

Meeting minutes

Meeting 3: MRL CRG 2019

Date:	Thursday, 15 August 2019
Time:	6.30pm – 8.30pm
Location:	Community Information Centre, Melbourne Regional Landfill, Christies Road, Ravenhall

Meeting called by	Cleanaway
Type of meeting	Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group
Facilitator	Susan McNair, Currie
Notetaker	Gillian Doig, Currie

Invitees

Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marion Martin, Community member • Marlene Gormon, Community member • Sharon Lee, Community member • Sophie Gove, Senior Environment Protection Officer, EPA • Stephen Lansdell, Manager, West Metropolitan Region • Meldina Klehic, Regional Manager, Cleanaway • Olga Ghiri, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Cleanaway • Lachlan James, Technical Supervisor, Cleanaway • Guy Edgar, Senior Environmental Business Partner, Cleanaway • Jack Walker, Operations Manager, Cleanaway • Cr Bruce Lancashire, Brimbank City Council • Cr Bob Turner, Melton City Council
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mia Marevic, Community member • Alistair Nairn, Advisor - Community and Environmental Partners, EPA • Cr Goran Kesic, Melton City Council
Non-attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Westin, GM Metropolitan Remand Centre, Dept of Justice and Regulation • Bob Baggio, Manager Planning Services, Melton City Council

About these minutes

These minutes/supporting information are in line with the agreed Terms of Reference. Any concerns/queries about papers supporting the MRL CRG should be raised with the Chair/Facilitator, Susan McNair by emailing susan@curriecommunications.com.au.

Meeting opened: 6:30pm

1. Community Reference Group governance

S.McNair opened the meeting:

- The members were reminded of the Terms of Reference.
- Apologies were given.

Meeting agenda and minutes governance

- Meetings held every three months
- Quorum = 5 members (including a minimum of 3 community members, 1 Cleanaway representative and the Chair)
- DRAFT minutes to be provided the community members within two weeks of meeting for comment
- Review period for DRAFT minutes is 21 days (3 weeks)
- Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website within 5 working days of finalisation.
- AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair seven working days before the next meeting.
- AGENDA and papers to be distributed five working days before next meeting.

2. Action items

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and updated as follows:

ACTION items	Update
ACTION 190207_2: D.Hunt agreed to seek expert advice from within the EPA on the potential impacts of evaporate leachate on nearby residents and provide information on these impacts.	Provided in EPA update. <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190509_1: L.James to provide information on the quarantine waste criteria at the next meeting	Provided in Cleanaway update. <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190509_2: L.James to provide an update on progress of the rehabilitation plan at the next meeting	Provided in Cleanaway update. <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190509_3: D.Hunt to provide details on the financial assurance process, including rough figures if possible	Provided in EPA update. <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190509_4: S.Gove to provide a summary of the 15 pieces of advice	Provided in EPA update. <i>Complete</i>

3. Environmental compliance

S.Gove began her EPA update with a summary of the previous meeting's actions as follows:

- Regarding Action 190207_2, S.Gove explained that the purpose of the leachate pond is to manage rain infiltration through the cell, leaving the contaminants to concentrate inside the leachate pond through the evaporation of water. The advice from EPA's Environment Public Health Unit is that Cleanaway's aerators in the ponds, which are used to introduce oxygen into the leachate, are not expected to volatilise (make airborne) compounds in the leachate beyond the footprint of the pond or indeed the landfill's 500m buffer distance. Water evaporates and the concentrate remains in the pond. M.Martin disputed the information because the community could smell odour. S.Gove said the odour came from the landfill itself, but offered to ask the Unit to conduct another review of available research papers. L.James offered to circulate a related EPA paper that concluded there was no off-site impacts from potential vapours from a landfill.

ACTION 190815_1: S.Gove to conduct another review of available research into evaporate leachate.

ACTION 190815_2: L.James to circulate the EPA paper he referred to about an investigation into potential landfill vapours.

- Regarding Action 190509_4, S.Gove summarised the 15 pieces of advice provided in January to Cleanway. They included:
 - re-iterating several of the auditor's recommendations given in the 2015-2017 53V audit report which had not been actioned. The auditor's report is available on the EPA website.
 - Covering Cell 3B with intermediate cover as required under the BPEM.
 - Implement litter controls, including erecting litter nets around all cells prior to filling.
 - Preventative measures for the maintenance shed area.

