



## SOUTHERN WASTE RESOURCE CO

### Community update #2 – assessment still ongoing

Issued 11 November 2020

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is writing to residents in suburbs around the Southern Waste ResourceCo (SWR) landfill, on the corner of Main South Road and Tatachilla Road McLaren Vale. SWR has operated a landfill here since 1996, when it was first licensed to receive contaminated waste.

Some residents may already be aware that on 21 February 2020, SWR sought EPA approval to receive, store, treat and dispose of one additional type of contaminated waste – waste containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



The EPA is required to assess SWR's proposal, to determine whether it meets the criteria outlined in the [PFAS National Environment Management Plan](#) and the [EPA Landfill disposal criteria for PFAS-contaminated waste](#). SA takes a precautionary approach to restrict the disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste to composite-lined landfill cells and treatment is required prior to disposal to ensure it is safe.

The EPA is writing to let you know that a decision on this application will not be made until next year, after further geotechnical information has been submitted and scientifically assessed.

### Community engagement

Community engagement commenced on 6 April 2020 and has been extended beyond the three-week statutory consultation period. Since that time the EPA has published a notification in *The Advertiser*, a media release to *AdelaideNow* (print and radio), *AAP* and *InDaily*. A [community submissions report](#) has been published, briefings have been held with local industry associations, community groups, Council, and a community information session was held on 30 July 2020.

***In response to the amount of feedback we have received from the community, this update is being distributed to an extended area, to suburbs where residents have contacted us to indicate they are interested in this application. If you would like to be kept informed about the progress of the application, please contact us and we will add you to our postal or electronic distribution list for future updates.***

On 15 September 2020 we published updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) raised by the local community so far (please contact us to have any of these posted out to you).

## Facts about this application

- This site has been chosen by an existing commercial operator, who is eligible to make this application through their existing development approval to accept contaminated wastes. The EPA is legally required to assess this application.
- This application will not be approved unless SWR can demonstrate that it can meet PFAS disposal criteria in the [PFAS National Environment Management Plan](#) which has endorsement of all states, territories and the Australian Government.
- [SA guidelines](#) stipulate that the maximum concentration of PFAS in waste must be limited to 50 milligrams per kg of contaminated waste material. Highly engineered landfills are required for this type of contaminated waste.
- PFAS-contaminated waste associated with this application is defined as waste that contains PFAS-contaminated soil, PFAS-contaminated activated carbon and PFAS-contaminated sludge. The EPA does not permit firefighting foams or liquids contaminated with PFAS to be disposed of into any landfill in South Australia.



## Please contact us

The EPA would like to hear from anyone that is interested in being kept informed about this application.

If you have any queries, or would like to talk to us about the application, please:

Ph: (08) 8124 4216

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

Further information, guidelines, the community submissions report, and facts about the landfill cell this proposal relates to are available from the [EPA website](#).

Please contact us to request any of this information to be posted out to you.

## Assessment for disposal

Landfill operators must hold an EPA licence which sets out strict, legally enforceable conditions for the disposal of PFAS-contaminated waste. Landfill operators must be able to demonstrate that they have the highest level of engineering in place for its testing, handling and disposal, and protection of groundwater resources.

The EPA has requested SWR provide further information on the hydrogeological profile of the site, including the seismic stability of the landfill cell. SWR has engaged a team of experts to undertake these studies, and the EPA has engaged an expert from Flinders University to undertake a peer review of the information that has been submitted to date. This information will be available publicly when completed.

### FURTHER INFO

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

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Telephone: (08) 8124 4216

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

Website: [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) (follow the links to 'Community' then 'Stay informed').

*If you would like to be posted a copy of any of the items that are hyperlinked (blue underlined text), please contact us and we will be happy to send them out.*

