



COMMUNITY STATEMENT

16 January 2020

In its latest issue (January 2020), the Sorell Times published a story containing misleading information about Southern Waste Solutions and its operations.

The article related to plastic rubbish which had blown around the site in high winds and had become caught in bushes within the land leased by SWS. The plastic was cleaned up by the site operator when it was safe to do so.

Southern Waste Solutions would like to clarify the following:

- Plastic bags are not related to the C cell or its operations in any way, but rather were deposited in the domestic landfill (B cell);
- The plastic bags blew from the top of the B cell during high windspeeds but did not leave the property leased and operated by Southern Waste Solutions. The contracted operator makes it a priority to ensure that this is always the case;
- The Sorell Times stated there have been “complaints made about the amount of rubbish surrounding the Copping C cell site”, however Southern Waste Solutions has not received any such complaints, nor has Sorell Council. Rather, an enquiry was made to Council on 18 December asking the Mayor to “advise how the Copping Waste Management Centre is being managed to meet the regulatory standards required”. The enquiry was accompanied by photos taken at the Copping site.

The email, which was forwarded to Southern Waste Solutions CEO, Christine Bell, showed the author had also contacted the Editor of the Sorell Times, suggesting it might be “worth a story”.

Ms Bell sent the below response to the Mayor and forwarded it also to the Editor of the Sorell Times, along with an offer to answer any further questions:

I agree that the quantity of plastic bags that were blown around the site recently is very disappointing and well below what we would expect. It is also very abnormal, and in fact in the almost 20 years that I have been involved with Southern Waste Solutions I have never seen the site look like it did at that time.

The wind-blown bags were subject to a concerted clean-up effort by the site operator, under close monitoring by Southern Waste Solutions. I have attached some photos of the area taken this afternoon.

I would also like to make the following points:

- 1. in the email below, wind-blown plastic bags are linked to the C cell. In fact, they are not related to the C cell or its operations. They are solely related to deliveries to the domestic landfill;*
- 2. the wind-blown plastic bags did not leave the property leased and operated by Southern Waste Solutions (the gun club site is sub leased by the club from Southern Waste Solutions and the road is*



also part of the property leased by us), and our contracted operator makes it a priority to ensure that this is always the case;

- 3. subject to safety, we strive to keep the Copping domestic landfill open as a public service when other facilities in the south of the state are closed. This puts additional pressure on the site operators;*
- 4. wind speeds have been more severe and sustained recently, with the landfill closing because of wind more times in the last 2 months than in the last 5 years.*

We are currently operating in an area that is highly vulnerable to wind. This area is now almost completely filled. Our new landfill cell will be complete early in the new year, which will eliminate the issue of bags blowing around the landfill entrance.

██████████ and others are welcome to re visit the site to verify the fact that is has been cleaned up.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information about this matter.

*Regards
Christine*

For any further enquiries, please contact:

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