

Foxglove Oval Environmental Works Community Update

December 2021

Background

Council has been monitoring below ground wells for landfill gas around Foxglove Oval for several years. It is common for former landfill sites to produce gases such as methane and carbon dioxide, which are a product of the landfill as the waste breaks down over time.

The Oval remains open for sporting and recreational activities and is safe to use.

Keeping our community safe is our key priority and we continue to work closely with our environmental consultants (GHD), our independent site auditor, and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) throughout the ongoing investigation works.

Onsite and offsite monitoring

Over the past few months there has been increased activity with additional wells being installed on and around the Oval as we confirm our understanding of the ground conditions. We apologise for the disruption that this increased activity may be causing, or has caused in our Foxglove Oval community, particularly around the areas where the wells were installed.

Results of in-home air monitoring

In October 2021, on behalf of Council, GHD completed residential in-home air monitoring in some of the homes adjacent to the Oval. We thank those residents who assisted in the collection of this important data. The results of this round of monitoring indicate that, other than two gas leaks identified in relation to the gas mains (i.e. not landfill), only background levels of ground gas (methane) are present in the homes that were subject to the testing. If further in-home monitoring is required as our investigations continue, we will let you know.

Our Indicative program going forward

Short term (December 2021- January 2022)

During December and January monitoring of the wells around the Oval will continue. We also plan to

install some more monitoring wells along the northern boundary of the Oval once access is resolved.

This should not interfere with those residents or sporting groups using the Oval.

Medium term (2022 – early 2023)

Throughout next year you can expect to see further activity around the Oval including the start of some remediation works.

Stage 1 of the **Northern Boundary Landfill Gas Management Strategy (NB-LGMS)** is likely to include installing several gas vents (refer image below) to collect and release gas from the ground to the atmosphere. The aim of these vents is to create an underground virtual curtain or wall to limit gas movement offsite. Stage 1 will assist in refining the design for an effective measure to stop the gas moving offsite.

Wells and vents serve different purposes in relation to the Stage 1 works. Wells are usually located on the edge of the former landfill and are designed to detect whether there is gas in the ground and if it is moving offsite. Vents are designed to release gas from the ground and are typically located in the former landfill area. Vents are a common technology used to safely release landfill gas into the atmosphere and are a less-invasive measure than installing a deep trench or wall. Figure 1 shows a typical landfill gas vent sourced from [landfill gas vents - Bing images](#).



Figure 1: Typical landfill gas vent

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

Community Update (continued)

Planning for Stage 1 of the *Northern Boundary Landfill Gas Management strategy* has started, and the installation of vents is likely to commence in mid-2022. Additionally, in mid-2022 other areas of the Oval will be undergoing investigations to determine if any remediation is required along the eastern, western, and southern boundary areas. Whatever work is undertaken, we don't expect this to impact the recreational use of the Oval. If this needs to happen, we will provide advance notice to you and to all the sporting clubs who use the Oval.

Long term (2023-2024)

The regular ongoing environmental monitoring program will continue but the frequency may decrease (e.g. monthly to quarterly). Stage 2 of the Northern Boundary Landfill Gas Management Strategy will depend on the outcomes of the monitoring after the installation of Stage 1. If required, Stage 2 may include the installation of additional vents.

Also, during this time the remediation measures for other parts of the Oval (eastern, western, and southern areas) will be completed if they are required and we will discuss these remediation measures with residents once further assessment has been completed.

What is guiding the monitoring and remedial activities?

The *Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP)* prepared in May 2020 (and currently under revision), is an agreement between the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Council. This is a high-level plan to manage the site during investigations and any subsequent remediation and validation to prevent the offsite migration of landfill gas.

The *Interim Environment Management Plan (IEMP)* forms a part of the VMP and is designed to guide the specific details for monitoring.

Stage 1 of the *Northern Boundary Landfill Gas Management Strategy* will assist in refining the Remediation Action Plan (RAP).

Communication and ongoing project updates

We are endeavouring to improve the way we keep you informed about what's happening around the Oval and when additional works are being scheduled. This quarterly community update is one means. We are also building a more comprehensive project page on our website with presentations and relevant reports that you may find useful if you are seeking further information. We encourage you to contact us through the 1800 project number or email (details below) if you have specific questions about site activities occurring at and around Foxglove Oval.

Community information session being planned for late February 2022.

We are planning a community information pop-up session onsite at Foxglove Oval towards the end of February 2022. We will provide a notice to you two weeks prior. We look forward to meeting you and discussing the project with you in more detail at that time.

Happy and safe holidays

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday period.

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