

## **DMQTWB 19 - Evidence from: Pembrokeshire County Council**

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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

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### **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?**

A most welcome piece of legislation which there has been a need for since at least 1966.

The emphasis up to now has been upon coal waste and some very valuable surveys have been carried out to categorise waste tips. It has been a bugbear from the outset that there are substantial spoil tips elsewhere in Wales - especially slate which must provide similar levels of instability. I'd be glad to see the wording aimed towards 'mineral waste', which sounds better than 'coal waste and non coal waste'.

The principles involved for identifying, categorising and inspecting waste tips

### **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)**

The measures in the schedule all seem perfectly sensible.

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

Fairly comprehensive powers, but having not extended beyond coal tips, there is a massive amount of work yet to be done (over 2,000 non coal sites)

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

Again, the provisions seem to cover all eventualities

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

Yes the powers appear to be workable with checks and balances of going to a justice of the peace to gain a warrant authorising entry onto land.

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

No comment to make

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

The main potential barrier is lack of cooperation and intransigence from land or mine owners and the Act seeks to place firm measures via powers granted by the courts.

There may be occasions when remediation of some tips may come into conflict with sites' adoption as World Heritage Sites.

### **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)**

Totally appropriate, giving the Welsh Ministers powers to add or remove disused tips from the register.

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

Can't think of any, except the massive amount of work in extending beyond just coal tips.

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**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?**

Ouch!

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

No thank you.

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