

# Meeting minutes

Meeting 1 - MRL CRG 2022		
<b>Thursday 19 May 2022</b>	<b>6:15 for 6.30pm – 8.30pm</b>	<b>Community Information Centre, Melbourne Regional Landfill, Christies Road, Ravenhall</b>
<b>Meeting called by</b>	Cleanaway	
<b>Type of meeting</b>	Community Reference Group meeting	
<b>Facilitator</b>	Susan McNair, Currie	
<b>Notetaker/Timekeeper</b>	Ryan Ong, Currie	
<b>Please read</b>	Previous meeting minutes	
<b>Attendees</b>		
Community	Marlene Gorman, Gary Mullan, Michelle Mullan, Michael Baker	
Local Government	Cr Bruce Lancashire, Brimbank City Council	
EPA	O'Shea Gill-Benton, Environmental Protection Officer Gary Laidlaw, Senior Engagement Lead	
Department of Justice	Jesse Parsons-Jones, Environmental Compliance Advisor	
Cleanaway	Olga Ghiri, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Manager Alaa Abou-Antoun, Engineering Manager Kate Sims, Environmental Specialist	
Apologies	Sharon Lee, Community member Viranga Abeywickrema, EPA Stephen Lansdell, EPA Meldina Klehic, Cleanaway Bruno Pronesti, Cleanaway Bob Baggio, City of Melton Cr Steve Abboushi, City of Melton Cr Bob Turner, City of Melton	

Time	Agenda Topic	Topic lead
6.40 – 6.50pm	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRG Governance (incl. online meeting format)</li> <li>• Previous minutes and action items</li> </ul>	Susan McNair
6.50 – 7.15pm	General site operations	Alaa Abou-Antoun & Kate Sims, Cleanaway
7.15 – 7.35pm	Environmental compliance update	O'Shea Gill-Benton, EPA
7.35 – 7.45pm	Community engagement/awareness	Olga Ghiri, Cleanaway
8.00pm	Meeting closed	Susan McNair

#### About this Agenda

We will manage agendas/minutes/supporting information 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](mailto: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: 6:40pm*

#### 1. Welcome

S. McNair opened the meeting, welcomed participants and explained how the meeting would proceed.

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.

S. McNair reviewed past minutes and confirmed all items were completed or will be spoken to in the presentations.

S. McNair noted that there were a couple new attendees, and invited all participants to introduce themselves.

## **2. General site operations**

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### **K. Sims provided an update on general site operations (see Attachment 2 for slides)**

#### **Landfill Gas Update:**

- The EPA gave Cleanaway a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) to mitigate gas migration at the north side of the site.
- Cleanaway installed 12 new vertical extraction wells and two new header lines.
- The gas is being flared and the plan is to hook the new gas infrastructure up to the main gas system in the coming months as the gas expansion project commences.
- The next gas works planned are in Stage 4 of the site, installing 17 new extraction wells and large header line extensions. These works are due to commence mid-June.
- Rectification works of offline LFG wells are complete in Stage 1, and 80% complete in Stage 2.

#### **Gas Plant Expansion:**

- EPA gave works approval in March 2021 for the expansion of the biogas plant.
- The plant is currently made up of 8 engines and 3 flares, and gas is extracted, filtered, cleaned and then sent to engines to generate electricity for the grid powering 28,000 homes in the area.
- Cleanaway is installing a new 3000 cubic metre flare to maintain compliance.

#### **Leachate update:**

- Cleanaway has completed all 15 leachate redrills– 13 in 2020 and 2 this year.
- Cleanaway has come to an agreement with the EPA on new leachate compliance levels which will be reflected in the new operating licence.
- Supporting documentation shows the risk and leachate levels are low, with the bulk of the leachate being drawn down. Now the focus is pumping to maintain compliance.

#### **Working face update:**

- All operators continue to be trained to get across the working face management plan.
- Odour is managed through odour cannons near the deep burial, and odour curtains as well. Daily odour inspections are conducted.
- Cleanaway aims to get three GPS measurements of the working face, and in-house drone flights every week, weather permitting.

#### **Update on EPA approvals:**

- Cleanaway is currently reviewing the draft issued by EPA on the WGT Rock re-use application.

- Cleanaway has commenced accepting asbestos earlier this month after receiving EPA approval, with monthly air monitoring done as agreed.
- The Tarpomatic is currently under trial, with a report to be submitted this week (w/c 16 May) requesting permanent approval.
- West Gate has reached out to Cleanaway and other sites to become 'contingency sites' for taking the West Gate Tunnel waste in the event that Bulla is unable to. These discussions are in their initial stages, there has been no confirmation or approval.

**K. Sims responded to questions from the community**

B. Lancashire: Are the gas engines and the flares separate?

K. Sims: Yes, when the engines hit full capacity excess gas gets flared as gas needs to be continuously extracted from the fields. Expanding the gas plant means expanding the flares in case there's a shutdown.

B. Lancashire: Is there any capacity to store the excess gas and use it in the generator later?

K. Sims: No, we don't have the technology to store the gas. We are looking at potential storage technology but that is at a very early discussion stage.

