

Fact Sheet | September 2025

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

Cleanaway Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park is a facility that accepts various waste types including putrescible or red bin waste, paper, cardboard, steel, scrap metals and vehicle batteries. The site includes the Lucas Heights Organic Resource Recovery Facility, which processes garden organic materials into compost for recycling.

Proposed Western Extension Project

Cleanaway plans to extend its Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park landfill to meet the critical need for additional waste capacity in the Sydney basin. As the region's only putrescible landfill site, this extension is vital to address New South Wales' impending landfill shortage, with available capacity projected to run out by 2030 according to the NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041.

What is proposed?

Cleanaway's Lucas Heights landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2030. To extend its operational life, the Western Extension Project at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park will allow processing of up to 970,000 tonnes of Sydney's red bin waste annually until 2046, with activities starting in 2031.

The project will maintain existing environmental standards, generate electricity for around 25,000 homes through methane capture and renewable energy, and create employment opportunities.

In December 2024, the NSW Government released Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) on the NSW Major Projects Portal to guide the Environmental Impact Statement and community engagement for the project. Approximately two years after the landfill closure the new recreational spaces will be transferred to Sutherland Shire Council for management pending agreement between ANSTO and the Council.

Site milestones

- TBA**
Following rehabilitation, the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park will be passed to Sutherland Shire Council, pending agreement between ANSTO and the Council.
- 2046**
Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park reaches capacity
- 2031**
Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park extension area becomes operational
- TBA**
Work on the extension of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park begins
- TBA**
The extension of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park is approved
- 2024**
The NSW Government issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's)
- 2018**
Modification to change operational hours at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park approved
- 2017**
An increase in capacity at the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park was approved
- 1993**
An upgrade of the treatment ponds to improve the water quality in Mill Creek
- 1987**
Lucas Heights Landfill was established



Working with our environment

Cleanaway have undertaken extensive measures to minimise the impact to the surrounding environment as much as possible, including:



Community Involvement

Engaging local communities to allow for open and transparent communication, helping the us align with local needs and priorities



Education and Awareness

Educating our workers on the importance of environmental protection and sustainable practices and providing local schools with workshops related to recycling and sustainability opportunities



Regulatory Compliance

Activities conducted at Cleanaway sites comply with environmental regulations and guidelines and are performed with the approval of the appropriate local, state and federal agencies



Sustainable Practices

Using methods like selective land management practices to minimise soil disturbance and keep native plants and habitats intact



Erosion Control

Establishing erosion control measures to protect soil and water quality in the nearby Mill Creek and the Mill Creek Storm Water Channel



Monitoring and Reporting

Implementing systems to monitor the work impacts at the site for regulatory compliance, protecting the environment and local communities and demonstrating our commitment to sustainability



Native Species Preservation

Identification and protection of local plants and animals by conducting environmental assessments to comply with regulations

Get involved

We will continue to keep the community informed about the project. Transparent and open communication with the community remains our priority. Your input and involvement are important as we develop a resource recovery solution that benefits both the community and the environment.

Community feedback is important to us; we will host an information session and other consultation opportunities during 2025.



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