S.Lee requested more detail about the 15 pieces of advice, but S.Gove reiterated that it is not publicly available. S.Lansdell and L.James offered to circulate the link to the EPA's portal which hosts the auditor's recommendations.

ACTION 190815_3: Provide the weblink to EPA's portal containing the auditor's 53V report.

S.Gove began her compliance update, summarised as follows:

- There were five odour reports since the last meeting: 1 from Burnside, 1 from Deer Park, 2 from Derrimut, 1 from Taylor's Hill. M.Martin stated that there was a period where people could not get through to EPA's complaints hotline. S.Lansdell offered to investigate. O.Ghiri asked EPA to investigate why Cleanaway hasn't received odour reports since May. O.Ghiri stated that many callers are declining to be transferred to Cleanaway which prevents them from following up odour reports. M.Martin and M.Gorman stated that the public's frustration over lack of action by the EPA was contributing to a feeling of apathy in the community. S.Lansdell confirmed that the EPA would continue its compliance and enforcement role, and will follow up any licence breaches, including the tip face investigation that is currently underway.

ACTION 190815_4: S.Lansdell to investigate the cause of EPA's complaints hotline outage.

ACTION 190815_5: S.Gove to follow up why Cleanaway had not received odour reports from EPA since May.

- S.Gove is investigating the size of the tip face, which must not exceed 1800m, and is continuing regular visual inspections. She shares the community's concerns about its size but must obtain evidence of any exceedances.
- The landfill gas PAN (Pollution Abatement Notice) is due on 14 November. EPA received Cleanaway's proposed monitoring locations and these were verified by an EPA auditor on 20 May.
- EPA is expecting to receive the finalised detailed design relating to the leachate PAN by 22 August. This PAN is due November 2020 and its purpose is to lower the leachate levels to protect groundwater.
- EPA's enforcement of the litter fence PAN has been successful, with Cleanaway making significant improvements to litter management. There are now several more 6m litter nets and catchment fences. The PAN requires a large fence along Middle Road by February 2020.
- EPA requires a progressive rehabilitation plan from Cleanaway as soon as possible.
- Landfill gas extraction project – Cleanaway is installing 39 gas extraction wells in stage 3, which will happen over the next three months, and 18 in stage two (completed). Sophie will provide an update in next meeting's environmental compliance report.
- The leachate pond levels are at 500mm. This is recommended in the BPEM (Best Practice Environmental Management) not the licence condition, but EPA enforces it, nevertheless.
- Discussion returned to the size of the tip face. Several community and council members asked EPA to use more accurate methods of measurement. L.James said that measurement and management of the tip face is complex. He will report on the tip face next meeting. A tipping face management plan is due from Cleanaway by 22 August. As an example of how Cleanaway manages its tip face, L.James discussed the recent backup of trucks along the road that occurred when a customer did not have the correct Class C certificate. Opening the tip face further to accept the loads that had backed up would have caused Cleanaway to breach its licence, and so Cleanaway instead resolved to make the other trucks queue until the correct paperwork was provided.

ACTION 190815_6: L.James to report on the tipping face and its management at the next meeting.

In response to Action 190509_3 about financial assurance, S.Lansdell explained that the financial assurance for MRL is one of the biggest in the state in recognition of its scale. Financial assurance is a legal security that ensures there is enough provision for capping and ongoing management should a managing entity cease to operate through bankruptcy or similar. This assurance is held by the government and not in Cleanaway's own bank accounts. It was likened to an insurance policy that can be drawn on in times of need. EPA has clear guidelines on how it calculates financial assurance amounts. This process would be repeated in the event of a change in ownership; the financial assurance doesn't automatically transfer to new owners. Owners of non-licensed entities are not required to have a financial assurance in place.

4. Site operations

L.James addressed earlier topics of discussion and previous actions, summarised as follows:

- In reference to the previous discussion about potential impacts from leachate pond evaporate, L.James stated that Cleanaway's licence requires them to manage environmental risks through a monitoring program. The program requires a risk assessment, which is completed by a third-party and then reviewed by an EPA auditor before being posted on the EPA's portal. This process ensures every potential health or contamination risk is assessed.