Action 220519 01: O. Ghiri to share animated video that explains how the biogas plant works

B. Lancashire: Are the odour inspections done by people or by some technology?

K. Sims: The inspections are done by people, but they are also conducted by a third party odour expert.

**A. Abou-Antoun provided an update on the landfill plan and construction (see Attachment 2 for slides)**

Landfill update:

- Current waste operations are predominantly in Cell 4C.
- A 3D scan of the cell is provided on slide 10 in Attachment 2
- Drone imagery and surveys show that the base levels of the cell are around 55m, with the fill sitting in the mid-80s. More detail provided on slide 11 in Attachment 2.
- Cell 4C3 was completed and licenced in early May. The fluff layer is being completed which will take another 6-8 weeks.
- Cleanaway is upgrading the weighbridge and asphaltting the road to manage mud on Christies Road.

Construction update:

- Cleanaway is now moving into the southern expansion, constructing Cell 1 and working with Boral to prepare the subgrade and remove any boulders before commencing earthworks and the liner. Waiting on Minister's approval before works can commence.
- Cells 3C and 4C4 are also being built beneath the power lines to be used predominately for soils due to the power lines above them.

- Application given to EPA to steepen the batter slopes, which has received council endorsement. The steepening will increase the amount fill, promote quicker run-off and lead to no visual change. Cleanaway is confirming with EPA whether the steepening should be communicated to the community at large.
- The location of the proposed leachate pond was contested by Atkinson, with a VCAT hearing scheduled for August. As a pond was needed earlier, the proposed pond location has been moved into the southern expansion that has already been approved.

Remediation update:

- The cap has been approved, with construction starting in January aiming to cap around 15 hectares.
- Stage 2 capping is continuing with the line mostly complete and 65% of the cushion deployed. The subsoil and topsoil layers will soon be added, with the cap on track to be completed by November.

**A. Abou-Antoun responded to questions from the community**

M. Gorman: How did you manage with the recent big storms, did a lot of stuff wash onto the roads?

A. Abou-Antoun: It's challenging during the storm itself, there is always mud that sticks onto tyres and gets onto the road. We manage the risk by increasing the number of sweepers, but some mud is inevitable in that situation.

K.Sims: We are talking to VicRoads to prevent passer-byers from parking outside the site for smoke breaks, and taking mud back onto the road.

O. Gill-Benton: Regarding the steepening, can we confirm that it will extend the lifetime of the landfill by 1 year?

A. Abou-Antoun: In theory the steepening might add around a year, but in practice we are ultimately bound by a fixed end-date for the site. What it will do is give us a buffer for each cell, so we have more time before a cell is filled giving us more flexibility around construction of new cells.

O. Gill-Benton: So the active cell will last a bit longer then?

A. Abou-Antoun: Yes that's right, we will get about 4 months extra for one cell.

J. Parson-Jones: On the leachate ponds, if you are moving the pond to a new location do you have odour modelling available?

A. Abou-Antoun: Yes, we can give you that modelling.

Action 220519 02: A. Abou-Antoun to provide J. Parson-Jones the odour modelling for the new leachate pond location.

J. Parson-Jones: On the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) spoils from the West Gate Tunnel, will you need a designated facility to take the waste?

K. Sims: No, because we won't be taking much. It will be a much smaller volume than we had in our tender response. Additionally, all the TBM spoils will be tested before coming through our gate, as West Gate is responsible for that.

M. Baker: Are there other landfills that will be contingencies for the TBM spoils?

K. Sims: Yes, we're not the only one. We will only take what we are licensed to take and have capacity to take. It's west gates responsibility to find other contingencies if we can't take it.

M. Baker: What are they doing with the more hazardous material?

K. Sims: That's Bulla's responsibility, they will need to find an appropriate contingency facility to treat it, which is not us.

O. Gill-Benton: Can you confirm that there are no changes to the site happening as a result of TBM spoils request?

K. Sims: We can confirm there are no changes. It's purely at the discussion phase with West Gate.

O. Ghiri: We will let you know over email when we find out more, and will present an update at the next meeting.

Action 220519 03: O.Ghiri to provide an email update to the group when more information is available about the TBM spoils contingency arrangement.

M. Gorman: I still have misgivings about large quantities of asbestos being transported on the road. I'm worried about a crash situation with a full truck of asbestos. I know it is not Cleanaway's responsibility, but what is the EPA doing to address this community concern?

O. Gill-Benton: I will take this question on notice and provide a fuller response to you.

Action 220519 04: O. Gill-Benton to provide S. McNair a response on how EPA is managing the risk of an 'asbestos truck crash' on the roads during transport (Response provided 30 May in Appendix 4)

M. Mullan: On the steepening, is this worth communicating to the community at large?

O. Ghiri: We are waiting for directions from EPA, but my feeling is that this is not worth going out to the community about. Based on conversations today, and my understanding of community concerns, this steepening would not be contentious and is also very technical. It doesn't affect the licence, the life of the landfill, footprint or appearance, and for these reasons, I don't think it's necessary to inform the community.

M. Grave: I don't think that anything is really changing from the community perspective. If I weren't here tonight, I wouldn't want to or need to know about this.

M. Gorman: If there's no visual change, then it's not a major concern.

O. Gill-Benton: EPA's main concern is the extra lifetime of that cell.

A. Alaa-Antoun: There's many things we do to optimise the life of a cell, such as using daily cover, or just operating more efficiently – where do we draw the line? Is the worry that the final cells will be empty?

