

Meeting minutes

Meeting 1: MRL CRG 2021

Date: Thursday, 18 February 2021
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Location: Online

Meeting called by	Cleanaway
Type of meeting	Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group (MRL CRG)
Facilitator	Susan McNair, Currie
Notetaker, Technical assistance	Ryan Ong, Currie

Invitees

Attendees	<p>Community</p> <p>Marion Martin, Marlene Gorman</p> <p>Local Government</p> <p>Cr Bob Turner – Melton City Council</p> <p>Cr Bruce Lancashire – Brimbank City Council</p> <p>EPA</p> <p>Sophie Gove – Senior Environment Protection Officer</p> <p>Andrew Sargeant – Manager Stakeholder Solutions</p> <p>Brenton Peak, Team Leader, Compliance and Enforcement</p> <p>Cleanaway</p> <p>Bruno Pronesti – Acting Regional Manager</p> <p>Olga Ghiri – Stakeholder & Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>Alaa Abou-Antoun – Engineering Manager</p> <p>Kate Sims – Environmental specialist</p>
Apologies	<p>John Downing – Environment Protection Officer, EPA</p> <p>Alistair Nairn – EPA</p> <p>Sharon Lee – Community Member</p> <p>Mia Marevic – Community Member (and resignation from the Group)</p>

About these minutes

These minutes and 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 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.

Meeting opened: 6:30pm

1. Welcome

S.McNair opened the meeting, welcomed participants and explained how the meeting would proceed and how participants could ask questions through the online format.

Attendees introduced themselves and apologies were given.

S.McNair reminded participants that the meetings are intended to be respectful, constructive and open. Participants are encouraged to listen and participate in the conversations and are expected to take information discussed during the meeting back to their respective networks, peers and organisations.

2. Site Operations

K. Sims and A.Abou-Antoun submitted a presentation (see Attachment 2: Cleanaway presentation).

K. Sims provide an environmental compliance and operations report:

- Landfill gas collection update
 - The next phase of gas field infrastructure in stage 3 and 4 is complete.
 - 21 vertical extraction wells have been installed in Cell 4A to mitigate gas control on site. The next stage will be installing head works and flow lines.
 - The extracted gas is sent to biogas plant engines and transmitted to the national grid.
 - Planned gas extraction well works are in stage 3 and 4 expected to begin in April 2021.
 - Header line extension is planned to allow for future tie into horizontal wells in 4C.

- Gas plant expansion update
 - No updates since previous meeting, Cleanaway is still working collaboratively with EPA to get a bio gas plant up and running.
- Working face and odour management
 - Cleanaway monitors the working face in a number of ways. This includes using Cleanaway's in-house technology (Visionlink and Propeller) to conduct weekly drone flyovers to make sure they have got the right face size. As well as new technology like GPS markers.
 - Cleanaway is looking at putting in place an odour curtain on the northern nets of the current cell to support odour management.
- Leachate redrills
 - 13 redrill wells have been installed with both leachate and gas extraction.
 - Leachate is being drawn down and discharged into the site leachate pond for aeration.

A.Abou-Antoun presented an update on the landfill fill plan and construction:

- Landfill fill plan update
 - 4C1 and 4C2 are currently being filled in.
 - Lift 3 has begun in cell 4C1 and Lift 1 is complete across cell 4C2.
 - The fluff line in 4C2 has also been completed.
 - In stage 3, there is batter beautification works underway. This is part of reinstating the batters to ensure they are managing stormwater and not being eroded. This is preparation for capping which is due to start mid-2021.
- Construction update
 - Cell 4C2 has been completed. Due to heavy rains Cleanaway has proactively pumped all the water out of the cell (about 5 million litres) to ensure the cell was empty before being filled with waste, preventing leachate.
 - The 4C2 cell includes a geotextile filter which prevents the aggregate drainage layer from being clogged up.
 - Six-metre-high perimeter nets have also been erected around the completed cell.
 - No new cell construction planned for another six months. Cell 4C3 is currently being excavated which is due to be completed in August. Construction work on the cell is likely to start in September, with a May 2022 completion date, ready for licensing in June 2022.
 - Cleanaway has submitted a design for leachate pond construction to Council and EPA, awaiting feedback in the next 3-4 weeks. This will allow construction of the ponds in April 2021 prior to the peak winter months.
 - Currently, Cleanaway dam capacity is at 70% which is still being drained down thanks to the warm weather.