ACTION 190815_7: L.James to provide the weblink to the audit of the risk assessment on EPA's portal.

- In reference to Action 190509_1 L.James confirmed that quarantine waste is now referred to as biosecurity waste by the Dept of Agriculture. This includes any waste from offshore, which is why cruise ship waste is classified as biosecurity waste.
- In reference to Action 190509_2 L.James explained that the rehabilitation plan has been delayed due to internal approvals but he expects it by the end of August and committed to discussing it at the next meeting.

ACTION 190815_8: L.James to present information about the rehabilitation plan at next meeting.

L.James provided an operations update, summarised as follows:

- Cell 4B3 is currently being filled. Cells 4B1 and 4A have been filled as high as possible for the moment.
- There has been good progress on installing landfill gas wells. A contractor has begun stage 2 works, which will involve drilling.
- Leachate works are being done to control levels in the cells in response to the leachate PAN. L.James showed a diagram of recently completed technical drawings to show how they will ensure the installation of the leachate risers won't compromise the clay liner. Cleanaway will position the bottom of the risers 900mm above the drainage layer. These drawings will be audited by a consultant and the EPA. Pending approval drilling will commence during summer.
- Cell 4B2 will be constructed next and will be split into two smaller cells because of a low supply of clay in the market. The first cell will be completed in October or November and the second 3-4 months after that.
- L.James sent a letter to all members about a trial of category C soil being used for cover and received a response from Brimbank City Council. The trial begins on 21 August. Cell A and Cell 4B are undoing intermediate capping
- Construction of the 12m litter nets will begin in October. Pre-construction works will start late August.
- In response to a complaint from S.Lee about trucks spreading clay mud from the site onto local roads, L.James confirmed that the truck wheel wash was no longer operating due to a design fail. Cleanaway is operating additional road sweeper trucks until financial approval is secured for a more effective arrangement. S.Lee stated that the clay was spreading as far as Robinsons Road. M.Gorman stated that an operational wheel wash was a requirement in Cleanaway's new VCAT conditions. L.James acknowledged that the current situation was not acceptable and would continue to operate the sweeper trucks until a better solution is found.

ACTION 190815_9: S.Lee to provide photo evidence of clay extending to the Robinsons exit of the Deer Park Bypass.

- S.Lee said she was happy to report that there was hardly any litter on the highway.
- S.Lee referred to two media reports of truck road traffic incidents. M.Klehic stated that the matter was being seriously dealt with by Cleanaway's CEO, who has issued clear messages to all drivers to encourage safe driving, including the third-party truck drivers concerned. Cleanaway will work towards eliminating distractions in the cabins. S.Lee asked Cleanaway to urge their drivers and their customers' drivers to slow down.

5. Community engagement

O.Ghiri provided an update on Cleanaway's community engagement activities, summarised below:

- Cleanaway is awarding grants to two local projects under its Community Benefit Fund. Deer Park Cricket Club and the Western Emergency Relief Network will each receive \$10,000. Cleanaway will host a cheque presentation on 26 September (*note change of date since the MRL CRG meeting*) which members of the CRG can attend. O.Ghiri has invited representatives from Brimbank and Melton councils to attend. B.Lancashire asked O.Ghiri to email a formal invitation to the Mayor. S.Lee criticised B.Lancashire's support for the community benefit fund.

ACTION 190815_10: O.Ghiri to formally invite representatives from Melton and Brimbank councils to attend the Community Benefit Fund cheque presentation.

6. Other business

The Chair invited participants to raise any other business.

- In response to S.Lee and M.Martin's questions about the future duration of Cleanaway's licence L.James said there was no sunset clause, and variables like waste policy, waste volumes and use of air space means that Cleanaway is unable to accurately estimate the operational lifespan of the landfill.
- S.Lee asked whether the greater volumes of plastic recyclables that are now being landfilled as a result of the change to China's waste policy is causing an increase in the toxicity of leachate. L.James said that plastic has more inert characteristics, is drier and is less odorous than other material in a putrescible landfill such as the MRL. Members were reminded that landfills have always accepted plastics that are unfit for recycling, although the volumes have increased in recent times due to the collapse of the recycling industry.
- B.Lancashire inquired about the clean-up process at SKM's facilities following its closure. S.Lansdell confirmed that EPA was conducting regular inspections to ensure the safe management of stockpiles.
- In response to M.Martin's question about the risk of fire in the landfill from plastic waste, L.James confirmed a risk management plan is in place.
- M.Martin asked whether the combination of plastic waste and contaminated soil from infrastructure projects posed an additional health risk. L.James stated that they

only accept low level contaminated soil and it did not pose a health risk. Cleanaway are currently conducting a trial to use the soil as a cover for the landfill in order to reduce the volume of soil and number of trucks entering the site.

