



# *Latest from the Landfill*



## *Southern Waste Solutions named Finalist in EPA Sustainability Award*

**Southern Waste Solutions has been recognised as a finalist for the 2019 Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Sustainability Award, presented at the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards in November.**

The Award recognises businesses which share a passion and commitment for sustainability and to reducing environmental impacts through waste minimisation and resource efficiency.

Judges commended Southern Waste Solutions on the conscious efforts and initiatives employed by the organisation which have seen a reduction to the risk of contamination of the environment through the construction and operation of its C cell at Copping.

Since November 2018, Southern Waste Solutions has safely and securely accepted over 2,000 tonnes of C cell material, which would previously have been shipped interstate to less secure facilities or stored in suboptimal conditions.

Designed with the capacity to accept material state-wide and from Antarctica, the facility has helped reduce pollution and carbon footprint and improve the health of current and future generations of Tasmanians.

Southern Waste Solutions Chair, Ron Ward said the recognition was testament to the vision and hard work of its CEO, Christine Bell, dedicated staff and the SWS Board.

“Southern Waste Solutions began a long process back in 2012 to gain approval to construct Tasmania’s only category C landfill cell at Copping” Mr Ward said.

“This high-quality facility now helps to support Tasmania’s clean, green image through notable and successful environmental initiatives.”

Other finalists in the category included Hobart Airport and Salamanca Market, with Lion Dairy & Drinks named winner of the 2019 Award.



## *Wetland treatment system nears completion*

**In addition to passive evaporation techniques already employed, leachate will be actively treated onsite at Southern Waste Solutions’ Copping Regional Landfill Facility as early as January next year, in line with environmental world’s best practice standards.**

Following assessment by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and months of open community consultation, a series of interconnected ponds have been constructed at the facility, which will soon be lined with impermeable manmade liners.

The pipework to transport leachate to the ponds is also well-advanced and technical set up and testing is due to begin early in the new year.

The ecologically-sensitive system, designed and implemented by Syrinx Environmental, 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—including Duckweed, Spikerush, Saltbush and reeds—designed to extract contaminants from water that has passed through the landfill.

Southern Waste Solutions CEO, Christine Bell, said the clean and green, fully-closed pilot scale system will see no off-site discharge.

“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 wider 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.”



**For further information:**

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