- Landfill remediation plan
 - Phyto cap trial is still in progress, due for completion in May 2021. Once the trial is approved, capping work will occur continuously in 15 hectare phases.
 - Cleanaway is installing additional LFG infrastructure to prepare for future capping.
 - 13 leachate bores have been redrilled in accordance with the PAN.
 - Interim capping has taken place over completed cells, in accordance with best practice.

A.Abou-Antoun and B.Pronesti responded to questions from the group:

- B.Lancashire asked whether there were any native grasses used to seed the capped cells.
 - A.Abou-Antoun noted that the seed mix was generally a native mix, and he would follow up with details.

ACTION 210218_1: A. Abou-Antoun to provide the group with details of what seeding mix is being used seed the filled cells.

- B.Lancashire asked whether the cell cap is deep enough to allow trees to be planted in the future.
 - A.Abou-Antoun said they are not. It is a conventional cap so the soils will be about a metre deep. It is possible to look at other options further down the track, like adding more top soil. Currently, Cleanaway is keeping the conventional cap – which is the minimum height to protect the cell.
 - B.Lancashire responded by asking if the cap can't have trees, can there be small shrubbery or solar panels? Is anything proposed or under investigation in that regard?
 - B.Pronesti indicated similar investments were underway at Cleanaway's Clayton site, and may also be an option for MRL into the future.
- B.Turner asked what regulates the height of landfill.
 - A.Abou-Antoun responded stating it is predominantly driven by a Council permit which sets the maximum height based on aesthetics, and fit within the surrounding terrain. There is also an EPA requirement about maximum and minimum batters. Cleanaway aims to maximise air space, as well as meet compliance requirements.
- B.Turner asked whether the plan is for the capped cells to become parkland.
 - A.Abou-Antoun noted that at this stage rehabilitation is focused on completion of cap and grass cover.
 - B.Pronesti said using Cleanaway's Victory Road site as an example, historically rehabilitated land has been given back to the community. However, that is once the site has been fully vacated and rehabilitated. MRL is currently still an active landfill with heavy machinery and traffic, and any plans would be 20-30 years away.
- B.Turner asked whether the gas that gets burned goes into the community grid or the Cleanaway grid.

- B.Pronesti stated that the gas is extracted and once converted to electricity through eight large engines, is pumped into the grid, providing enough electricity for 16-18k homes. Cleanaway generates income from supplying electricity to the grid.
- B.Turner asked if whether plans to put solar panels on the capped cells would mean community access was less likely/ would be a longer timeframe.
 - B.Pronesti confirmed this would be the case.
- B.Turner asked what was left at the bottom of leachate ponds when they are fully drained.
 - K.Simms stated that at the bottom there would just be silt. K.Simms stated that the ponds have the same bottom as the cells, so are unlikely to cause harm.
- B.Turner asked whether the leachate residues ever get tested at the bottom of leachate ponds.
 - K.Simms responded stating that the leachate is tested twice a year but the residue is not tested. This isn't possible because the leachate must be fully drained to conduct these tests. However, testing of the leachate gives Cleanaway an idea of what could be in the residue.
- B.Turner asked where the leachate sludge goes when it is excavated.
 - A.Abou-Antoun responded by stating that if the sludge has hardened, it can be excavated. If it is not hardened, we can use a sucker truck to pump out the sludge and transport it offsite or within an active cell if there is sufficient area to allow drying of the material.
 - B.Pronesti added that it depends on contaminant levels, it remains on site, otherwise it will go to industrial facilities if contaminant levels are outside of MRL's licence.
- M.Gorman asked what the chance is that the leachate will overflow and go into storm water.
 - K.Simms noted this was highly unlikely to occur.
- M.Gorman asked whether there is a chance that leachate could escape, given it's near an aquifer and water course.
 - A.Abou-Antoun responded by saying that there is no chance as there is geo membrane, geosynthetics and the piping is within the pond itself.
 - K.Simms added that Cleanaway manage the ponds so as to keep the levels down. If levels get too high they use sucker truck and transport the leachate to a liquids division facility.