- B.Lancashire expressed his disappointment in the government's 12 month timeframe to investigate alternative recycling options.
- The CRG discussed the merits of a container deposit scheme, and the challenges of securing adequate funding for recycling schemes.

Meeting closed: 8pm

7. Schedule of 2019 meetings

- Next meeting on Thursday 14 November 2019

Summary of meeting deadlines provided post meeting

MTG 4 2019 (14 November 2019)	
AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	31 Oct 2019
AGENDA and papers to be distributed	7 Nov 2019
Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	14 Nov 2019
Draft minutes to be provided for comment	28 Nov 2019
Draft minute review	19 Dec 2019
Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	10 Jan 2020

New and ongoing actions items as at 15 August 2019

ACTION items	Update
ACTION 190815_1: S.Gove to conduct another review of available research into evaporate leachate.	
ACTION 190815_2: L.James to circulate the EPA paper he referred to about an investigation into potential landfill vapours.	
ACTION 190815_3: S.Lansdell to provide the weblink to EPA's portal containing the auditor's 53V report.	Link to EPA portal for environmental audit reports (*URL included below) CARMS number is 64171-15. Auditor recommendations can be found on p91 onwards <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190815_4: S.Lansdell to investigate the cause of EPA's complaints hotline outage.	
ACTION 190815_5: S.Gove to follow up why Cleanaway had not received odour reports from EPA since May.	
ACTION 190815_6: L.James to report on the tipping face and its management at the next meeting.	
ACTION 190815_7: L.James to provide the weblink to the audit of the risk assessment on EPA's portal.	Link to EPA portal for environmental audit reports (*URL included below) CARMS number is 64171-15. Auditor recommendations can be found on p91 onwards <i>Complete</i>
ACTION 190815_8: L.James to present information about the rehabilitation plan at next meeting.	
ACTION 190815_9: S.Lee to provide photo evidence of clay extending to the Robinsons exit of the Deer Park Bypass.	
ACTION 190815_10: O.Ghiri to formally invite Melton and Brimbank councils to attend the Community Benefit Fund cheque presentation.	Date changed from 30 August to Thursday 26 September to accommodate recipients. The mayors from Brimbank and Melton councils were invited to attend. <i>Complete</i>

*URL:

https://portal.epa.vic.gov.au/irj/portal/anonymous?NavigationTarget=ROLES://portal_content/epa_content/epa_roles/epa.vic.gov.au.anonrole/epa.vic.gov.au.searchanon&trans_type=Z010

Attachment 1

Cleanaway presentation slides (attached)



MRL CRG

Cleanaway Update

15 August 2019

Outstanding Actions

Action 190509_1: Provide information on the quarantine waste criteria at the next meeting.

Biosecurity waste formally known as Quarantine Waste is material used to pack and stabilise cargo, galley and food, human, animal and plant waste and refuse or sweepings from the holds or decks of a vessel or installation.

