

## **Timeline - Proposed development of a Category C Cell at Copping Landfill Site (DA 5/1012/76) - prepared by adjoining landowner Paul Reardon**

- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012** Initial letter from **Southern Waste Solutions** (SWS) outlining the need for a Category C Cell, with the Copping Landfill site identified as the recommended site for such a development in Tasmania. Advised that details of the development will be advertised in the Mercury on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012.
- 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012** Letter received from Sorell Council advising that an application had been received from SWS for the development of a proposed Category C cell at the Copping Landfill Site, and that further information was on display and available from Sorell Council.
- 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012** Met with the Senior Planner at Sorell Council to discuss the proposed development, and was informed of what exactly a *Category C Cell* is, and the types of waste could be accepted and processed as part of the proposed development.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012** Had initial discussions with personal contacts within the local community outlining the intentions of the proposed development and my personal concerns with the development.
- 8<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2012** Made contact with and had discussions (where possible) with various community and interest groups, including:
- Tasmanian Greens local member (Tim Morris MHA)
  - Sorell Council (Kerri Degrassi)
  - Clarence City Council (Kay McFarlane and Sharon Von BerTouch)
  - Tasman Council (Rosemary Hayward)
  - the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)
- 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012** Submitted my initial *Letter of Objection* regarding the proposed development (DA 5/1012/76) to Sorell Council, stating that I objected to the development "until further advice", in line with legal advice given to me at the time.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012** Objections to Sorell Council regarding the proposed development (DA 5/1012/76) formally closed.
- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012** Received letter from Sorell Council, acknowledging receipt of my initial Letter of Objection.
- 21<sup>st</sup> May - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Time taken to thoroughly read and understand the full Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP), and further consult with community and interest groups, including:
- Neighbouring property owners
  - Local aquaculture industry representatives
- Prepare final objection letter regarding the proposed development
- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Unbeknown to me at the time, the EPA received notice of the development for approval from Sorell Council.
- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Unbeknown to me at the time, the proposed development was formally approved by the EPA.

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Submitted final Letter of Objection regarding the proposed development in person to Sorell Council, giving detailed information on my numerous and grave concerns regarding the development.

Contacted the EPA to determine who the best contact person was to attention my Letter of Objection to. I was advised that **Shane Hogue** was the responsible contact person within the EPA for the proposed development, however he was currently on holidays and unavailable until the following Monday (18<sup>th</sup> June 2012). I delivered my Letter of Objection in person to the EPA, attention to Mr Hogue.

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Contacted Shane Hogue to ensure he had received my Letter of Objection. Mr Hogue advised that the development had already been approved by the EPA (on the 8<sup>th</sup> June), and that a letter had been sent to me (dated the 12<sup>th</sup> June) advising me of the EPA's decision to approve the development.

This letter was never received by me because it was addressed to my property at Carlton River, which has no residence or letter box. This is despite the fact that my Letters of Objection had my postal address clearly visible in the letterhead of each page.

The EPA made no attempt to contact me in regards to my final Letter of Objection, and it became clear very quickly that the EPA had granted approval for the development having not seen my full (10 page) Letter of Objection – i.e. I submitted my formal Letter of Objection to both Sorell Council and the EPA on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, yet the EPA had already granted approval for the development on the 8<sup>th</sup> June – just 3 days after they formally received notification of the development from Sorell Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Therefore I feel that the points raised in my Letter of Objection have not had due consideration or attention.

Shane Hodge also indicated that as far as he knew, the development would go before Sorell Council for approval in a few weeks' time.

Contacted **Christine Bell** (CEO of Southern Waste Solutions) to find out why the development had been approved by the EPA without my Letter of Objection being heard or even considered. I also asked Christine Bell when she expected the development to go before Sorell Council for approval, and she agreed that would likely be a few weeks before the development went to a full Council Meeting for consideration.

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2012** Later that evening, I was contacted by a family member who just happened to attend the Sorell Council Meeting that night about a separate issue, and was informed that the proposed development of the Category C Cell at Copping Landfill Site had been discussed by Council at that meeting and subsequently approved.

I had no knowledge at the time and had not been contacted by anyone to inform me that the proposed development was going before a full Sorell Council Meeting for approval on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012** Received formal notification from Sorell Council advising that the application for the proposed development had been approved, and that I had 14 days to appeal the decision if I so wished.

**23<sup>rd</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012** Arranged several meetings with the *Environmental Defenders Office*, Tasmania (EDO) to discuss options for appealing the development.

Made contact again with neighbouring property owners and people with a “proper interest” in the development to discuss the appeal process and encourage their support. Interest in appealing this process was not forthcoming, and therefore I continued talks with the EDO in regards to options available.

Contacted Christine Bell (CEO Southern Waste Solutions) to seek a formal meeting to raise concerns and negotiate possible changes to the conditions of the development.

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012** EDO advised me that pursuing the appeal would be both very costly and also highly unlikely to resolve in my favour.

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2012** Met with Christine Bell to raise concerns regarding the development and negotiate changes to the conditions of the development. Was successful in getting SWS to agree to several extensions to the original conditions of the development.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2012** SWS confirmed in writing that they were agreeable to extending their commitments regarding the development.

Formal appeal process for the development closed.

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2012** Received letter from SWS confirming their acceptance of the new extended commitments for the development, as follows:

**Commitment 28:** A register of complaints will be maintained for the life of the C-cell.

**Commitment 29:** Owners of neighbouring properties will be notified when each Annual Review becomes available.

**Commitment 30:** Owners of neighbouring properties will be notified prior to any blasting taking place on the site.

**Commitment 31:** Results of measurements and analysis of samples and details of methods employed in taking measurements and samples will be retained for the life of the C-cell.

**Commitment 32:** Owners of neighbouring properties will be notified of any incidents involving the C-cell that are required to be reported to the Environmental Protection Authority.