S.Lee (via pre-supplied question) asked what the capacity infrastructure/plan is to deal with fire.

- A.Abou-Antoun stated that Fire Rescue Victoria conducted a full risk assessment on site in November 2020. Cleanaway has recommissioned eight large water storage tanks (50,000KL each), containing 400,000 litres, and are adding a third water truck to complement the suite. They are a week or two away from the tanks being filled.

3. Environmental compliance

S.Gove provided an update on compliance:

- Currently the leachate PAN is with EPA for assessment.
- All sumps are being redrilled in stage and EPA is still hoping to get more drawdown from these sumps.
- No sanctions have been issued in the last three months.
- EPA is completing a major industries assessment, a roots up assessment of the operations of MRL: involves technical review, site assessment etc.
- A draft report from this assessment has been prepared.
- Monthly inspections since COVID restrictions eased, monthly drone flights continuing.
- Odour reports: most significant number of complaints was between 5 -11 February, other than that there was one in December, one in November, and one in January.
- Details of odour complaints seem quite distressing to the complainant but they did not reach the threshold to instigate an EPA investigation.

S.Gove responded to the following questions:

- B.Lancashire asked whether the new EPA Act has any implications for the way the EPA works with this site or changes any enforcement practices.
 - S.Gove responded that the new act will come into place 1 July 2021. It will place a greater onus on duty holders, like Cleanaway, to be proactive and take preventative measures before any environmental harm can occur.
 - This changes how EPA can do its compliance work. Currently it relies on the licence as a regulatory tool, but not every condition is included in the licence for example ensuring there is a fluff layer to prevent harm to the liner.
- B.Lancashire asked: with the new Act having a focus on preventative action and particularly with the concerns over odours. You have 6 months to work with Cleanaway to get those preventative measures in place. Can you give us an insight into what might be occurring in that area?
 - S.Gove responded stating that the major industries assessment covered every aspect of environment/operations including litter, odour, and leachate. This includes improve odour monitoring, which may be a potential outcome when the major industries assessment is finalised.

4. Community engagement/awareness

O. Ghiri presented on community engagement and awareness, key points include:

- An educational webinar is scheduled for Melbourne University in March as part of our education program.

- There is a third round of the MRL community benefit fund with the advertising period starting around April. This will take a few months to process and Cleanaway will reconvene the review panel again to see who is eligible to receive that funding. So CRG members are encouraged to share this with suitable candidates.
- Now is a good time to reinvigorate the community reference group (CRG) and draw a few more residents into this meeting/program. Five would be a good number of new members for the meeting in May. Cleanaway will be advertising for members to join for the May meeting. The application form will be redistributed to this group.
- The group needs to go through the terms of reference again and confirm current CRG members are committed to staying on.

ACTION 210218_2: O. Ghiri to share the CRG application form with the group.

ACTION 210218_3: CRG community members to review the terms of reference and confirm their continued involvement by re-nominating themselves.

ACTION 210218_4: O.Ghiri to share details of the third MRL community benefit fund.

B. Lancashire and B. Turner put in a request for their respective Councils:

- B.Lancashire requested that Cleanaway provide a letter to the Brimbank mayor about the MRL community benefit fund and invitation for more CRG members.
- B. Lancashire noted that there had been a lot of Council turnover and the new Brimbank Council was very interested in environmental issues. He requested that Cleanaway offer to meet with Council and talk them site operations.
 - O. Ghiri noted that she has previously reached out to councilors and will do so again, offering to provide information on the MRL, as well as brief the councillors on the West Tunnel Project and give them a site tour.
 - S. McNair also pointed out that there is an opportunity for one more councilor to attend from each Council.
- B. Turner agreed that it would be useful for Cleanaway to also provide an offer to meet and brief the new Melton Council.

