



**MEDIA RELEASE:  
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### **Industry leading trial begins at Tasmanian waste facility.**

Southern Waste Solutions has begun a 12-month trial of a new leachate evaporation system, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to finding innovative solutions to longstanding waste challenges.

With approval from the EPA, SWS, recently installed a Benevap BV150 combustion system to reduce onsite storage of leachate at Copping, the largest waste management facility in Tasmania.

SWS Chief Executive, Chris Adekunle, said the trial was a first for Tasmania and could potentially hold the key to helping other landfills manage leachate more effectively and sustainably.

"SWS is deeply committed to environmental responsibility and sustainability, and we are pleased to have worked closely with EPA Tasmania to identify a solution that decreases our need to store leachate on site," Mr Adekunle said.

"After only a few weeks of operation, the Benevap system is performing well beyond original expectations and we have achieved a considerable reduction in the volume of leachate stored onsite.

"SWS is investing in best practice waste management as part of our broader focus on environmental excellence."

EPA Director, Wes Ford, welcomed SWS' commitment to addressing a longstanding challenge for the waste industry.

"Safe management of leachate at waste facilities is a critical environmental issue and we are pleased to see Southern Waste Solutions showing the initiative to proactively invest in this area," Mr Ford said.

"This project is a great example of the EPA's strong regulatory oversight working alongside responsible industry to achieve positive environmental outcomes."

The BeneVap system – designed and manufactured by BenneTerra - is capable of processing 25,000 litres of leachate every 24 hours. Leachate is pumped into an evaporation chamber heated to high temperature which forcibly vaporises contaminants and reduces the volume of liquid by 95%. The system produces steam, with a small volume of remaining solid product safely returned to SWS' landfill facility.

Elgin Associates, an independent environmental consulting service will conduct environmental monitoring throughout the 12-month trial, with results published on the Southern Waste Solutions website.

SWS is the joint authority of Clarence City, Sorell, Tasman, and Kingborough Councils and the largest and most modern network of waste management facilities in Tasmania, including the Copping

landfill, Copping C Cell and Lutana Waste Transfer Station, servicing over a third of the States waste management needs.

**Background information:**

Rainwater naturally filters through waste and accumulates within the landfilled waste, turning into a liquid called leachate. Leachate has historically been collected and stored in dams/reservoirs and managed through natural evaporation. For more information or to see images of the site, please visit <http://www.swstas.com.au/leachate-management-trial.html>

In partnership with UTAS, SWS continues to trial the use of an artificial wetlands as an additional means of managing leachate from the Copping site. The wetlands uses native plants to naturally filter contaminants from groundwater, in addition to surface evaporation.

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