M. Baker: Would Cleanaway apply for an extension to fill those empty cells?

A. Alaa-Antoun: That's several decades away, I can't really say.

### **3. Environmental compliance update**

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#### **O. Gill-Benton provided an update on compliance (Attachment 3: EPA presentation):**

- 16 odour reports were made within a 5km radius since February 2022. 10 of the reports were clustered around the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of April. The odour reports were unable to be verified. A field inspection was conducted on 20 April finding no unusual activities took place during those two days.
- EPA has conducted two inspections since the last CRG meeting, and gave compliance advice to pick up a small amount of windblown litter.
- Three drone surveys were conducted since the last CRG meeting, with no non-compliances identified.
- EPA has laid 8 charges against Cleanaway following a comprehensive investigation into licence breaches. The matter is in front of the courts, and as such no further information can be provided. The court has been adjourned to June 2022. A number of other non-compliances are still under investigation by the Environmental Crime Branch.
- The EPA has revoked Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) 90008515 after the leachate redrills have been completed. Two active PANs remain from the Major Industries Assessment, with final compliance dates being May and October 2022.
- There is still an active improvement notice to remedy overfilling in Stage 2 West, with the final compliance date of 30 June 2022.
- EPA has issued Improvement Notice IMPN-00002464 requiring a section of the haul road to be asphalted to prevent dust and mud from spilling out onto Christies Road.

#### **O. Gill-Benton responded to questions from the community/group.**

B. Lancashire: What do you mean that the odour reports were unable to be verified?

O. Gill-Benton: We provided notice to Cleanaway and they conducted an odour survey and were unable to verify the odour.

M. Mullan: But isn't there a big lag though?

K. Sims: If odour reports come through and we're on site, it will be done right then. But if it happens on a public holiday or we happen to not be on site, it isn't always possible to do right then. We go back and look at measurements from that day including wind direction and distance from site to verify.

K. Sims: We only received a portion of the odour reports, we need to make sure we get them all.

O. Gill-Benton: That will happen from now. Some of the reports were not passed on due to the timeframe. Phone complaints are immediately logged and Cleanaway is automatically notified. Email or web complaints take some time to be processed and in the past we did not pass them on to Cleanaway as they would be retrospective. We will pass all complaints from now on.

M. Baker: Does it say on the website that phone complaints are the ones that are immediately followed-up? Is the process easy?

O. Gill-Benton: No. We don't have that listed on the website because the hotline is for Victoria-wide. We don't have a system set up for every site. Cleanaway is then notified immediately.

M. Mullan: I called EPA to make a complaint numerous times and didn't receive any call backs.

O. Ghiri: We only receive alerts for complaints reported to EPA's hotline, we don't receive those made on their website. Also many of the reports we get don't include the complainants name or phone number so I can't always call them.

M. Baker: Do you usually know where the reports are coming from?

O. Ghiri: We do know the suburb.

O. Gill-Benton: I can include slides in the future showing rough locations. The reports in April were mostly from the north-west.

G. Laidlaw: We do have someone who does good heat maps, and we might be able to do a general map for you.

Action 220519 05: O. Gill-Benton to provide rough locations of odour reports at the next meeting.

M. Grave: How does odour get measured or detected?

K. Sims: We have a third-party odour expert company Ektimo. They set up odour survey points around. We rely heavily on them for the southern expansion. From my understanding it is mostly done by humans.

O. Ghiri: It is very difficult to measure odour using tools or sensors, it's mostly done through nose detection and it requires special training to do that.

K. Sims: There is an official nose calibration for people who detect odours, you have to be in the middle of the odour sensitivity spectrum.

#### **4. Community engagement/awareness**

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##### **O. Ghiri presented on community engagement**

- The MRL Community Benefit Fund is now being used by the Western Emergency Relief Network who are refurbishing a new warehouse in Ravenhall. The community is encouraged to send along any unwanted domestic household furniture for reuse and repurposing.
- Group membership has been dwindling now at five down from 12. Cleanaway will be promoting again for memberships and would encourage all current community members to ask any one they know to join the group.

#### **5. Next meeting and meeting close**

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- Next meeting is scheduled for August 18, same time and place.

*S. McNair closed the meeting.*



## Attachment 1 – new and ongoing action items

<b>New and ongoing actions items as of 24 May 2022</b>	
<b>ACTION items</b>	<b>Update</b>
Action 220519_01: O. Ghiri to share animated video that explains how the biogas plant works	To be completed.
Action 220519_02: A. Abou-Antoun to provide J. Parson-Jones the odour modelling for the new leachate pond location.	To be completed.
Action 220519_03: O.Ghiri to provide an email update to the group when more information is available about the TBM spoils contingency arrangement.	To be completed.
Action 220519_04: O. Gill-Benton to provide S. McNair a response on how EPA is managing the risk of an 'asbestos truck crash' on the roads during transport.	Response provided in Appendix 4 on 30 May.
Action 220519_05: O. Gill-Benton to provide rough locations of odour reports at the next meeting.	To be completed at next meeting.

