



Media Statement

Monday, 5 November 2012

Air quality monitoring and remediation facility set for Copping

Southern Waste Solutions (SWS) will implement a voluntary air quality monitoring program and construct a remediation facility at the Copping landfill site, in response to community feedback received on the C cell.

SWS Chief Executive Officer Christine Bell said after discussions with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the company would install a depositional monitoring system to assess air quality in a number of locations around the site.

“The depositional system will allow us to monitor for wind blown dust. Dust collected in the deposition units will be tested by an independent laboratory, with a focus on contaminants present in waste deposited during the monitoring period,” Ms Bell said.

“Frequency of monitoring will initially be monthly, but will be dependant on the timing and type of waste delivered.

“The exact numbers and locations of the monitors will be subject to expert advice after considering prevailing wind direction and other factors, including localised wind patterns and the proximity to site boundaries.

“In addition to air quality monitoring, we are also exploring partnership programs in conjunction with Natural Resource Management (NRM) to add value to existing programs, and to potentially extend the scope of existing work in the area.”

Ms Bell said SWS was also preparing relevant documents to support an application to construct a waste remediation facility on site, which would reduce the quantity of waste deposited in the C cell and provide a valuable community resource for the municipality, and for southern Tasmania.

“The remediation facility will allow solid waste to be temporarily stored until it reaches a volume that is economical to process, before it is treated and (following independent analysis and EPA approval) disposed of into the current B cell at the Copping landfill,” she said.

“The facility will result in better environmental outcomes by removing this waste from more sensitive or vulnerable areas and reducing the level of leachable contaminants.

“It will also provide better economic outcomes for industry and businesses by allowing waste to be treated in larger and more economically viable batches.

“There is currently no central facility available in the south of Tasmania for the temporary storage and treatment of level 3 waste, which is often located near residential, commercial and industrial areas.”

Ms Bell said the new initiatives were part of a Community Response Plan, drafted by SWS following an extended community engagement period carried out in September.

“On Saturday we advertised for expressions of interest to join a new Community Reference Group, which will keep the community informed on the operation and activities surrounding the Copping landfill, including progress on the C cell.

“The CRG will meet regularly, taking feedback and input from the community on the day-to-day operations of the existing landfill and the C cell, addressing any issues raised and exploring the feasibility of ideas submitted to SWS.

“This week we will also be inviting the public to an Open Day to be held at the Copping facility on Saturday, 24 November, allowing the community to come and see the site for themselves.”

ENDS

For further information: Jacquie Ray, Font PR: 0400 446 736.