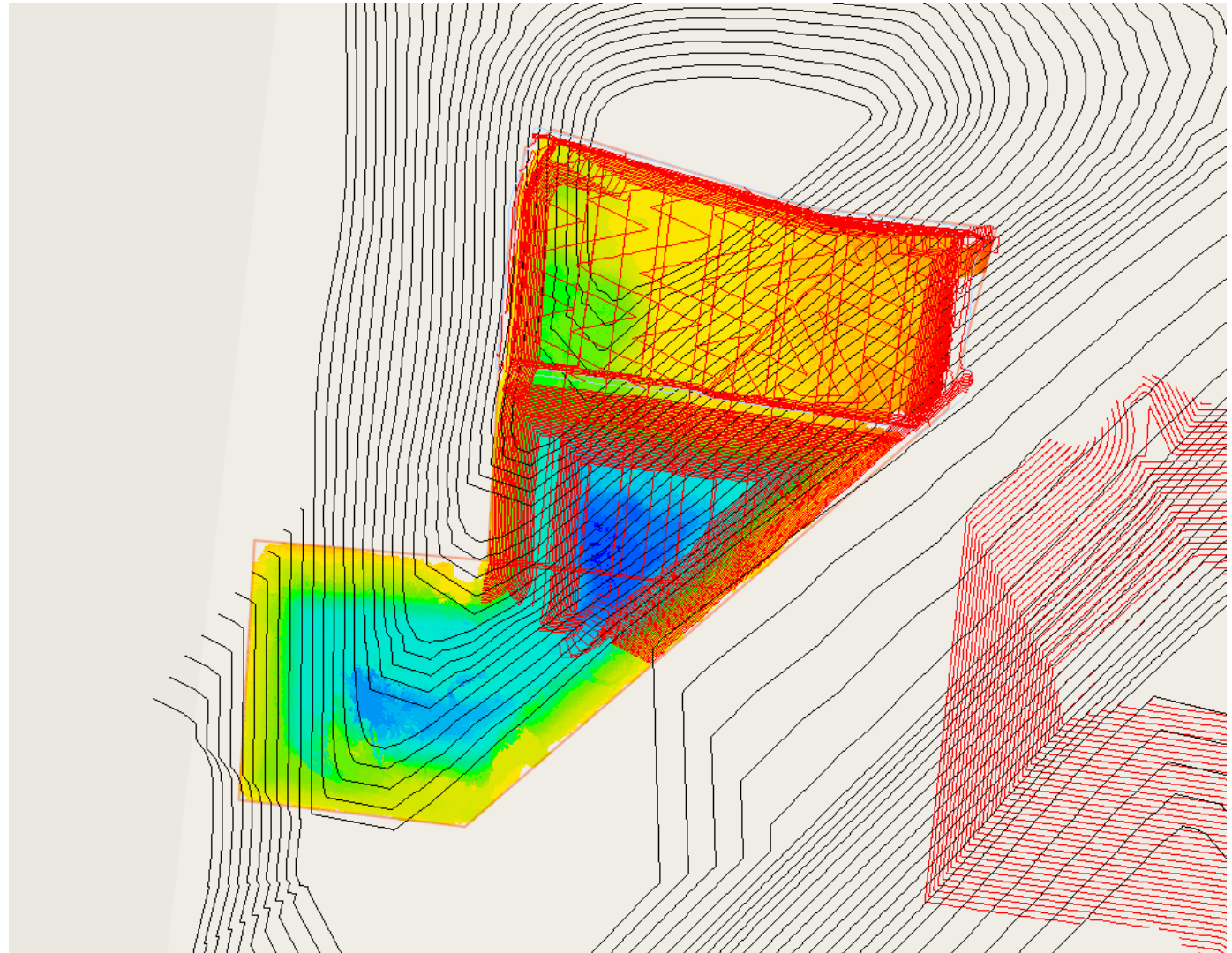
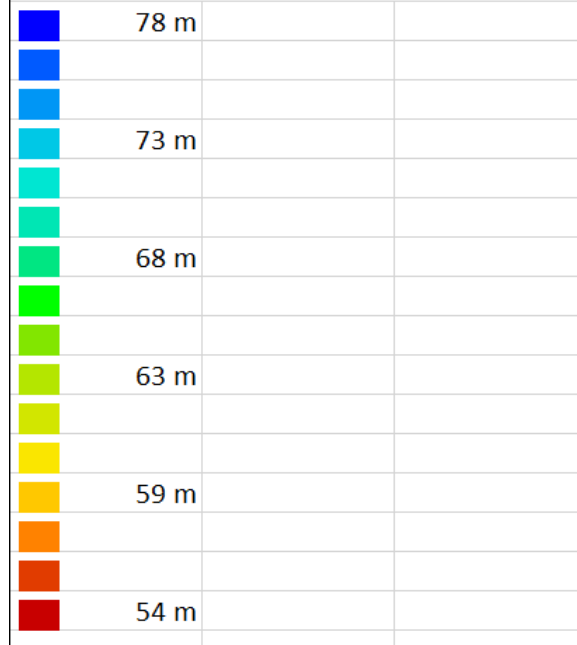
Action 190509_2: Provide an update on progress of the rehabilitation plan at the next Meeting.