## Attachment 2 – Cleanaway presentation



## *Environmental Compliance Update*

### *Landfill Gas Collection Update*

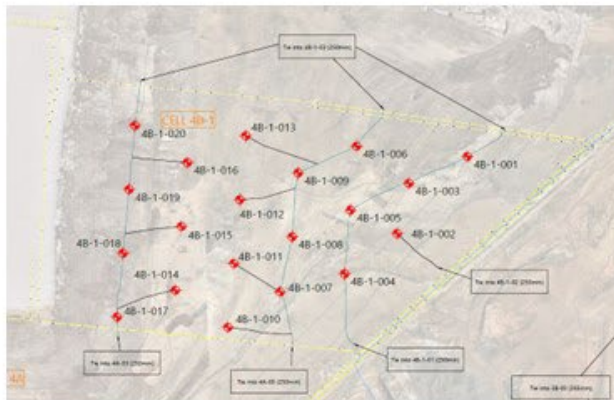


- Newly installed gas infrastructure – Stage 1
- 12 New vertical extraction wells
- Currently being flared, will be hooked up to the main gas system in the coming months as gas expansion project kicks off.

## Environmental Compliance Update

### Landfill Gas Collection Update

- Works have been awarded for the install of gas extraction well works in stage 4 - 4B1 and 4B-2
- Header line extension included to allow for future tie into horizontal wells in 4C and Stage 1
- Works to scheduled to commence mid-June
- Rectification works of offline LFG wells in Stage 1 complete and Stage 2 80% complete

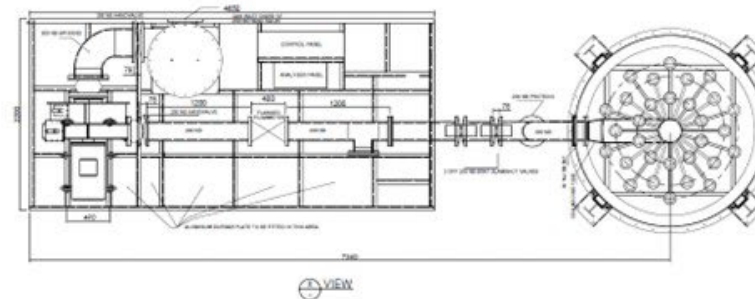




## Operations Update

### Gas Plant Expansion

- Install 8 new landfill gas generator modules and flares as required
- Double power generating capacity to 68,600MWh of electricity per year
- Mitigate over 220,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year
- Approvals: Works Approval Granted and Cleanaway currently reviewing options
- Cleanaway currently exploring options for the expansion
- A new 3000m<sup>3</sup> Flare has been ordered to maintain compliance with LFG volumes.



## *Leachate Redrills Complete*

Current status:

A total of 15 re-drills have successfully been installed.

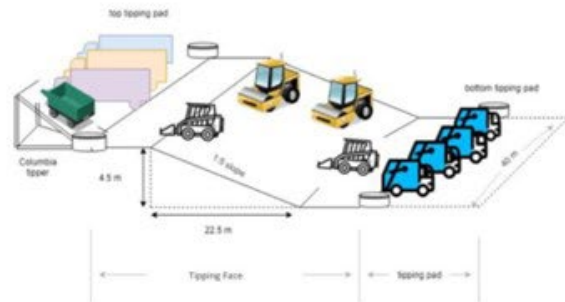
- Gas extraction to maintain environmental control.
- Leachate in stage 2 continues to be drawn down, however, “equilibrium” has been reached.
- Compliance levels have been agreed with EPA and Cleanaway submitting OL Amendment via the portal to reflect compliance levels.



## 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 measurements - using handheld GPS and drone
- WF Management Plan in place - Live document
- Odour curtain – Northern nets 4C-1 & 4C-2
- Odour cannons





## *EPA Approvals – A Better Environmental Outcome*

- **WGT Rock Re - Use Application** – Currently Reviewing the Draft DL issued by EPA.
- **Asbestos Application** – Cleanaway commenced accepting Asbestos earlier this month after receiving EPA approval.
- **Tarpomatic** – Currently under a trial. Report to be submitted this week requesting permanent approval.



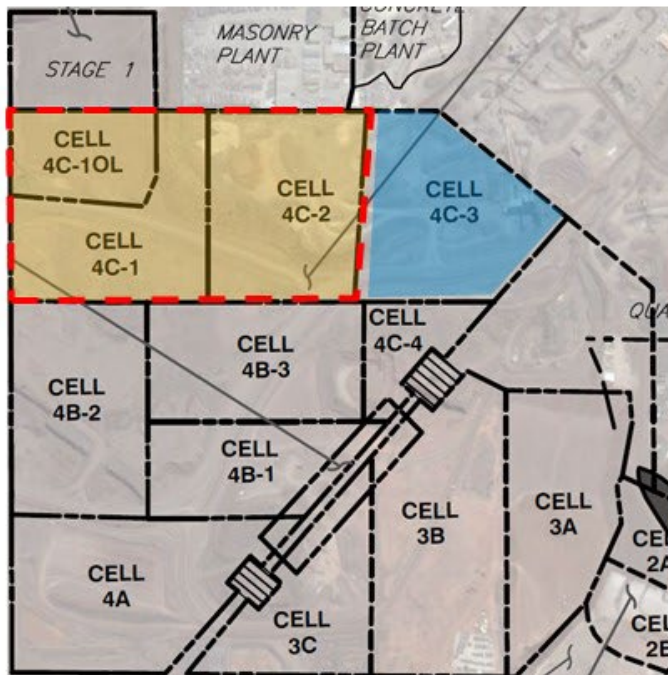
## *TBM Spoil – West Gate - Contingency Site*

