



www.southhobart.org
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ARBN: IA10232

1 October 2015

Nick Heath

General Manager
Hobart City Council

Dear Mr Heath,

I am writing on behalf of the South Hobart Sustainable Community, an organisation formed in 2007 that has led a number of community projects. Recently we organised a public meeting to respond to concerns about Council plans to extend the life of the McRobies Gully landfill by 23 years to 2030.

We felt compelled to take action because Council did not take any steps to consult with the local community about these plans. This was disappointing given the South Hobart community has hosted landfill sites for Greater Hobart for over fifty years.

The Forum "Don't Waste Our Future South Hobart!" was held in August and was very well attended. The goal was to capture the ideas and desires of the community for improved waste management and to lessen the impact of the tip on our community. The community would like to see Council consider the attached ideas and outcomes of the forum. We request that Council:

1. Reflect the South Hobart community's ideas into the City of Hobart's new *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* – as our community has a strong interest in seeing a dramatic reduction in the amount of material being buried as soon as possible.
2. Enter into a *Good Neighbour Agreement* with the South Hobart community to ensure any landfill site extension, management of the site and waste management strategies can lessen the impact on this community and our local environment;

Our recommendations are summarised in the table following and we are encouraging Council to act on these recommendations as a matter of priority. A detailed discussion with more information about our recommendations is presented in the attached supporting document.

Progressing responses to these issues will have a big impact on how the South Hobart community receives and reacts to Council's future plans.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Clark', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ben Clark
President



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South Hobart – Don't Waste Our Future Recommendations

Our first recommendation is key to reducing the quantity of materials being buried at McRobies by stimulating waste avoidance and resource recovery businesses. It is weighted far above any other recommendation.

Lobby all Southern Tasmanian Councils to:

1. accurately price disposal to landfill, to reflect the true cost of landfilling wastes (many mainland jurisdictions charge over \$200/tonne for gate fees but \$150/tonne would be a good starting point in Southern Tasmania)
 - Under-pricing landfills is both economically and environmentally detrimental and Tasmanian landfill gate fees are too low to cover the true costs of operation, overheads, mobile plant and equipment, labour, contamination monitoring, pollution control, depreciation costs of roads and buildings and other fixed assets and profit. And they certainly do not cover 30-50 year post closure management, long term monitoring and reporting, and importantly replacement of the landfill asset itself.
 - Education and short-term incentives alone are not enough to create business confidence and investment in the recycling industry
2. require licensed landfill facilities to pay a contribution (levy) for each tonne of waste buried in the ground at the facility (many mainland jurisdictions charge over \$130 but \$120/tonne would be a good starting point for a Southern Tasmanian levy)
 - A levy means that businesses only pay when they choose to bury materials in the ground. Materials diverted from landfill into re-use, composting or recycling facilities do not attract the fee, so resource recovery businesses reap the benefits.
 - In Tasmania it has been estimated that charging people and businesses a levy of \$120 for each tonne of waste they bring to be buried in the ground would be the right starting point (so no, please don't play around with such tokenistic figures as \$10/tonne).

Please don't fuss and panic at the costs, remember that almost all of the material currently being buried is easily recyclable or compostable and these fees only apply to materials being buried in the ground. By diverting wastes to resource recovery businesses these costs can easily be avoided. A southern waste levy would capture the big southern three - Glenorchy, Hobart and Sorrell (Copping) landfills (the other smaller Central Highlands and Derwent Valley Council landfill sites could also join the southern levy). The Latrobe/Devonport (Dulverton), Launceston and Burnie landfills have already introduced their own northern waste levy. Together, the big six bury over 80% of Tasmania's landfill wastes, so we think a southern levy is just fine. Sorry we can't recommend a State-wide levy. The State Government couldn't come close to implementing a \$120 levy and it is unlikely that they could commit to using the bulk of the levy revenue on waste management initiatives.



We want policies that bravely lead to a dramatic reduction in the amount of material being landfilled as soon as possible <i>-Policies and actions for the Zero Waste Strategy</i>	We want changes to on and off-site management and waste strategies to lessen the impact on this community and our local environment <i>-Commitments for the Good Neighbour Agreement</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect kerbside food and green waste together, as a priority• Continue to fund composting programs and subsidised equipment in recognition of the reduced cost to Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect kerbside food and green waste together, as a priority, and process off site given McRobies is unsuitable for food waste• Continue to work towards best practise and improve compliance with onsite management guidelines (landfill minimum cover, wheel wash, etc).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate people about reducing, reusing and recycling waste<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Council programs to ensure that all public servants (local, state and federal) in the Hobart area lead by example (recycling resources and regular education)- Best practice innovative and motivational Hobart event recycling programs- Free business waste assessments and procurement surveys, tailored action plans and ongoing support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create collection points for recyclables that are not accepted in kerbside recycling<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Council needs to help create more drop off points around the city for specialised recycling programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take on a lobbying role to tackle difficult-to-recycle products<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lobby for new and improved product stewardship programs and solutions for industrial, textile and packaging waste- Rapidly phase-out polystyrene because neither recycling nor landfilling are adequate solutions and it is a marine pollution menace.- Lobby all government departments in Hobart to ensure they have strong procurement policies that favour recycled products (such as ramps and seats made from recycled plastic, recycled furniture products and printing paper)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the impact of tip traffic on community streets<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Re-surface Macquarie Street with asphalt; lower speed limit to 40 km/h; information on truck movements and agreed 'truck free' times; increased number of street cleansStreet design improvements along Macquarie street to slow traffic and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commit long-term funding to the Resource Work Coop to help businesses divert construction, demolition, commercial and industrial wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce impact of the tip on the Hobart Rivulet and surrounding environment<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regular and transparent water quality monitoring; reducing rubbish blowing into storm-water and bushland; reducing the availability of food for pests and fund Rivulet revegetation