ACTION 210218_5: O. Ghiri to send through an offer to the Brimbank and Melton Councils to meet, talk through environmental issues, discuss community engagement, conduct a site visit, and hold a briefing about the West Tunnel Project.

5. Next meeting and meeting close

- Next meeting scheduled 20 May – anticipated to be in person.
- Minutes and reapplication information to be circulated to the group.

S.McNair closed the meeting.

Attachment 1 – new and ongoing action items

New and ongoing actions items as at 18 February 2021	
ACTION items	Update
ACTION 210218_1: A. Abou-Antoun to provide the group with details of what seeding mix is being used seed the filled cells.	To complete and provide an update at the next meeting.
ACTION 210218_2: O. Ghiri to share the CRG application form with the group.	To complete and provide an update at the next meeting.
ACTION 210218_3: CRG community members to review the terms of reference and confirm their continued involvement by re-nominating themselves.	To complete and provide an update at the next meeting.
ACTION 210218_4: O.Ghiri to share details of the third MRL community benefit fund.	To complete and provide an update at the next meeting.
ACTION 210218_5: O. Ghiri to send through an offer to the Brimbank and Melton Councils to meet, talk through environmental issues, discuss community engagement, conduct a site visit, and hold a briefing about the West Tunnel Project.	To complete and provide an update at the next meeting.

Attachment 2 – Cleanaway presentation



Environmental Compliance Update *Landfill Gas Collection Update*

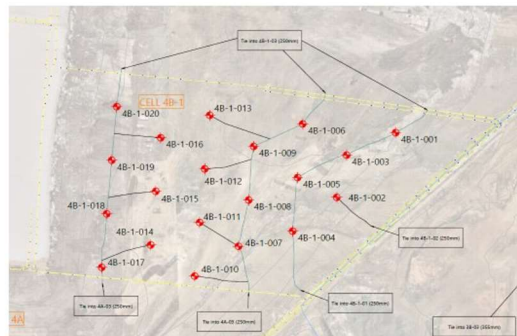
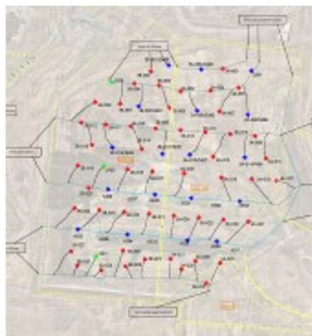


- The next phase of gas field infrastructure in stage 3 and 4 is complete.
- 21 vertical extraction wells have been installed in Cell 4A to mitigate gas control on site.
- Installing head works and flow lines the next stage for the wells.
- Gas sent to biogas plant engines and flares

Environmental Compliance Update

Landfill Gas Collection Update

- Planned gas extraction well works in stage 3 and 4
- Header line extension planned to allow for future tie into horizontal wells in 4C
- Works to planned to begin in April 2021



Operations Update

Gas Plant Expansion

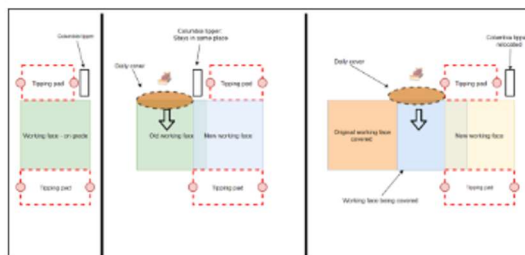
- Install 8 new landfill gas generator modules
- Double power generating capacity to 68,600MWh of electricity per year
- Mitigate over 220,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year
- Approvals: Planning permit issued and Cleanaway working collaboratively with EPA towards a Work Approval



Operations Update

Working Face Management and odour management

- Safety, Odour, Litter & Vermin
- Waste Compaction - life of landfill, odour reduction, settlement and stability
- Technology - (Visionlink and Propeller)- Field planning, compaction, Face size
- Weekly in-house drone fly overs
- Daily odour inspections (perimeter and site)
- Face measurement - using handheld GPS
- Looking into new technology to manage the working face
- Management Plan in place
- Odour curtain- North



Leachate Redrills in Stage 2

Current status of works:

