

FROM THE COAST

Potential New Waste Facility Site

The need for a new waste facility site has been among the top priorities for our community for some time, so the indication that initial tests have established the suitability of a potential site is good reason to be optimistic.

The new waste facility we can expect to see is probably very different to what many people picture. It is a far cry from the typical image of a tip with rubbish billowing out everywhere. The new landfill will be covered with sand daily and be completely sealed. The site will be required to run with no visual, noise, litter or ground water impact.

The new site will need to tick all the environmental boxes, and if it doesn't we'll be back to square one. This is why the site will now undergo further intensive testing to determine its suitability.

The site we're looking at is located east of Esperance, in the Merivale region. Right now you can see a bank of trees surrounding the boundary. This is the same view you will see when the facility is up and running. The only way you will know there is a waste facility is by the minimal signage that needs to be in place.

August 2019 is D-Day, as this is when the Wylie Bay Waste Facility will close operations and a new facility will need to take over.

Wylie Bay will become a transfer station where bulk waste from private users will be sorted and then taken to the new waste facility in sealed trucks. Trucks from rubbish bin collections will take waste straight to the new facility.

We also need to complete a fire management plan, which could recommend the site have an onsite fire appliance. This could potentially mean extra fire trucks in that region.

Rural Councillors and Shire Officers have met with land owners near the proposed site and we will continue to liaise with them to alleviate concerns and make sure everyone is kept up to date with the process.

Community consultation has been important and ongoing in our search for a new facility location and there has been some interest in starting a community focus group with surrounding land owners. Local knowledge will ensure the best possible decisions are made in relation to a new, state of the art Waste Facility.

At the end of the day, we need to have a 'space' that can be utilised for landfill, however as a community we must also remember our responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste as much as practical.