

Sep 2023

Community newsletter



Dear community member,

You may have read about Cleanaway's recent decision not to appeal a Planning and Environment Court decision that would have allowed for additional airspace capacity at the New Chum Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility. This is an important development for Cleanaway, the community, and our staff, which will have an impact on the future operations of the site.

Cleanaway remains committed to engaging with the community and we are pleased to provide the latest information regarding the operation of our New Chum Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility.

What is the status of the New Chum site?

The site has been closed since March 2022 following the unprecedented flooding event that inundated parts of South East Queensland. There is no fixed timeline for the site to reopen or for work to continue on Cell 3B, which was impacted by the flooding. Cell 3B is the final cell that can receive waste at the site.

Once the landfill is reopened, how long will it take to fill Cell 3B?

Timing depends on the granting of license amendments, the rate of supply of waste and weather conditions. Cleanaway will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

What happens to cells that have already been filled?

The cells are formally closed with final capping being laid down and phytocapping implemented as the final stage of rehabilitation. Phytocapping is an eco-friendly, cost-effective method that provides a natural barrier with native vegetation to deter water infiltration into the filled material. Cleanaway is partnering with Griffith University in developing an innovative native plant based phytocapping to revitalise ecosystems on our capped cells. That partnership began in 2019 and was extended in March 2023 for a further three years. Check out the [Griffith University phytocapping project video](#).



What happens when New Chum is closed?

Uses for completed landfills vary and final development can take many years while the land settles. Cleanaway will then commence the long process of closure and remediation. Part of that includes the capture and management of landfill gas, which is already happening on site.

Cleanaway will retain stewardship of the site once it is closed and work closely with relevant stakeholders to determine its long-term future. The community will be engaged and updated during that process.

For more information: [New Chum Solid Waste Landfill | Cleanaway.](#)

About New Chum

The Cleanaway New Chum Landfill is located within a zoned industrial precinct on the site of the former largest opencut coalmine in the Ipswich suburb of New Chum and has been operating since 1998.



Although currently closed, the site services the demolition, construction and industrial markets within South East Queensland and Northern NSW. It is regulated by the [Queensland Department of Environment and Science](#) to accept inert waste streams, including construction waste, industrial waste and various contaminated soils.