



## ▶ **LANDFILL LICENCE – SWR**

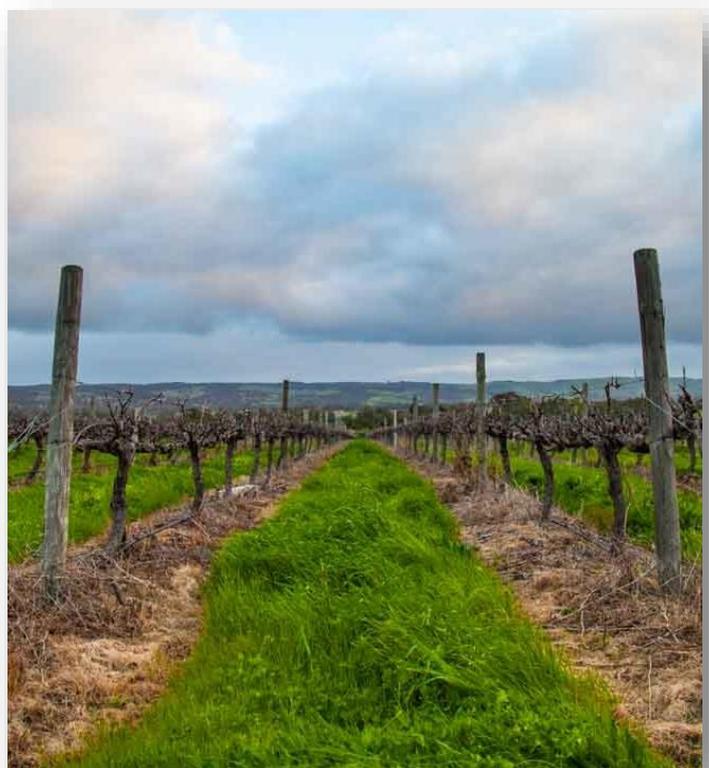
### **McLaren Vale community information**

**Issued 6 April 2020**

The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) statutory role includes ensuring that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to protect, restore and improve the environment and to safeguard people's health and wellbeing through the regulation of waste management activities.

The EPA uses robust regulatory enforcement to ensure waste industry operators meet licence requirements for environmental performance.

Southern Waste ResourceCo (SWR) operates a landfill on Tatchilla Road at McLaren Vale, and holds EPA licence #32682 to undertake activities of environmental significance. For a list of waste that SWR is currently allowed to receive, please [download the licence](#) or contact us to request a copy to be sent to you.



### **SWR application to receive PFAS-contaminated waste**

On 21 February 2020, SWR sought EPA approval to receive, store, treat and dispose of waste contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Please see overleaf for more information.

The EPA has strict criteria around the disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste, and this is permitted only if landfill operators can demonstrate that they have appropriate mechanisms and engineering in place for testing, handling and disposal of this waste. This approach is consistent with the EPA's existing requirements for the disposal of wastes contaminated with other chemicals, to ensure the transport and mobility of contaminants to the environment are controlled and mitigated.

The EPA is now considering this application and invites local residents to contact us if you have any feedback you would like us to consider in the assessment.

# What is PFAS?

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are man-made chemicals that have been used in a range of industrial and consumer products since the 1950s.

PFAS have been used in domestic and commercial applications including in the manufacture of non-stick cookware, in stain protection for fabrics, furniture and carpet, in food packaging and predominantly in some types of fire-fighting foams.

South Australia was the first state to ban potentially hazardous fluorinated firefighting foams on 30 January 2018. This ban effectively negates further environmental and human health risks associated with their use.

## Assessment for disposal

The EPA is now assessing SWR's proposal against the landfill acceptance criteria outlined in the [PFAS National Environment Protection Measure](#) and in accordance with the [EPA Landfill disposal criteria for PFAS-contaminated waste](#).

Disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste is permitted only in specially engineered landfills constructed with a single or double composite lining system. The cell that is currently under construction has a double composite lining that consists of four layers of protective barriers (see left – SWR cell in construction).

The EPA undertook a full assessment of the design, materials and structural integrity of the landfill cell that SWR is proposing to use, to ensure it achieves EPA requirements for the protection of the environment and groundwater. If the EPA approves disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste into this cell, it will impose license conditions to enable compliance and enforcement actions to be taken against this assessment.

If you have any queries at all, please let us know. We have temporarily suspended private and community meetings, but we are still available over the phone and online – and encourage you to please call or email us during this time.

## Have your views considered

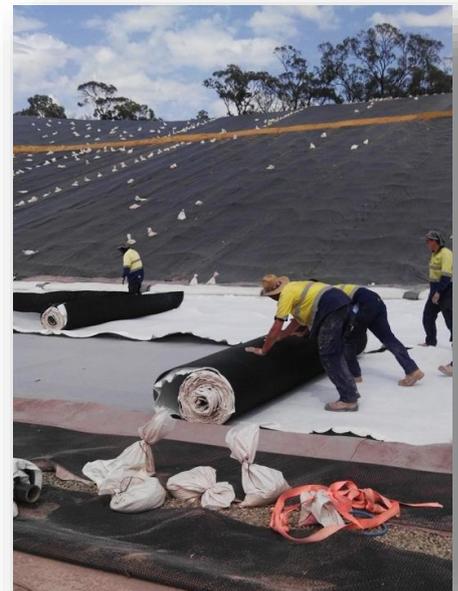
In assessing the application, the EPA will consider feedback from the community, prior environmental performance, the availability of new data or scientific information, and the use of new technologies.

Submissions can be made by **Tuesday 28 April 2020** to:

[engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

Re: SWR proposal

If you are unable to email your comments, please post to EPA Compliance Branch, GPO Box 2607 Adelaide 5001



### FURTHER INFO

For **further information** please contact the Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8124 4216

Email: [engage.epa@sa.gov.au](mailto:engage.epa@sa.gov.au)

Website: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

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