

Thursday, 3 September 2015

To the Editor

The Mercury

Via email: mercuryedletter@themercury.com.au

Dear Sir,

I wish to address some of the points raised about Southern Waste Solutions C cell, in the article titled '*Concern over dump repair*' published on Thursday, 3 September, 2015.

For the record, remediating the C cell site at the end of its useful life will be at no cost to rate payers as the costs will be covered by those who use the facility.

As Southern Waste Solutions has consistently stated, part of the business model for the Copping C Cell is for a portion of the fee collected at the gate over the life of the site, to be placed in a multi-million dollar trust fund to cover potential future liabilities. The fund will also be sufficient to deal with highly unlikely events, such as breaches of the C cell liners.

The C cell is a separate cell and will not be within the footprint of the current, or any future B cells.

The C cell has not yet been constructed, and was certainly not constructed at 30 June 2014, which is the date to which the article refers. There was no category C cell material on site at that date, and no income had been received for category C cell material at that date. This is still the case and therefore no actual or potential liability exists.

Independent ground water tests carried out every three months at the Copping site are provided to the Environment Protection Authority, neighbours of the Copping site as well as posted on the Southern Waste Solutions website. Testing undertaken at the site proves that it has always met or exceeded the standards set by the EPA.

The controls to protect the ground water at the Copping site provide a high level of protection to the ground water, surface water and the surrounding environment, including the Carlton River estuary.

Southern Waste Solutions has always taken a responsible approach to waste management and the C cell development is no exception.

If Tasmania is to maintain our clean and green image, we need to take actions to ensure we are responsible for our waste and the Copping C cell is the first step towards achieving that.

Yours sincerely

Christine Bell
CEO, Southern Waste Solutions