- Currently accepting TBM spoil as per EPA licence and EPA designation Letters (CAT and NPIW)
- Material is being tested and de-watered at the west gate site before transportation to MRL
- MRL is licenced to accept the material into the engineered landfill cell

## Landfill Fill Plan Update

### Stage 4 Currently filling across 4C

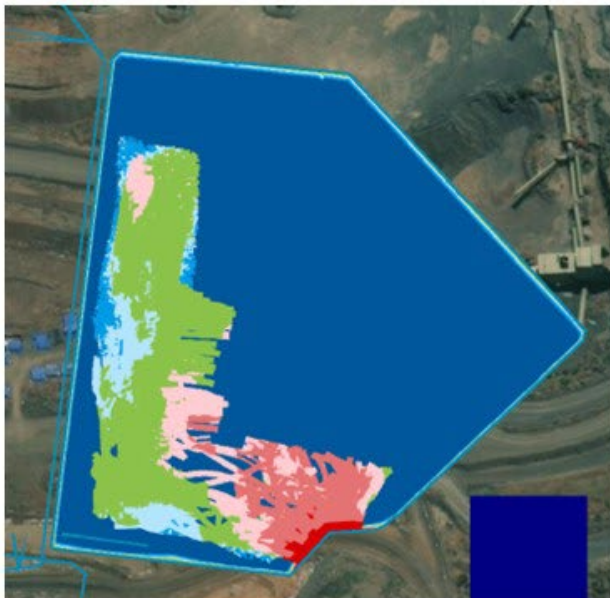
*Whilst Licenced cells are 4A, 4B1, 4B2, 4B3 and 4C1 this does not imply the operational area is spanning across the entire Stage 4 area.  
At any given day, a single operating face (maximum of two faces during peak times) is open within a dedicated area until the waste height has reached design level,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



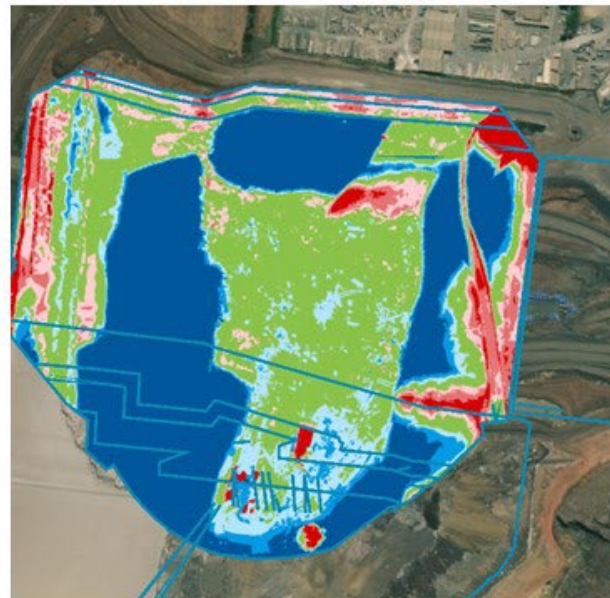
## *Vision Link*

- Lift 7 277,000m<sup>3</sup> remaining
- Transitioned in to 4C3. Fluff layer has begun. 85,000m<sup>3</sup> remaining

