

## **SWS FACTS**

**Update: 6th September, 2012  
8 September 2012**

### **Dump the Toxic Dump**

**The development is neither toxic in the publicly accepted sense, nor is it a dump. It is a robustly designed and engineered cell that will only accept non liquid waste up to a maximum of level 3, and only after independent testing and approval by the EPA.**

Ok, what a week (and a half) it's been. The response to the issue at hand has been overwhelming and things are moving fast. It's great to see so many people asking how they can help and where they can get there questions answered, this update aims to get that ball rolling.

### **We can stop this. We just have to band together to do it!**

As you know a steering committee has been formed to be a central body for this fight - but please don't rest on them doing all the work. They need you to lobby politicians, write to the paper, sign petitions, ask questions, bums on seats and any other opportunity that arises.

### **Steering Committee Mission Statement**

Our mission is to prevent the Cat-C Cell from going ahead. We are not going to compromise and accept amendments to Southern Waste's dump planning proposal because the proposed location comes with too many unacceptable risks. This dump is to be located 200 metres from The Carlton River tributary and 800 metres from the river proper.

**We are disappointed at the intransigent attitude of the committee, particularly given the fact that we are trying to negotiate in good faith. We are confident that a large majority are interested in the facts and in obtaining the best outcome for everyone not just for a few.**

### **Q & A**

#### **Burying toxic waste next to a river is clearly ludicrous.**

This dump will sit on a seismically active fault line with earth tremors & fissures well known throughout the area.

**The site was selected because it is geologically stable. It will not be breached by an earthquake equivalent to the one that severely damaged Christchurch, and in fact it can withstand an earthquake 10,000 times greater than the largest magnitude ever recorded in Tasmania.**

#### **Burying toxic waste on moving land is clearly ludicrous.**

This dump will be too close to underground water stores. The EPA's Environmental Assessment Report acknowledges that groundwater levels are higher than recommended by the Landfill Sustainability Guide and that pumping will be required to try and keep water away from the toxins. "The Division accepts that it is unrealistic to expect that no leachate would report to groundwater over the life of the Cell."

**The cell is designed and engineered so that there is no risk to groundwater.**

**Burying toxic waste near groundwater is clearly ludicrous.**

This site was chosen for no other reason than financial expedience and does not consider the fact that these toxins will persist in the ground for hundreds of years. To place hazardous toxic waste anywhere other than the best and most secure site borders on malpractice. We have not seen any evidence that other sites were considered. In fact we have been told confidentially that this facility is losing money and they had to find a way to make it profitable or close it down. Their great idea was to make it a C-Cell and charge lots more money per tonnage dump. And with us as ratepayers footing the bill to build it - it was a win-win situation. FOR THEM!

**Copping was selected at the end of a thorough process, and following a number of expert reports prepared over many years. Financial expedience has never been an issue. This is a stand-alone project. Only non-liquid waste classified as level 3 or lower will be accepted in to the cell, and only after independent testing followed by approval by the EPA. The whole of life cost of the cell (i.e. including close out and after care) will be used to arrive at a commercial gate fee. This fee will be applied to all waste delivered to the cell, so that the cell will be fully self-funding. The final cell liner is designed to last for many thousands of years, during which time technology will likely change and other options (including reprocessing) can be considered.**

Ratepayers from Sorell, Tasman, Clarence & Kingston are being forced to pay for Antarctica & the whole of Tasmania to dump their toxic waste. It is ludicrous to expect our electorates to pay for a state facility that will sooner or later poison us.

**No ratepayer money will be used to fund the cell. As stated above, waste providers will pay a commercial gate fee for all waste delivered to the cell. In fact the ratepayers in the member municipalities will have the opportunity to benefit from dividends paid to their councils out of profits made from the cell. These dividends can be used to fund community assets and/or projects etc.**

The Sorell Council has already approved this toxic dump, however, funding to build it has not yet been finalised. We need to lobby our 4 councils, state and federal Government to state clearly that funding should not be provided to projects that lack community support and carry environmental risks.

**Construction is not dependant on grant funding, only on waste quantities. If grant funding is not available gate fees are likely to be higher, so the community will then pay in the form of increased pricing for a large range of items whose producers and/or manufacturers need to use the cell. Such items include basics such as food.**

\*Please email questions to [dumphthetoxicdump@gmail.com](mailto:dumphthetoxicdump@gmail.com) and we will do our best to answer them for you via this weekly update. Keep in mind there will be many so where possible they will be summarized to cover the particular point.

**SWS is prepared to provide answers to questions, ensuring that they are factual.**

## What can you do?

- Join the Facebook group **Dump the toxic dump – Copping** .... tell your friends- get as many people onboard and posting information as possible
- Use your networks to get the message out there, send this and future updates to as many people as you can. It affects EVERYONE in Tassie
- Write to your local council and member, tell them you're not impressed and state your objections. You will find contact details for them on the council and government websites, but for a start...

[www.tasman.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasman.tas.gov.au) Mayor Jan Barwick

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- Write to the Mercury editor - voice your opinion - start this now  
[mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au](mailto:mercuryledletter@dbl.newsltd.com.au)
- A pro forma letter is being created to send to your politicians Local, State & Federal. As soon as it's available you will be advised on how to access it. If you feel you would like to state your position without it the choice is yours and please do so. Also, it will be quicker to email letters as attachments than post but anything sent is a bonus however it gets there.
- A petition is also being drafted – this has required some legal checking as wording and layout need to be spot on for Council to accept the petition. They have pretty strict guidelines and we don't want to risk them not accepting it. Once this has been done (very soon) it will be uploaded and people can print and doorknock, put in shops etc. The more we the petitions out into the wider Community and surround the more signatures we can get.

**A petition complying with relevant legislation can result in a council meeting being called. Neither that petition nor any resulting council meeting can overturn a decision made by a council in its role as a planning authority.**

- Read up – find out as much information as you can about this development, prepare your questions and be ready to ask them when the opportunity arises....

Updates will be on Facebook every Monday from here on in – if you want to receive this directly via email rather than Facebook please send an email and let us know and we'll add you to the mailing list.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* Margaret Mead (1901-1978)