Golder Associates engaged to prepare rehabilitation plan. First draft issued to Cleanaway. Final document to be issued to EPA in September 2019.

Operations Update

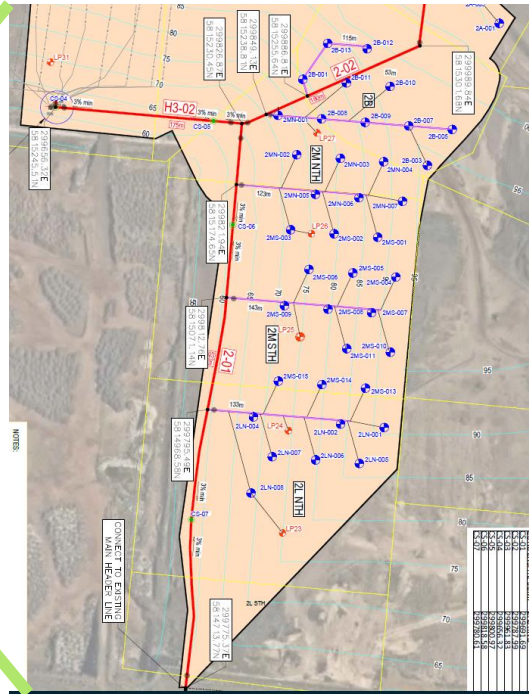
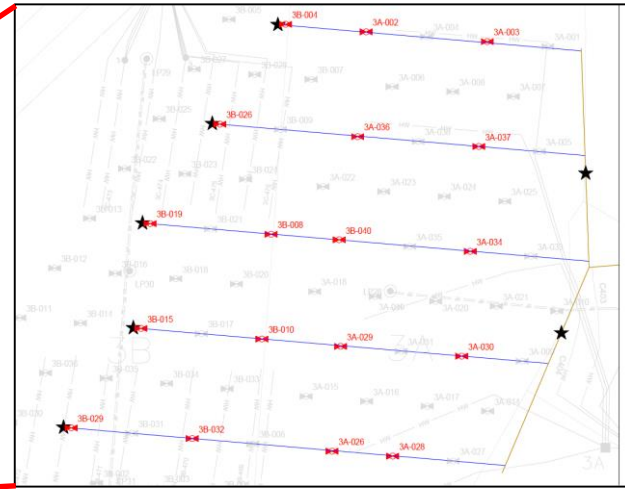
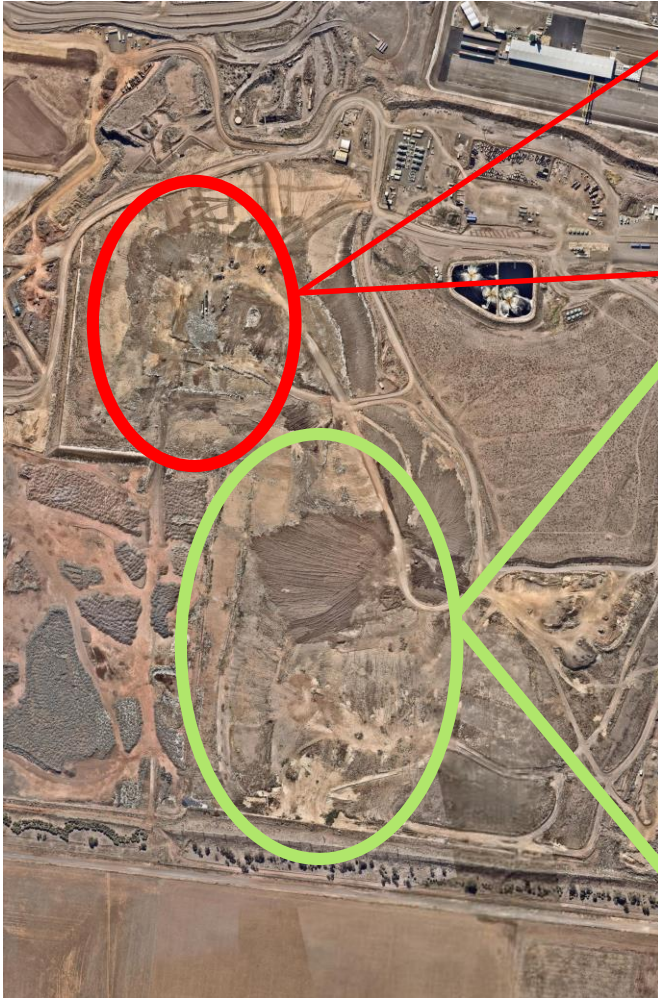
Fill progression