4C3 Lift 6



4C1 4C2 Lift 7

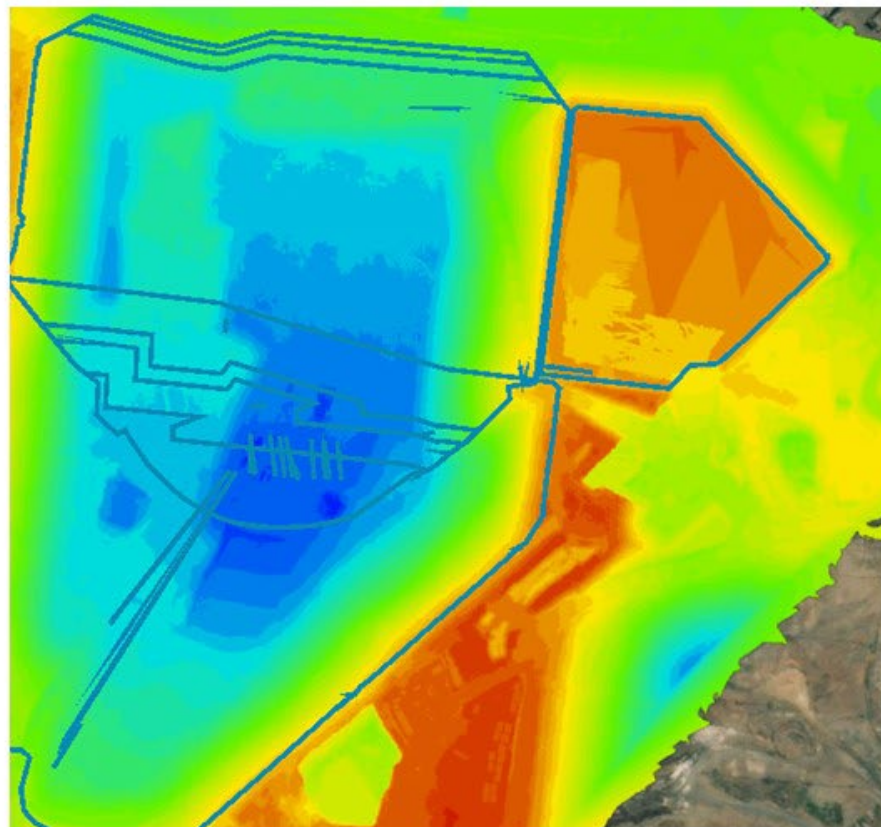




## Landfill Fill Plan Update

*Fill progression – Lift 5 has begun in 4C1 and Lift 4 closing out in Cell 4C2*

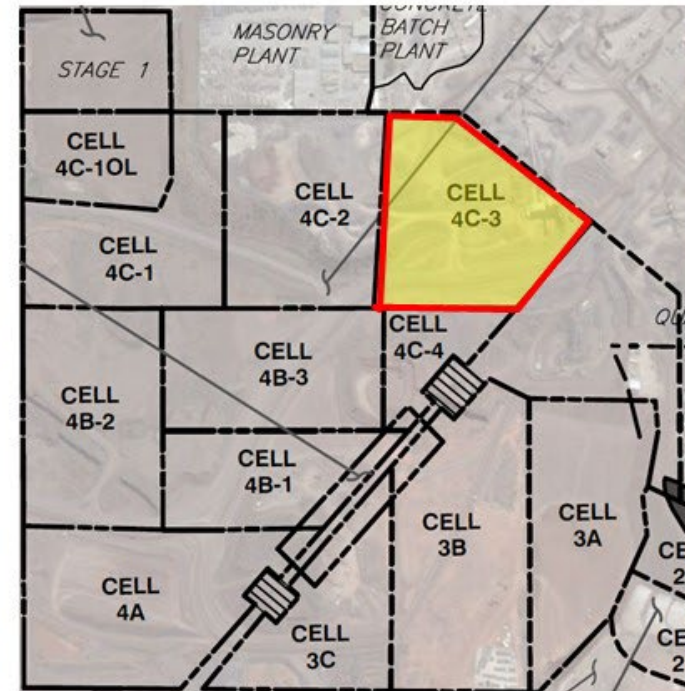
Elevation (AHD)



## Construction Update

*Current construction cell completed – Cell 4C3*

- *Cell 4C3 Licenced early May 2022*



## *Cell Status and PC Dates (4C3)*

### Percentage complete:

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





## Construction Update

### *Upcoming cell construction cell completed – Cell 1 (Southern Expansion)*

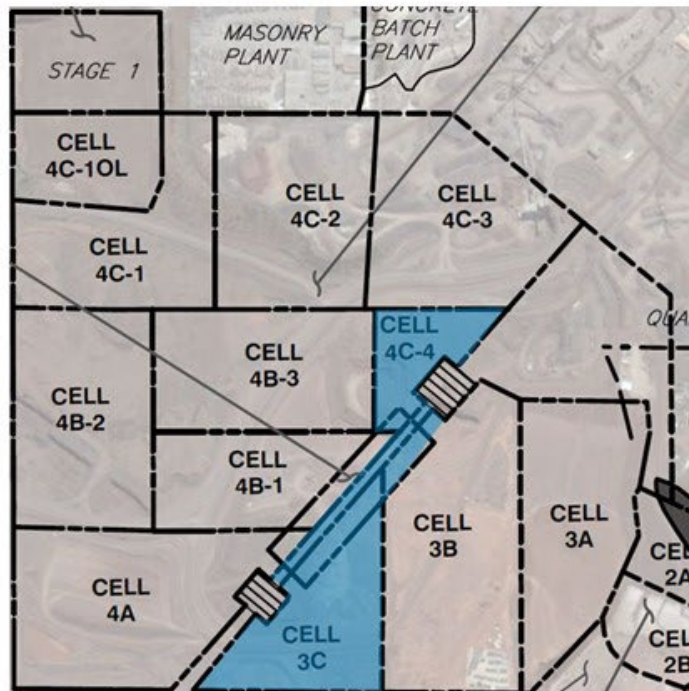
- *Cell 1 expected to commence June 2022*
- *First half to be Licenced April 2023*
- *Second half July/August 2023*



## Construction Update

*Upcoming cell construction cell completed – Cell 3C*

- *Cell 3C expected to commence July 2022*
- *Licensed March 2023*





## MRL Steepening of Slopes



Drawing Title	Project Name	Drawing No.	Revision	Date	Drawn	Checked	Project Principal	Scale
Landscape Concept	Melbourne Regional Landfill	319-0795-00-L-01-DR05	01	02.12.2019	KM	MR	MR	1:4000 (A3)

