

# Foxglove Oval Environmental Works Community Update

October 2023

## Northern Batter Remediation

### Construction complete

The construction on the Northern Batter of Foxglove Oval was completed in September 2023, including the remediation civil works and the associated landscape works required to restore the area. The works completed include:

- Removal of soil from against the private residential boundary
- Constructing the access track and sandstone boulder retaining wall
- Installing ground gas collection bores and feeder pipes
- Erecting the passive gas vents at the top of the batter
- Extending fencing to the east and west of the Batter
- Installing the boundary landfill gas monitoring wells
- Landscaping the batter, including revegetation with native species
- Completing stormwater management works
- Reinstating fences of the impacted residential properties
- Reinstating the 3.6m high chain mesh ball fence



Figure 1: Native species revegetation on the Northern Batter

### What's happening on site now?

The construction and landscape contractors have removed all infrastructure and left the site. The Oval is again fully accessible for public recreational use and all scheduled sporting fixtures. Parking areas and the traffic turning circle are clear and operational.

The Northern Batter will remain closed to public access with the newly installed fencing creating a secure exclusion zone around the gas vents.



Figure 2 – Aerial of construction commencement in August 2022



Figure 3 – Aerial photo from August 2023

### Why was the remediation system needed?

As a former landfill (closed in 1980), Council has been monitoring below ground wells around the Oval since April 2018. In early 2020 the EPA declared the site as “significantly contaminated land”.

Council's key priority is to keep our community safe and since 2019 we have worked closely with NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), environmental consultants (GHD) and an independent NSW EPA accredited environmental site auditor to appropriately manage the site in accordance with EPA requirements.



# Foxglove Oval Environmental Works – Community Update

The remediation at the Northern Batter has been undertaken in accordance with the project's Landfill Gas Management Strategy and is part of the broader Foxglove Oval Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP). The remediation objective is to reduce (then maintain) methane and carbon dioxide concentrations to acceptable levels both at the surface and below ground at the site's boundary, limiting unacceptable levels moving offsite into neighbouring properties.

Now that the remediation system is in place Council expects the levels of land fill gas in shallow soils to reduce over time. Monitoring for this began along the northern boundary of the site in May 2023. Generally methane is reducing but there are a small number of locations where it has not yet reduced to below the trigger levels like the rest of the validation monitoring points. To prove the system works over the long term, these validation results must be maintained over an extended period of time.

The full validation period is estimated to be at least 13 months to capture potential seasonal variation in ground gas production and changes in gas migration towards adjoining residences.



Figure 4: Northern Batter landscaping & the new ball fence on the Oval

## Ongoing monitoring of the whole Oval

While the focus of investigations to date has been on the Northern Batter, monitoring around the Oval has continued since 2018 and Council is now assessing potential contamination impacts across other parts of the Oval.

Over the next 18 months we will investigate the eastern, western and southern boundary areas and consider appropriate remediation measures (if required) once the nature and extent of contamination is determined.

The issues being investigated by Council include :

- potential pathways for contaminants around Oval infrastructure such as stormwater pipes and buildings
- the impact of leachate (contaminated liquid from the landfill) on surface water downstream from the former landfill
- the adequacy and robustness of leachate treatment infrastructure onsite
- the nature and extent of contaminant impacts on groundwater

## Future engagement with residents and oval users

During the next 12 months, Council will continue liaising closely with residents near to the Northern Batter about the validation monitoring results. We will also update the local community and park users about any planned investigations on other areas around the Oval or nearby lands.

The Oval remains safe to use.

If you have any questions, please contact Council via the project's 1800 number or email. Details are below.

### Online Community Information Session

**Tuesday 24 October 2023**  
**4:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Please register your interest to attend via our email [foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

For more information or to provide feedback:  
Phone: 1800 413 700 (free call)  
Email: [foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)  
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