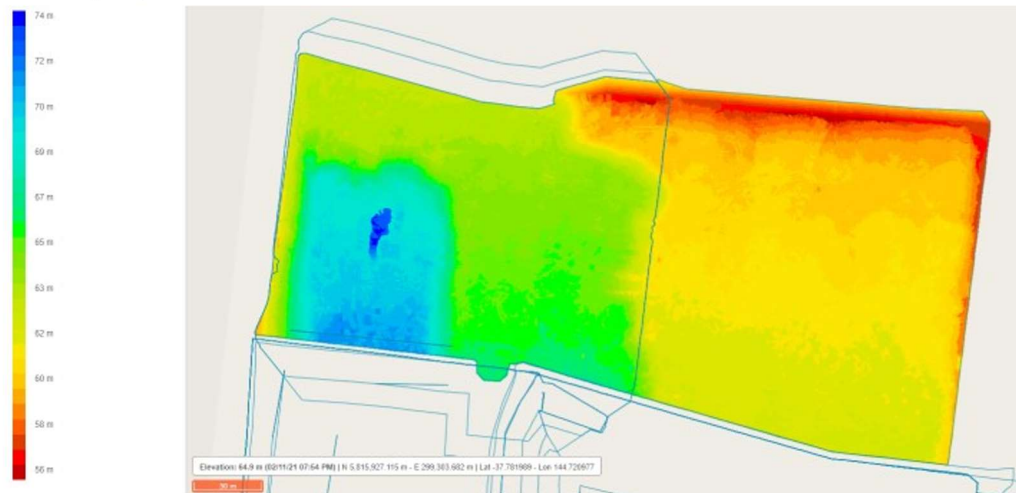
- The 13 re drill wells have been installed with both leachate and gas extraction.
- Gas extraction to maintain environmental control.
- Leachate is currently being drawn down in stage 2 and discharged into the site leachate pond for aeration.
- Aeration treatment is common practice in Australia.



Landfill Fill Plan Update

Fill progression – Lift 3 has begun in 4C1 and Lift 1 complete across Cell 4C2

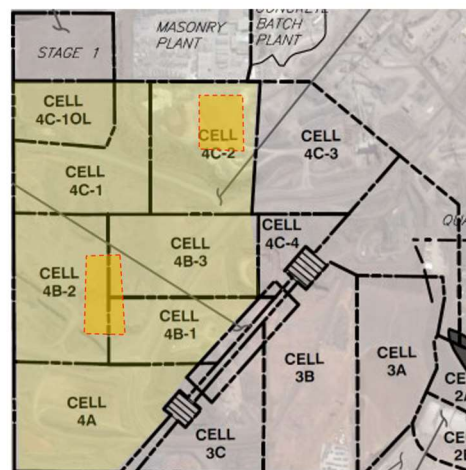
Elevation (AHD)



Landfill Fill Plan Update

Stage 4 Currently finalizing (lift 7)

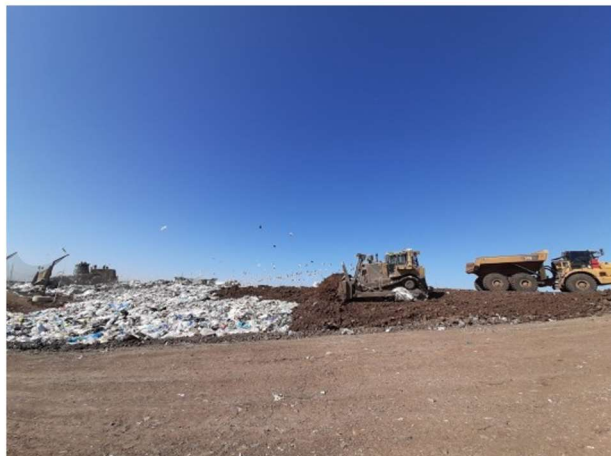
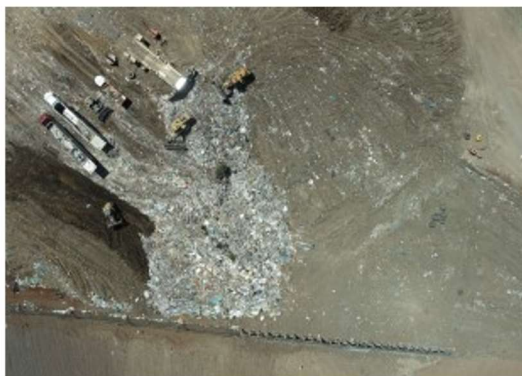
Whilst Licenced cells are 4A, 4B1, 4B2, 4B3 and 4C1 this does not imply the operational area is spanning across the entire Stage 4 area. At any given day, a single operating face (maximum of two faces during peak times) is open within a dedicated area until the waste height has reached design level, then onto the next block and so on.



