

Foxglove Oval Environmental Works

Project Summary: Northern Batter Remediation Construction

July 2022

Northern Batter Remediation Construction

Summary of Timeline and Activity

Foxglove Oval at Mt Colah was established over 40 years ago on a former landfill after the site closed in 1980. The monitoring for landfill gas around Foxglove Oval has been ongoing for several years.

In early 2021, after detecting elevated levels of landfill gas (methane) along the northern boundary of the landfill site, Council's environmental consultants GHD has been identifying the nature and extent of the movement of landfill gas offsite. In more recent months GHD has designed a remediation system which will be installed along the northern batter by Council's recently appointed remediation contractor, EnviroPacific Services (EPS). The remediation system includes ground gas collection bores and a pipe network connected to vents that will safely release the gases to the atmosphere. It has been designed to reduce offsite migration of the ground gases to an acceptable level (as determined by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA)).

This document summarises the remediation construction works at the northern boundary of the Oval, in the area identified as the northern batter, including preliminary works that began in May 2022. The work commenced after Council received a Clean-up Notice from the NSW EPA directing Council to take immediate action to commence the planned works in this area of the Oval.

There are three milestones required by the NSW EPA for the construction of the remediation system. These include:

Milestone 1. Finalise detailed design – May 2022

GHD prepared a remediation options assessment that considered the nature and extent of both surface and ground gases at the northern batter, informed by the ongoing surface and subsurface monitoring programs. Environmental site characteristics of the oval included relevant data on the local hydrogeology, geology, and meteorology collected during numerous investigations.

The remediation system design was developed over several months and finalised in May 2022.

Milestone 2. Commence breaking ground – June 2022

This milestone was achieved in May 2022 with early works including the excavation and installation of validation wells along the lower area of the northern batter closest to residential properties. Results from the regular monitoring of these wells will determine the effectiveness of the remediation system once it is installed.



Breaking ground achieved with the excavation and installation of validation wells in May 2022.



For more information or to provide feedback:

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Milestone 3. Install gas collection bores and vents – September 2022

The NSW EPA requires this milestone to be met in September. It means that by this date the installation of gas collection bores at the bottom of the batter and vents at the top of the batter must be complete. The gas collection bores are designed as part of an underground system. The vents at the top of the batter will be above ground, standing at approximately 4 metres high, on the batter side of the new ball fence.

Construction Program - 2022

July – Appointment of specialist remediation contractor

The appointment of EnviroPacific Services (EPS) was finalised in July, after which they assumed control of the site from Council to commence construction of the remediation system. EPS is a well-known and highly reputable Australian company specialising in constructing bespoke infrastructure and treatment systems for contaminated land and water, including landfill waste gases.

The site is currently being surveyed and set out.

August – Site establishment, clearing and construction

Site establishment, installation of site facilities (including ablutions) and implementation of environmental controls are scheduled for early August. Exclusion zone fencing will be erected to demarcate the construction area from Oval users and residential properties.

Clearing of the northern batter vegetation is scheduled for mid-August. While Council will retain mature trees where possible, most of the vegetation will be removed to allow installation of the below ground gas wells, pipework and above ground vents. This will be followed by excavation, with disposal offsite of any contaminated soil. Remaining soils will be stockpiled and covered, then reinstated on the batter following construction. Installation of the underground gas collection bores will commence in August.

September – Ongoing construction

Installation of the remaining infrastructure will occur through September, including the bore connecting pipes and vents. A geosynthetic clay liner (GCL) will also be installed to maintain the integrity of the landfill capping. The access track will be completed to enable construction of the retaining wall.

October – Finalise site works

A retaining wall will be installed to help stabilise the infrastructure and the northern batter post construction. It will also help manage any potential erosion or sediment run-off. Stormwater from the site will be managed by coir logs and a cross batter diversion to maintain current run-off levels (as a minimum), and at best improve them.

Once these works are completed, residential fences that were removed as part of the construction activity will be reinstated. The new Oval fence will also be constructed and will be similar to the existing height and fence material.

Once Council takes back possession of the site (by November), the landscaping of the area will begin. The landscaping design of the northern batter has been developed in collaboration with adjacent residents.



Construction of coir logs will help stabilise the northern batter and manage ongoing sediment erosion risks.

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