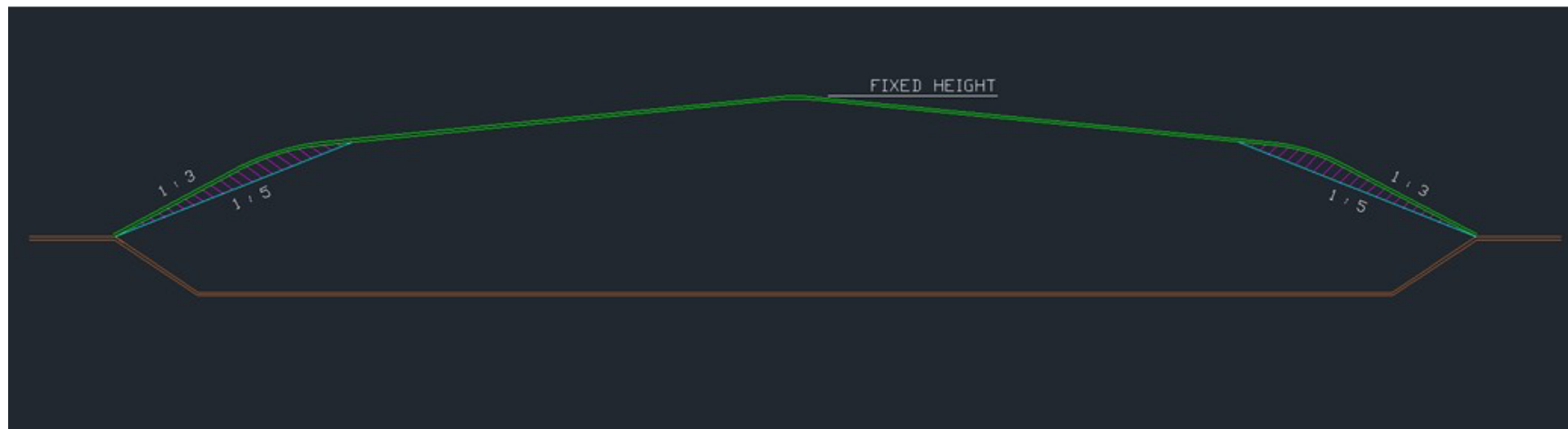
| Confidential

**CLEANAWAY**

## *MRL Steepening of Slopes*

Steepening of the batters offered the following landfill optimization:

- Increased airspace capacity for same fixed Licensed area and peak height
- Airspace gain less than 10%
- Minimizes settlement on batters
- Promotes quicker runoff of stormwater off the landfill (i.e. reduced leachate generation)
- Steepened site contours endorsed by Melton City Council
- Environmental Auditor has verified proposed cap design and steepened contours have no impact to environment or stability of landfill and capping profile



## MRL Steepening of Slopes



EXTENT OF 50mm LENS (SINGLE FRAME)



Viewpoint 01: Middle Road, Ravenhall (Easterly View)  
E: 299420.0430  
N: 5814673.0158  
H: 60.4619  
Camera Height: 1.5m

Drawing Title	Project Name	Drawing No	Revision	Date	Drawn	Checked	Project Principal	Scale
Viewpoint 01 - New Conditions - Proposed Slope - Without Vegetation - 3D Visualisation	Melbourne Regional Landfill	319-0795-00-1-01-DR08	00	03.12.2019	KM	MR	MR	N/A

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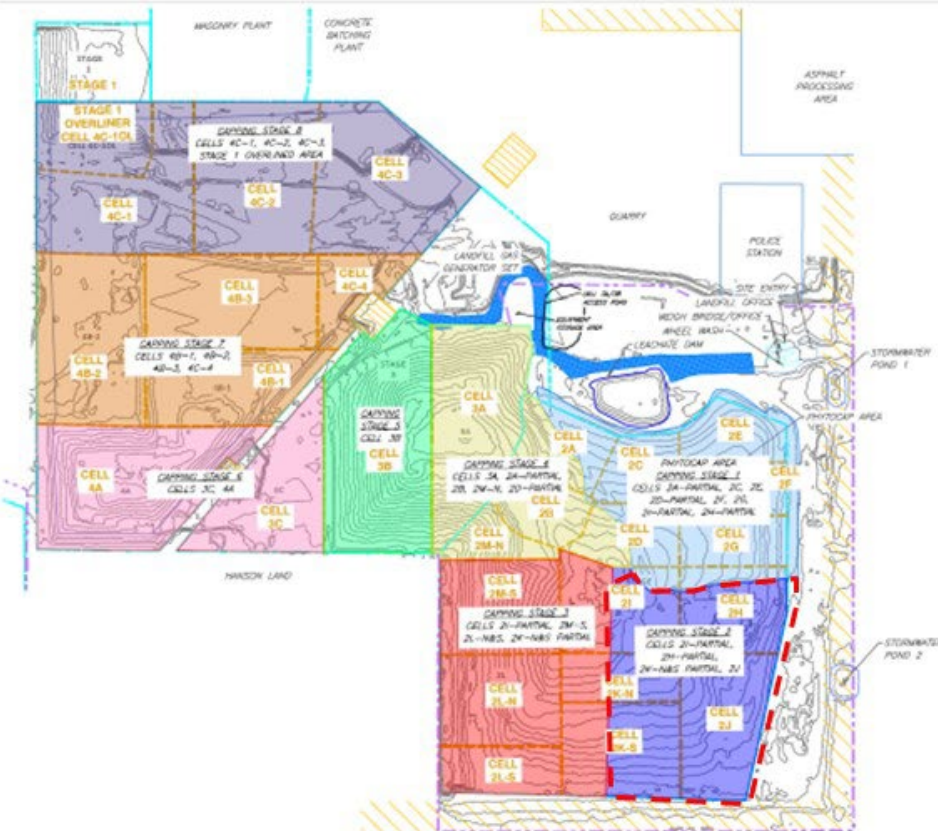


*New leachate pond construction is pending EPA Works Approval, Planning Permit Application and VCAT hearing August 2022. Pond construction expected to commence July 2022*

PROPOSED LOCATION FOR NEW LEACHATE POND

## Landfill Remediation Update

### Rehabilitation Plan



- Detail design has been approved by EPA Environmental Auditor
- EPA Approved granted
- Construction commenced in January



