

# Foxglove Oval Environmental Works Update

## Community Update Newsletter

### About the project

Foxglove Oval in Mount Colah is one of Hornsby Shire Council's (Council) popular local sporting and recreation fields. It is a former landfill site and the sports fields were established after the landfill closed in 1980.

Council has been monitoring below ground wells around the Oval to check for landfill gas since 2019.

Results from the monitoring of these below ground wells, have previously found levels of landfill gas (methane and carbon dioxide) above EPA guidance values in several locations close to the perimeter of the oval. This is a common occurrence for former landfill sites, the oval is safe to use and will remain open for sporting and recreational activities.

### Progress update

Since 2019, Council have worked closely with the EPA, environmental consultants GHD, and an independent NSW EPA accredited environmental site auditor to appropriately manage the site in accordance with EPA requirements.

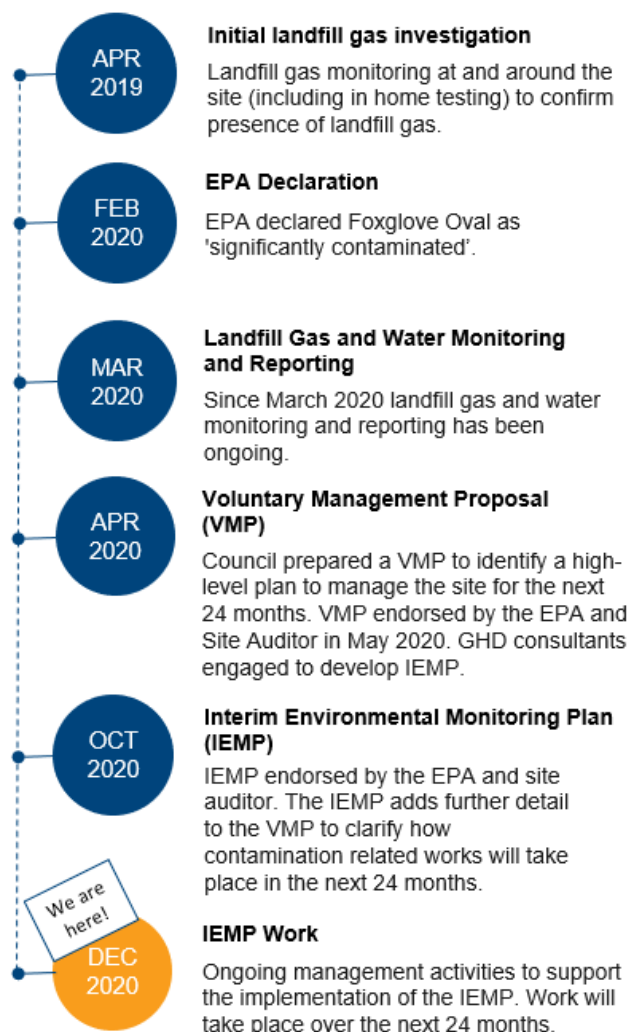
You may have received an update about the works we have undertaken at Foxglove Oval when we wrote to residents in February 2020. This was just after the EPA declared the site as "significantly contaminated land". Since that time, Council have prepared a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP), which was endorsed by the EPA and the independent site auditor. As part of that endorsed VMP, GHD developed an Interim Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) for the site.

The IEMP identifies that several environmental investigations are required to further understand the extent of contamination at Foxglove Oval. The

results of these investigations will inform required future management actions at the Oval.

The figure below shows a timeline of the works undertaken at the Oval to date.

### Timeline of works to date – Foxglove Oval



## Environmental investigations over the next 24 months

The next step is for Council to undertake certain investigation and monitoring activities as part of the IEMP. These activities are set to take place over the next 24 months.

Investigation activities are to include:

- Installation of additional landfill gas and groundwater monitoring wells
- Soil investigation and sampling
- Geophysical survey investigation of the ground in certain areas
- Inspections of local stormwater and sewer lines
- Ongoing environmental monitoring for landfill gas
- Additional in-home air monitoring at selected properties

While most of these investigations will have minimal impact to the surrounding area, you may notice some activities which require the use of machinery.

We will contact and work closely with relevant property owners and residents in advance, to inform them about the proposed activities and any need for access to their properties.

Where work occurs, it will take place on weekdays between 7 am and 5 pm. No work will be undertaken over the Christmas / New Year break.

## Works required in December 2020

Before the end of the year, we will be installing below ground environmental monitoring wells at a number of locations including along:

- Foxglove Road
- Gloria Close
- Lancelot Street

If you live in these areas, you may notice some heavy machinery while works take place. We will contact any property owners and residents directly impacted by the works via mail.

Works will commence during the week of 7 December 2020 and will take about two weeks to complete.

## FAQs

### Am I or my family at risk?

The results of previous testing completed in the area during 2019 showed that landfill gas posed a low risk to the community. We will be continuing to carry out these investigations to confirm this is the case. This does not mean the Oval is unsafe to use. The site will open for sporting and recreational activities.

The safety, health and wellbeing of all local residents and oval users remains Council's top priority. We are committed to continuing to work with our local community in an open and transparent way through the implementation of the IEMP.

## Contact information

If you would like further information about these works, or to provide feedback, please contact us via these methods:

**Phone:** 1800 413 700 (free call)

**Email:** [foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

Alternatively, you can visit the project website which also has our contact details: [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/foxglove](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/foxglove)