

Closure of the former Alexandria Landfill

The St Peters Interchange is being built on the site of the former Alexandria Landfill waste facility. As part of construction of the interchange, progressive remediation is being undertaken to formally close the landfill.

The work to remediate and close the landfill started in October 2016 and will continue until early 2018. The work involves capping the landfill and installing a range of environmental management controls.

The landfill is scheduled to be formally closed in 2019, approximately one year after the remediation controls have been installed and monitored.

Earthworks in the former landfill

Waste material is being excavated from the former landfill to build the final landform for the interchange. This includes moving waste material to a mound at the south-western end of the site next to Canal Road. The mound is progressively capped as areas are completed.

Odour management

As we excavate the former landfill, we encounter pockets of leachate which have the potential to emit odour. Leachate is water that has come into contact with waste.

We act immediately to mitigate potential odours, however these can be pervasive and linger after our controls are in place.



Aerial view of the former Alexandria landfill site

Mitigation measures

To help reduce impacts to the local community, we have established a range of measures to minimise odour:

- Daily monitoring to identify sources of odour
- Using odour-suppressing misting systems to mask the odour, including fixed misting curtains, mobile misting cannons and mobile misting boom sprays
- Applying treatments directly to waste and leachate, such as odour-suppressing foam
- Dewatering leachate from waste prior to excavation
- Pumping leachate to the existing treatment plant on site where it is treated and discharged into the sewer system. We are commissioning a second treatment plant which will triple our capacity to treat leachate and will be operational in late June
- Earthworks to reduce the likelihood of leachate pooling, including establishing temporary locations where leachate collects and can be pumped to the treatment plant
- Applying waste capping layers within seven days (but generally much faster) of final contours being formed. Where areas of waste material are visible, these are works in progress and are treated with binders and odour suppressants
- Engaging an independent landfill and odour specialist to review our processes and mitigation measures
- Engaging groundwater specialists to assess the different sources of leachate within the site.



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Monitoring and health

The noticeable odour is from hydrogen sulphide, sometimes referred to as rotten egg gas. It is often associated with former landfill sites.

We undertake regular monitoring for potential gases within the landfill including hydrogen sulphide, methane, carbon monoxide, ammonia and volatile organic compounds.

Monitoring data is available to authorities including the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and NSW Health.

Hydrogen sulphide levels at the site have been consistently low. The human nose can detect hydrogen sulphide at these very low levels. Exposure to low levels of hydrogen sulphide can result in a strong odour but is not associated with health impacts.

People can reduce their exposure through staying indoors, with doors and windows shut, when odours are experienced.

At higher levels of hydrogen sulphide, people with pre-existing respiratory conditions may experience worsening of their symptoms.

Although these levels of hydrogen sulphide may not be occurring at the site, it is important that people with asthma should follow their asthma action plan, ensure they have their medication available and seek medical advice if their symptoms are not controlled.

If people are concerned about their health, they should see their local doctor for further advice.

Environmental management and approvals

Construction of the New M5 is being undertaken in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) for the project.

The EPA issued a Prevention Notice on 28 March 2017, specifying actions to eliminate offensive odours outside the site including taking all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent leachate from pooling and covering or removing pooled leachate as soon as practicable. These actions have been included on the EPL.



The EPL also requires daily perimeter odour surveys by an independent consultant. The EPA has further directed us to engage an independent consultant to identify methods to further reduce or eliminate odours beyond the premises and provide a Pollution Reduction Study by 16 June 2017. This work is now underway. We are working closely with the EPA to ensure we are delivering the project in accordance with our environmental obligations.

Remediation of the landfill is being carried out in accordance with the Landfill Closure Management Plan and Construction Environment Management Plan.

These documents are available to view online at westconnex.com.au.

More information

For more information, please call 1800 660 248 (toll free) and ask to speak to a member of the New M5 team or email us at info@newm5.com.au.

You can also visit us at the New M5 Community Information Centre located at 27 Burrows Road, St Peters. The centre is open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, excluding public holidays.

If you would like further information about this issue or on regulation of the site, please contact the Environment Protection Authority's Environment Line on 131 555.