Elevation (metres above ground level)



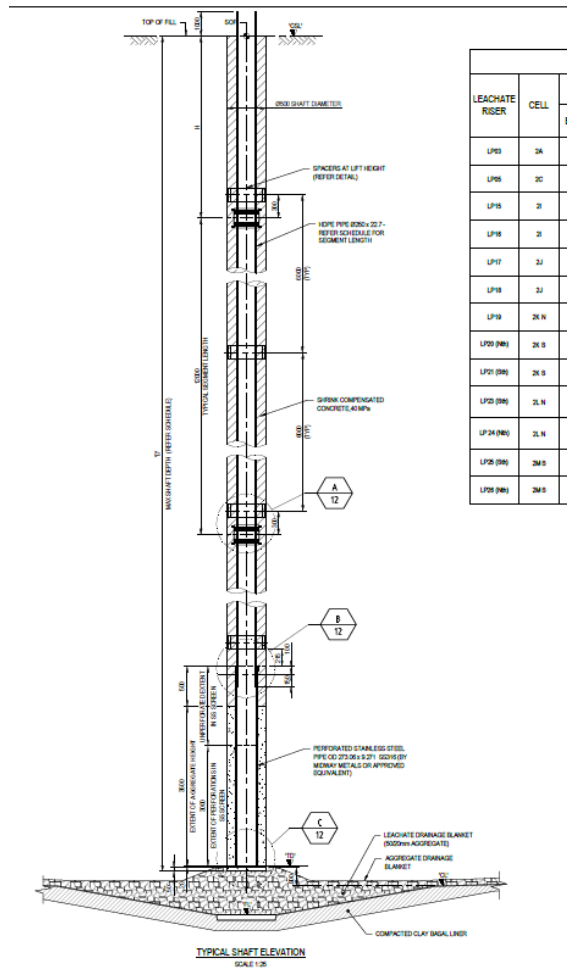
Operations Update

Landfill Gas Collection Update

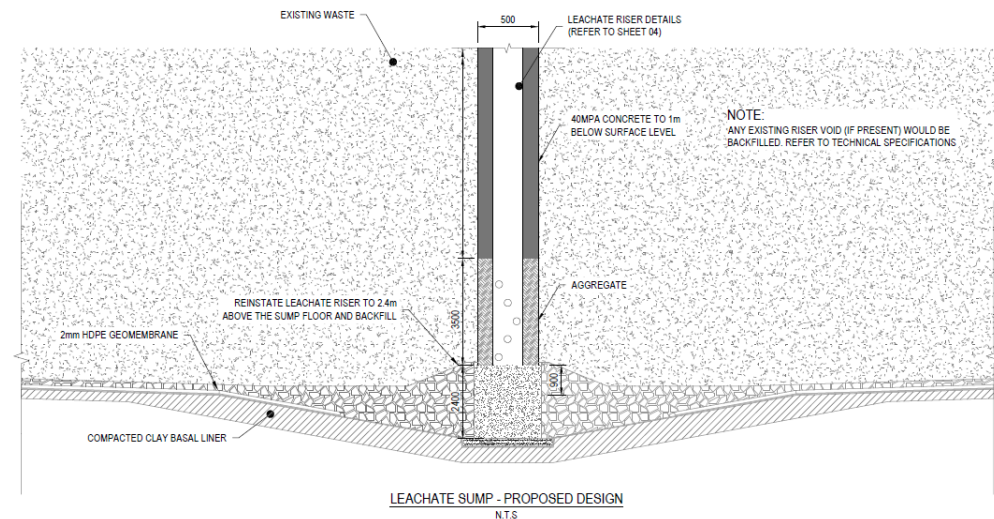


- 18 new gas wells installed in July
- 39 new gas wells to installed in the next 3 months

