



MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday 4 March 2020

Southern Waste Solutions becomes member of Landcare

In a trailblazing partnership, Southern Waste Solutions has become Landcare Tasmania's first ever corporate member, cementing its reputation as an environmentally responsible waste manager with a focus on maintaining Tasmania's clean, green image.

Landcare Tasmania CEO, Rod Knight, said the new membership recognises that businesses have an important role in finding solutions to environmental challenges, land management and sustainability options to benefit the whole community.

"Our vision is to see all the land and coasts of Tasmania cared for by the community and we see a place—and indeed a need—for everyone be involved, in order to achieve our vision," Mr Knight said.

"We are pleased Southern Waste Solutions has chosen to make their contribution to our mission and vision as our first corporate member and look forward to building greater understanding of the issues involved in waste management, including reducing the flow of waste to landfill through education opportunities for Tasmanian school students," he said.

Southern Waste Solutions CEO, Christine Bell, said the membership was further proof that the organisation's ethos aligns with Landcare's charter to care for the environment.

"We look forward to expanding on our own education program this year, to include and incorporate Landcare-based initiatives," Ms Bell said.

The two CEOs believe that by bringing Southern Waste into the Landcare fold, presents an important opportunity to engage the broader community in a holistic conversation around waste.

Ms Bell said Southern Waste Solutions' new soon-to-be-complete pilot wetland treatment system is yet another way the organisation is reducing its environmental impact.

The ecologically-sensitive system, which has strong support from Landcare, will utilise natural wetland vegetation processes to treat wastewater from the Copping B cell without the need for external energy or chemicals. The ponds will be planted with a range of propagated endemic native plant species, designed to extract contaminants from water that has passed through the landfill.

"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 local ecosystem," Ms Bell said.

"Once proved to be effective, the pilot system will be expanded to a full-scale operation where, after rigorous testing, treated wastewater will be reintegrated back into the surrounding ecosystem," she said.

Mr Knight said Landcare Tasmania is looking forward to seeing the results of the wetland's trial operations.

"This is a great initiative and has the potential to be a valuable demonstration site for using natural systems to improve water quality and also provide water for economic use," Mr Knight said.

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