



Media Statement

Thursday, 18 October 2012

Southern Waste Solutions to form Community Reference Group

Southern Waste Solutions (SWS) will call for applications from the community, including representatives from local organisations and businesses within the Copping area, to join a Community Reference Group in response to community feedback received on the C-cell.

The aim of the Community Reference Group will be for SWS to keep the community informed on the status and progress of the project and to take feedback and input on the day-to-day operations of the C-cell and existing landfill.

SWS Chief Executive Officer Christine Bell said the group would hold regular meetings and issues raised would be posted on the SWS website to ensure anyone with an interest in the project would be kept fully informed.

“The establishment of a Community Reference Group is just one of the actions identified by SWS in response to community feedback received during our extended community engagement period,” Ms Bell said.

“We have drafted a Community Response Plan, which also includes considering an air and water monitoring program, engaging with relevant organisations to support regular water quality monitoring in the region.

“Should this recommendation be accepted, air and water monitoring data would be regularly updated on the SWS website.”

Just under 50 submissions were received by SWS during an extended community engagement period initiated by the company last month to address community queries about the C-cell.

Ms Bell said SWS was in the process of reviewing and responding to submissions, before a final submission was prepared for the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

“Once we’ve completed our review process, we will send a submission to the EPA along with a database of all the questions we received from the community as well as our responses for their records,” Ms Bell said.

“It has been a valuable process to listen to the community’s concerns about the proposal and we feel that many initial fears have been allayed through this extended communication period, but we appreciate there is still a way to go.

“We thank the community for its feedback and we will continue to provide regular updates throughout the review process on our website at <http://swstas.com.au>.”

ENDS

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