Landfill Fill Plan Update

Stage 4 Currently finalizing (lift 6)

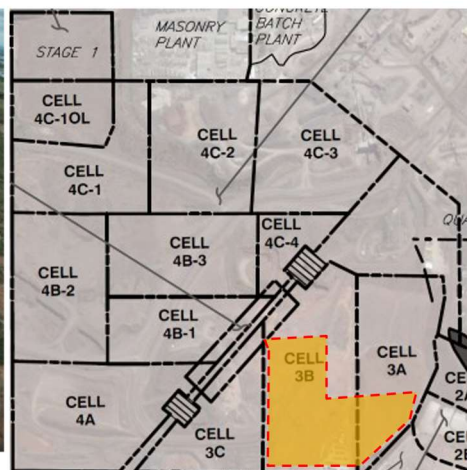
Active face is limited to 1,800 sqm and is continuously moving within the Licenced cell. The area (face size) limit is maintained through daily cover soils which are placed over the waste once it has received adequate compaction and trimmed to grade.



Landfill Fill Plan Update

Stage 3 dressing of external batters

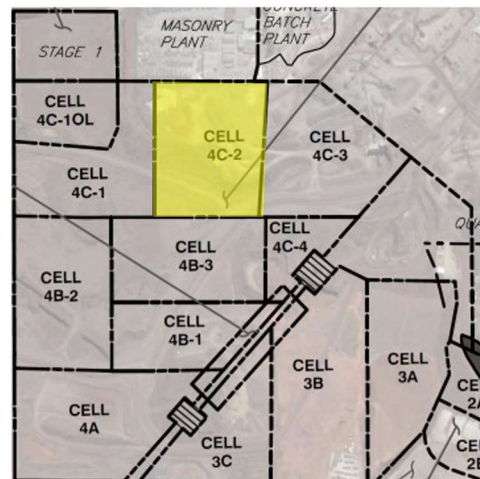
As good practice additional cover being placed on the batter for beautification of stage 3.



Construction Update

Current cells under Construction – Cell 4C1 and 4C-2

- Cell 4C2 Complete–Licensed in January



Cell Status and PC Dates (4C2)

Shamrock works officially started 23rd April 2020

Practical Completion reached by 6th November 2020

- Subgrade works: 100% complete
- Compacted Clay Liner: 100% complete
- GCL/Geomembrane: 100% complete
- Geotextile Cushion: 100% complete
- Leachate Drainage Aggregate: 100% complete
- Geotextile Filter: 100% complete

Key Milestones / Items	Cell 4C1
Practical Completion Date	01-Nov-20
Inclement Weather Allowance	01-Dec-20
Auditor Sign-off	20-Nov-20
EPA Approval	15-Dec-20
Airspace reached by:	01-Jul-21
Airspace Buffer (relative to 4C1 construction)	7 months



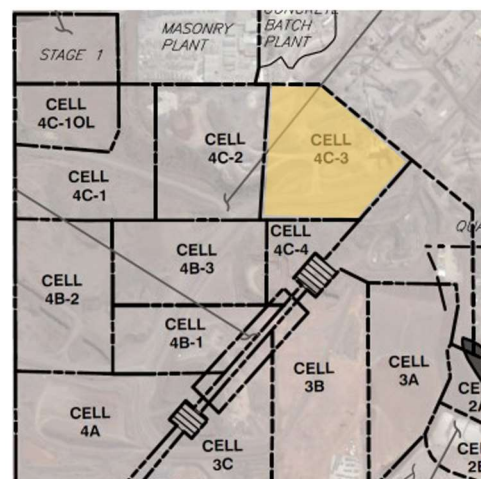
Cell 4C2 (final product)