## Cap Status and PC Dates

### Percentage complete:

- REA Submitted and Approved
- Preferred supplier chosen
- Subgrade works: 100%
- GCL/Geomembrane: 100%
- Geotextile Cushion: 65%
- Subsoil: 0%
- Topsoil: 0%

Key Milestones / Items	Stage 2 Cap
Practical Completion Date	3 November 2022
EPA IMPN	30 November 2022
REA approved amount	\$9.9 million
FY22 Spend	\$6.7 Million



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**CLEANAWAY**



### **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.*


## Attachment 3 – EPA presentation

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1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)  
[epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au)



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If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

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# Compliance and Enforcement

## Remedial notices

- EPA revoked pollution abatement notice 90008515 after Landfill Operations complied with the requirement
  - The notice required Landfill Operations modify or replace leachate sumps to ensure leachate riser levels comply with permission conditions. It was issued following the Major Industries Assessment
- There are still two active pollution abatement notices remaining from the Major Industries Assessment. Final compliance dates for these notices are May and October 2022.
- There is still an active improvement notice to remedy overfilling in Stage 2 west. The final compliance date for that notice is 30/06/2022.
- EPA issued Improvement Notice IMPN-00002464 requiring a section of the haul road is asphalted to prevent dust and mud track out onto Christie's Road.

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# Compliance and Enforcement

## Sanctions

- EPA has laid eight charges against Landfill Operations under the Environment Protection Act 1970 following a comprehensive investigation into licence breaches. The matter is in front of the courts and has been adjourned again to June 2022.
- A number of other non-compliances still under investigation by Environmental Crime Branch.

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# Compliance and Enforcement

## Inspections

- EPA has conducted two inspections since the last CRG meeting
  - EPA gave compliance advice to pick a small amount of windblown litter and followed up on the incorporation of previous compliance advice relating to the management of hot loads procedure.
- EPA has conducted three drone surveys since last CRG meeting
  - No non-compliances identified with tipping face size

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## Odour reports February 2022 to May 2022

- 16 odour reports have been made within a 5km radius of MRL since February 2022 alleging MRL as the source or describing odours similar to those generated at MRL.
  - 5 received throughout March
  - 11 received throughout April
  - 10 of the reports in April were received on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of April
- EPA provided information to MRL for action and odour reports were unable to be verified.
- During field inspection on 20/04/2022, MRL advised that no unusual activities were taking place during the 7th and 8th of April when the cluster of reports were received.
- EPA to assess odour management in upcoming licence compliance assessment.



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# MRL CRG Meeting

## EPA update

19 May 2022

O'shea Gill-Benton, Senior Environment Protection Officer

## Appendix 4: Response to Action 220519\_04

### O'Shea Gill Benton (EPA)

Please find below my response to Marlene Gorman's question at the CRG on Thursday 19 May 2022 concerning what actions would follow in the event that a vehicle containing asbestos waste crashed in the community en-route to MRL.

Asbestos is classed as a Reportable Priority Waste under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (the Act). Under section 143 of the Act, Duty of persons transporting reportable priority waste, a person must not transport reportable priority waste other than in accordance with a permission. Breaching this duty may result in a civil penalty provision and is an infringeable offence under the Act. The permission required to transport the reportable priority waste will contain conditions such as the vehicle transporting the waste must be a permitted vehicle, and that packaging of waste asbestos must comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017* and *Worksafe Australia Asbestos Code of Practice*. It is also reasonably practicable for the waste transporter company to have an emergency management plan in the instance that a truck crash occurs, and it is a requirement to apply for a licence through WorkSafe Victoria in order to be a licenced professional asbestos removalist.

Mismanagement of reportable priority waste may result in a maximum penalty of 240 penalty units for an individual and 1200 penalty units for a business being imposed.

To answer the initial question in regards to "in the event of a crash of a vehicle transporting asbestos waste" and **in the event that EPA were the first to detect the crash, EPA would:**

1. Notify emergency services of crash – priority would be VicPol and FRV
2. Whoever first to the scene will cordoned off the area – mainly emergency services (FRV, or VicPol) but EPA has the capability to cordoned off the area if needed (if first on the scene to alert the public as part of our emergency powers)
3. FRV would have protocols on how to deal with the asbestos in the immediate instance to reduce the harm it may have to the community (i.e. wetting the asbestos)
4. The option to support FRV in monitoring for asbestos during the event to confirm the airborne concentrations present in the ambient air (if required) could be utilized depending on the risk.
5. The duty holder in control of the waste is responsible for organising clean up of the asbestos, but in the event that they do not – EPA can use its regulatory powers to get them to clean up the asbestos waste.

EPA would then investigate and respond with appropriate compliance and enforcement actions.

Given the preventative measures highlighted above, in the unlikely event of an accident, if waste asbestos was to spill (and break through the asbestos packaging) on to the side of the road near residential housing – the likelihood of asbestos fibres entering people’s houses is considered very low as any loose fibres, if generated, would mix into the air and be diluted to ambient concentrations and any fragments of asbestos on the ground would be mitigated (i.e., through wetting asbestos to prevent the generation of airborne fibres prior to clean-up) by the emergency services to avoid the materials’ fibres from becoming airborne. Given this information, the risk to human health related to an unlikely asbestos spill would be considered low in this scenario.