



# Latest *from* the Landfill



*Southern Waste Solutions Foreman, Tim Devine, salvaging saleable timber from waste.*

## Discarded waste given second chance

**Building materials, books, chairs and children's toys are just some of the discarded items being salvaged from the Lutana Waste Transfer Station and given new life at Mornington Park's Second Chance Reuse Shop under an agreement reached between Southern Waste Solutions (SWS) and Mornington Park Waste Transfer Station (MPWTS) earlier this year.**

SWS has committed to retrieving salvageable items from its Lutana transfer station in an attempt to limit the volume of waste being transported to its Copping facility.

Chief Executive, Christine Bell, said the new agreement aimed to demonstrate the company's commitment to the environment and showcase the efficacy of the 'reuse and recycle' message.

"Two 20ft shipping containers are being utilised to store and transport items to be resold, which would otherwise have ended up in landfill," Ms Bell said.

"Our focus is on reducing, reusing and recycling - redirecting waste away from landfill to alternative uses.

"Despite the provision of landfill being our core business, SWS has a commitment to the environment, maintaining Tasmania's clean green image and limiting the unnecessary disposal of saleable items."

SWS is footing the bill for labour costs to salvage and stack the materials as well as the provision of the shipping containers.

"MPWTS has taken responsibility for the transport of containers to its Mornington facility and back, retaining any profits made from the sale of salvaged goods," Ms Bell said.

The first container load of recovered items to be resold was transported to the Second Chance Reuse Shop earlier this year, and after an extended break due to COVID-19 the second load is expected to be delivered in the coming weeks.

## Copping pilot wetlands leachate treatment system completed

**The highly anticipated pilot wetlands leachate treatment system at the Copping Landfill has now been completed, demonstrating Southern Waste Solutions' commitment to treat leachate for safe reuse rather than disposal, in line with world's best-practice environmental standards and resource recovery principles.**

Following assessment by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and months of open community consultation, a series of interconnected, fully lined wetland biofilters have been constructed at the facility and planted with endemic native species designed to extract contaminants from water that has passed through the landfill.

The ecologically sensitive system, designed and implemented by Syrinx Environmental, utilises natural wetland processes to treat wastewater without the need for chemicals or expensive mechanical filtration.

Syrinx Environmental CEO, Dr Kathy Meney, said the sustainable, fully closed pilot scale system would have no off-site discharge and aimed 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.



"The first-of-its-kind wetlands provides a sustainable way to treat leachate through non-mechanical systems, combining adsorption and phytoremediation (a process that uses plants to remove contaminants from soil and groundwater) to extract impurities," Dr Meney said.

"Once the pilot has demonstrated the wetland's efficacy, it will be expanded to a full-scale operation where, after rigorous testing, treated wastewater will be reintegrated back into the natural water cycle and used for irrigation.

"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 and for agricultural purposes, providing a closed loop economy for all materials at Copping," she said.

SWS Chief Executive, Christine Bell, said the SWS Authority considered a number of options for dealing with leachate.

"It was decided that, in addition to having a reasonable whole-of-life cost, the wetland system was the best fit with our strategic goal of achieving sustainable environmental outcomes for our communities," Ms Bell said.

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

**For further information:**

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