

MEDIA RELEASE – Monday, 22 September

Auditor-General finds management of landfills in Tasmania lacks strategy

In his report tabled in Parliament today, the Tasmanian Auditor-General, Mr Martin Thompson, said, 'governance and regulatory oversight for the management of landfills is inadequate. Councils have not done enough to meet their regulatory and aftercare responsibilities and regulators are not enforcing current compliance requirements.'

Mr Thompson said, 'despite diversionary efforts, half of the waste produced in Tasmania each year is still going into the ground. Regulation and management is spread across more than 30 state entities.'

In expressing his conclusion Mr Thompson said, 'there was no comprehensive coordinated oversight for the management of landfills. Oversight and monitoring of closed and legacy sites was lacking. When problems were identified, including the potential for risk to human health and the environment, councils were slow to act, and the Environment Protection Authority has not fully utilised its enforcement powers.'

Mr Thompson said, 'case studies in this report detail gaps in oversight and management which are likely to be indicative of many more issues.'

The Report makes 5 recommendations to strengthen governance and regulatory oversight. The recommendations include:

- developing a statewide strategy
- using comprehensive and accurate data to inform policy and regulatory oversight
- the EPA adopting a stronger enforcement approach
- developing contemporary guidance to assist landfill managers in meeting their obligations
- developing sustainable landfill management practices.

[Click on this link to read the Report.](#)

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