



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Ground-breaking pilot wetlands up and running in Copping**

The highly anticipated, one-of-its-kind, pilot wetlands leachate treatment system at Southern Waste Solutions' Copping Landfill is now a reality, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to world best practice environmental standards and resource recovery principles.

An initiative of the Waste Solutions Joint Authority—comprising Clarence City, Sorell, Tasman and Kingborough Councils—the system treats leachate through non-mechanical systems, for safe reuse rather than disposal. The state-of-the-art innovation combines adsorption and phytoremediation (a process that uses plants to remove contaminants from soil and groundwater) to extract impurities.

SWS Chief Executive, Christine Bell, said the system – designed and implemented by Syrinx Environmental – has been carefully constructed with the aim of meeting the facility's goals of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

"A number of options to deal with leachate were considered. However, we decided that the wetland system was the best fit with our strategic goal of achieving sustainable environmental outcomes for our communities," Ms Bell said.

"The sustainable pilot scale system will have no off-site discharge and aims to test if the technology could treat water to a standard suitable for reusing and contributing to the circular water economy, rather than wasting the water resources.

"We've also used native plants that aren't affected by digesting contaminants from leachate. These will be harvested at intervals and composted for use on site, providing a closed loop economy for all materials at Copping."

As landowner and Authority member, Sorell Council is committed to ensuring environmental practices at the landfill are consistent with its Environmental Sustainability Policy which incorporates maintenance of functioning natural ecosystems, as well as the control of pollutants and toxins in environments including residential, rural and agricultural areas.

Mayor Kerry Vincent said the unique, fully closed pilot wetlands system is ecologically sensitive and will not require chemicals or expensive mechanical filtration.

"The passive nature of wetland leachate treatment means that after the initial set up, only minimal upkeep will be required, and the system will be easily incorporated into the wide local ecosystem," he said.

Ms Bell anticipates the pilot wetland system will be expanded to a site-wide operation following the successful 12-month pilot program.

For more information and to view a short time-lapse video of the wetlands construction, please visit <http://www.swstas.com.au/wetlands-treatment-system.html>.

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