

Foxglove Oval Environmental Works

Voluntary Management Proposal - summary

March 2022

NSW Environment Protection Authority and managing contaminated sites

Foxglove Oval in Mt Colah was established over 40 years ago on a former landfill after the site closed in 1980.

In addition to leachate management on the site, Council has been monitoring below ground wells around the Oval for several years to check for landfill gas. Landfill gases such as methane and carbon dioxide are a common occurrence for former landfill sites and are produced as the waste breaks down over time.

Results from monitoring at the Oval have previously found levels of landfill gas above the guidance values set by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).



Aerial view of subject site - The land to which the voluntary management proposal applies (bounded by the red line)

If the EPA has reason to believe that land is contaminated and that the contamination is significant enough to warrant regulation, it will be declared as 'significantly contaminated land'. The EPA declared Foxglove Oval as 'significantly contaminated' in February 2020. The contaminants have been identified as landfill gases (methane and carbon dioxide) and landfill leachate, including ammonia, heavy metals and organic contaminants.

The EPA has powers to direct responsible parties (in this case, Hornsby Shire Council) to manage significantly contaminated land under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act). More information about the management of contaminated land can be found on the EPA's website (epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/contaminated-land).

What is a Voluntary Management Proposal?

The EPA has an established process to regulate and manage contaminated land. In most cases, the EPA will invite a voluntary management proposal from the responsible person or organisation. The EPA has the discretion to approve the proposal, with or without conditions.

Council and its environmental consultants (GHD) prepared the Foxglove Oval Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) that was submitted to the EPA in April 2020 and endorsed in May 2020, following independent EPA accredited site auditor review. Since then, further monitoring and investigation work has been completed and the VMP has been updated. The EPA approved the VMP in February 2022. This high-level proposal outlines the monitoring, investigation, and remedial assessment works to be undertaken, key reports to be produced and provided to the EPA, and the approximate timing of these elements. This timing can be subject to ongoing monitoring.

For more information or to provide feedback:

Phone: 1800 413 700 (free call)
Email: foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Web: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/foxglove



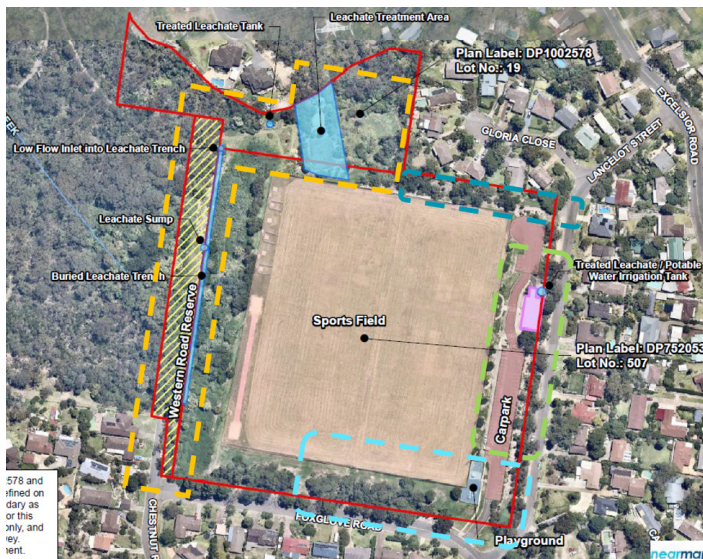
Foxglove Oval Environmental Works

Voluntary Management Proposal - summary (cont.)

What does the Voluntary Management Proposal undertake to do?

The main contamination related objectives of Hornsby Shire Council for the site are to:

- Confirm the nature, significance, and extent of contamination present at the site and offsite
- Identify the risks that the contaminants may pose to human health and/or the environment
- Where required, implement appropriate remedial measures to manage the identified contamination, thereby reducing the potential risks to human health and/or the environment at the site and offsite



Aerial image showing investigation areas. Indicative focus areas for the new VMP are indicated by coloured dashed lines - Northern Boundary (dark blue); Western and North-western Boundary (orange); Eastern Boundary (green); Southern Boundary (light blue).

Undertakings in the VMP include general terms and conditions that Council must abide by when undertaking all works and activities in connection with the proposal. This includes complying with relevant NSW environmental legislation such as the CLM Act and various EPA guidelines for the treatment of waste and reporting of any pollution incident.

The proposal outlines a phased approach for management of the site.

Phase 1 - Emergency Response: investigation tasks related to the offsite migration of ground gases along the Northern Boundary

Phase 2 - Remedial Options Assessment: detailed monitoring and investigations required to develop remedial options for the whole oval and the areas around the perimeter of the oval

Phase 3 - Remediation & Validation: remediation capital works and validation on different parts of the oval, as required.

The scope of work in Phases 1 and 2 includes capital works; remediation and repairs; and ongoing monitoring and reporting focused on the northern boundary.

The extent of Phase 3 components will be determined by the outcomes of Phases 1 and 2 and will consider remedial actions required for the oval itself and the boundary areas to the north, south, east and west of the oval.

The full VMP outlines the features of work to be undertaken, with a focus on Phases 1 and 2. It also sets out in detail the schedule of reporting requirements and submission timeframes approved by the EPA.

What happens next?

At the end of Phase 1, the monitoring program will be assessed, modified and incorporated into the larger monitoring program for the Oval. The program will be reviewed and updated as required, but at a minimum annually.

Remediation works along the northern batter of the Oval are expected to commence in July 2022.

The VMP can be found on the EPA website using the following link:

app.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/clm/docs/html/n20221702.htm

For more information or to provide feedback:

Phone: 1800 413 700 (free call)
Email: foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Web: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/foxglove

