

DMQTWB 16 - Evidence from: Carmarthenshire County Council

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Bil Tomenni Mwyngloddiau a Chwareli Nas Defnyddir (Cymru) | Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill

1. What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and is there a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?

We would welcome the introduction of further controls on disused tips and would agree that strong legislation would be the best way to deliver the remedial works needed to ensure safety is prioritised

2. What are your views on the Bill's provisions (set out according to Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

- **Part 1 - The Disused Tips Authority for Wales (sections 1 to 5 and Schedule 1)**

Not sure if an entirely new authority is the best way to achieve the aims - this will be very costly to set up and i would also question the availability of sufficiently qualified/experienced people to staff it - would it not be better to make use of the already well established 'mining remediation authority' and invest the money in building up a wales tip specific arm of that authority

- **Part 2 - Assessment, registration and monitoring of disused tips (sections 6 to 32 and Schedule 2)**

Agree mostly with this, but again, i would query on-going funding of this body, tip remediation is incredibly expensive and could be a significant drain on the welsh governments resources. I also feel that given many of the legacy tips are an issue from NCB coal authority days that the mine remediation authority should be involved the remediation of these

- **Part 3 - Dealing with tip instability and threats to tip stability (sections 33 to 54 and Schedule 3)**

No specific views on this section

- **Part 4 - Supplementary (sections 55 to 70)**

I think enforcement powers (which were mentioned in the explanatory document section 4.30) should be greater - i appreciate that WG wish to foster positive relationships but any issues could be very complex, with multiple land owners, if one or some of these landowners are not playing ball (which, given the potential number of owners could be quite likely) this could jeopardise the success of any works being carried out - having a bigger 'stick' so to speak could help with this. Also - just because the enforcement powers are there doesnt mean they have to be used, the opportunity would still be there for good working relationships but the enforcement powers would be there IF required - better to have them then not to have them at all

- **Part 5 - General (sections 71 to 88)**

No views on this part

3. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions and how does the Bill take account of them?

No views on this part

4. How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum)

I would agree with these powers as set out in the legislation

5. Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

As mentioned already - i would question the funding of the authority itself, and subsequently, any operations they need to carry out - would it be financially viable in the long term - a few big projects could end up costing £100 million or more depending on the required works. costs can quickly spiral and i question whether

Welsh gov alone would be able to deliver meaningful works without help from UK government

6. What are your views on the Welsh Government's assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

Already spoken about financial implications

7. Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

None