Leachate Rectification Works

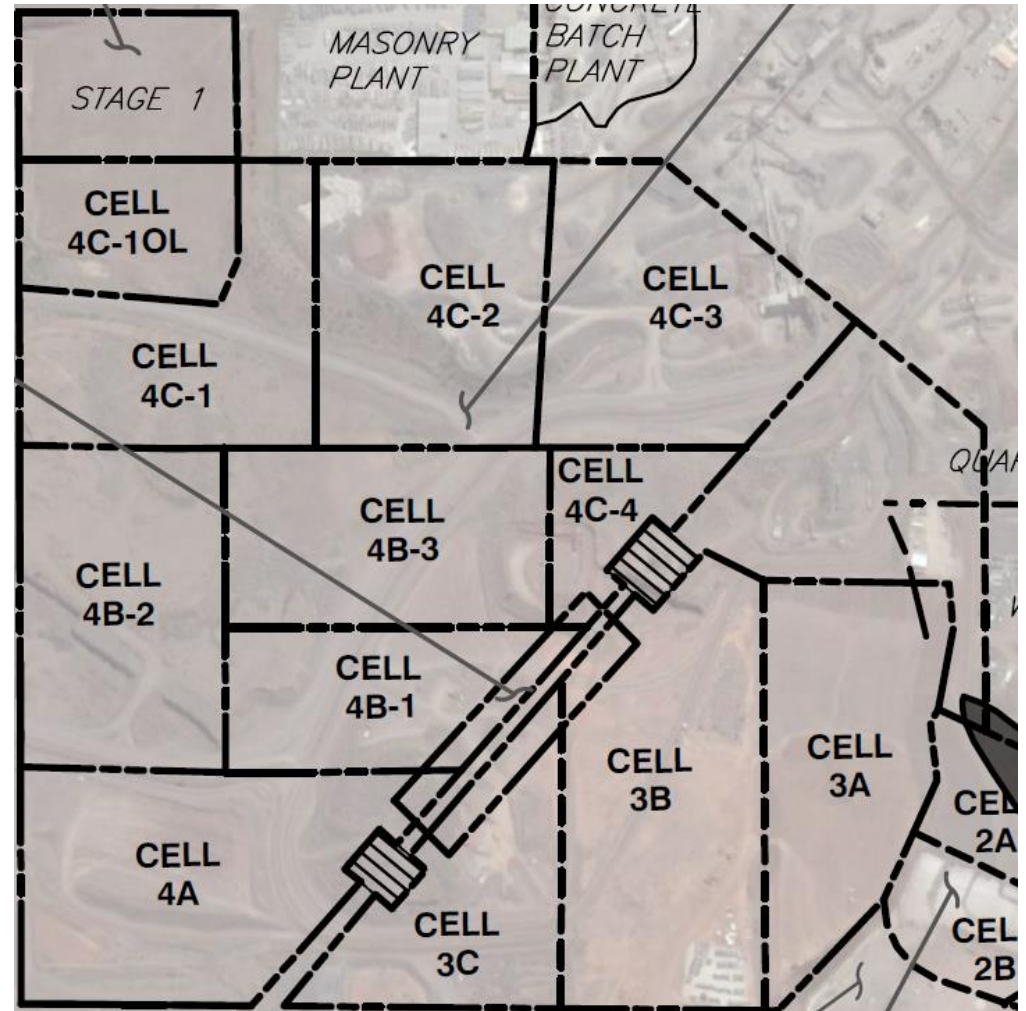


- Detailed design completed.
- Will be issued to EPA and Auditor for review by end of month.
- Next step – procurement of drilling contractor
- Aim to be drilling over summer



Operations Update

Cell 4B-2 Cell Construction



Operations Update

Litter nets, capping and ADC trial

- Category C soil ADC trial – expected start late August.
- Cell 4A and Cell 4B-1 intermediate capping placed.
- Relocation of litter nets
- 12 m perimeter nets – soil works beginning next week, construction starting October.





Home Safe

We take responsibility for our personal safety, as well as that of our team. We are committed to Goal Zero, because everyone deserves to go Home Safe, every day.



Stronger Together

Building from a place of strength, we are focused on creating something stronger than the sum of our parts each and every day.



Integrity

We do the right thing – no matter what. Holding ourselves to higher standards, we say what we mean, and we do what we say.



We Make A Difference

We are proud of what we do to make a sustainable future possible – for our employees, our customers, our investors, the communities in which we work, and the planet.