

# Preparing for New Chum Landfill closure



## About New Chum

Cleanaway has operated the New Chum Landfill on behalf of the community since 1998, taking up to 200,000 tonnes of waste a year from Ipswich and nearby regions. The engineered landfill primarily handles inert waste including building and construction materials and contaminated soils rather than food waste or decomposable organic matter. About half of the waste received at the former open-cut coal mine site is reused and recycled, ensuring valuable materials are repurposed wherever possible.

## Receiving new waste

**The New Chum Landfill will receive new waste in the first half of 2025 and will remain open for about 12 months before closing permanently.** Modern landfills comprise cells that are progressively filled and rehabilitated. The final cell to be filled at New Chum has been approved by Ipswich City Council and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation following a rigorous process. Once reopened, the site will operate between 6AM – 4PM, Monday to Friday.

The reopening is not expected to create environmental nuisances such as odour, noise or dust. The site accepts only inert waste, which is less prone to decomposition and odour common with organic waste. In addition, Cleanaway has installed a comprehensive network of wells and pipes to collect and flare landfill gas in a safe and environmentally responsible way while efforts to convert the captured gas to energy continue.

## The ins and outs of waste at New Chum

**All waste transported to the landfill will be assessed before acceptance to ensure it meets environmental and regulatory guidelines.**

### IN

- ✓ Industrial, construction and demolition waste including broken bricks, concrete, non-recyclable building materials, tiles and rubble.
- ✓ Contaminated soils in line with the site's Environmental Authority.

### OUT

- ✗ Materials containing asbestos.
- ✗ Chemically treated wood.
- ✗ Putrescible waste such as household garbage, food scraps and other biodegradable material.
- ✗ General household waste collected from residential areas.
- ✗ Hazardous wastes other than specific contaminated soils.
- ✗ Liquid wastes including untreated industrial effluents or waste water/sewage treatment sludges.
- ✗ E-waste including electronic appliances and computer equipment.
- ✗ Tyres or rubber products.

## Site closure and rehabilitation

**Rehabilitation of a former landfill involves capping and revegetating cells to minimise water ingress and prevent erosion, and ongoing management of landfill gas and leachate to ensure long-term environmental protection and site stability.** About 15 per cent of the landfill site has already been final capped in line with environmental best practice. The remainder of the site is being rehabilitated, with the final landfill cell to follow soon after completion.

Cleanaway has partnered with Griffith University on an innovative research project using phytocapping, a natural capping technique that combines soil and native vegetation to absorb rainfall. The project has already transformed two hectares of the New Chum site into a thriving natural ecosystem, encouraging the return of native wildlife, including nesting birds and desert tree frogs. See the project video [here](#).

## Long-term monitoring and safety

**Cleanaway is liable for monitoring and environmental safety of the site for 30 years, during which time the former mine site will stabilise.** At the same time, the company will work with Ipswich City Council and the local community to assess future land-use options, in line with regulatory requirements that consider the landfill's location, surrounding land uses, and evolving community needs. Once this process is complete, ownership of the site will revert to Ipswich City Council.

The site may become public parkland. Many parks and sporting facilities are former landfill sites. In Ipswich these include Limestone Park at Eastern Heights; Cribb Park in North Ipswich; Tony Merrill Park in Leichhardt; and Jack Barkley Park in North Booval. A prominent example is Suncorp Stadium in Milton, Brisbane.

**Victory Road Reserve is a former 30-hectare landfill site that has been rehabilitated into parkland through a partnership between City of Kingston Council and Cleanaway.**

The area has been restored and transformed through the planting of hundreds of trees and thousands of shrubs and grasses and it also features a fenced off-leash dog park for furry friends, fitness stations, and an amazing lookout from which you can see the city and the bay.

New paths and trails link Victory Road Reserve to the nearby Elder Street South Reserve, contributing to a series of linked parks that offer a wide range of recreational facilities and open space within our green wedge - creating a network or 'chain' of parks.



## How to engage?

**For more information or updates:**

- Visit our dedicated New Chum webpage - [cleanaway.com.au/location/new-chum/](https://cleanaway.com.au/location/new-chum/)
- Contact the New Chum team via **(07) 3894 0500**