Construction Update

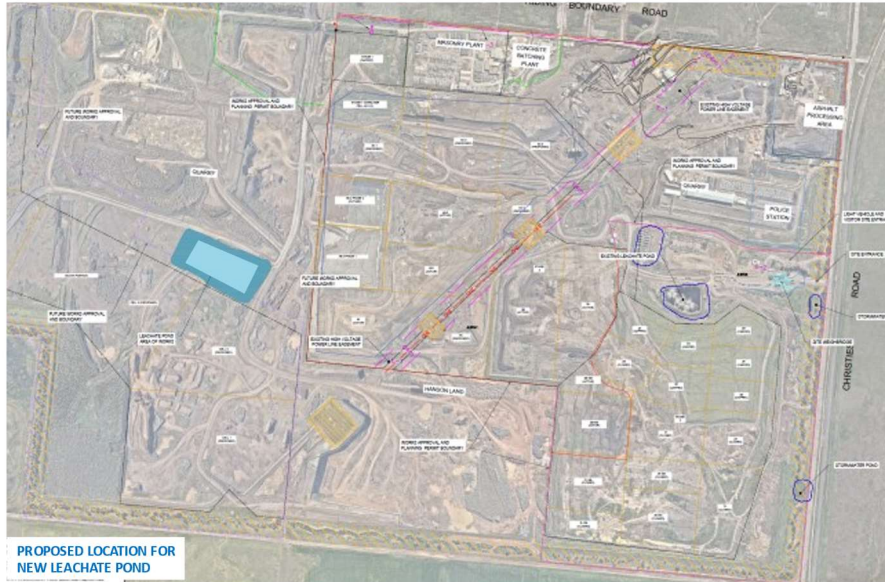
Upcoming cell construction March 2021 – Cell 4C3

- Early bulk out works and decommissioning of redundant quarry plant March 2021
- Official cell liner construction September 2021
- Cell completion May 2022



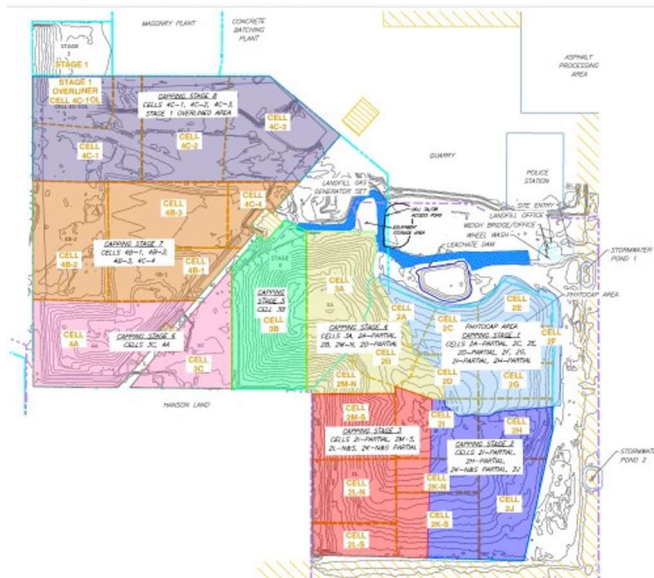
Proposed Leachate Pond

New leachate pond construction is pending Planning Permit Application with Council. Pond construction expected to commence April 2021



Landfill Remediation Update

Rehabilitation Plan



- Phyto cap trial is still in progress and due for completion in May 2021
- Early works currently taking place in preparation for future capping is the installation of additional LFG infrastructure (stage 2/3 and stage 3/4)
- 13 leachate bores to be re-drilled in accordance with PAN – Complete
- Interim capping has taken place over completed cells as best practice
- Once the trial is approved, capping works will occur continuously in approximately 15Ha phases per hatched areas shown



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.