Waste Solutions – a joint authority owned by Clarence, Kingborough, Sorell and Tasman Councils – has been operating the Copping 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.

We will continue to keep the community fully informed of developments as this project proceeds and should people wish to find out more, information is available on our website at:
<http://epa.tas.gov.au/regulation/southern-waste-solutions-category-c-cell-copping-landfill>.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Bell
Chief Executive Officer
Southern Waste Solutions