

Hotspot Remediation Timeline

The Remediation process comprises five separate but interrelated stages, which are Investigation, Design, Regulatory Approval, Preparatory Works, and Implementation.

The process has been underway since December 2019 with the first four stages taking seven months to complete and enabling approved remediation works to commence on 1 July 2020. Those works, which are the excavation and treatment of 'cool', 'warm' and 'hot' waste are ongoing.

Since the commencement of excavation works on 1 July, only two days of activity have been lost because of bad weather.

26/27 November 2019 – The first observations are made of potential hotspots at the landfill. The Environment Protection Authority is notified and attends the site. The operators engage external Technical experts to advise on the situation. Interim measures to reduce smoke and odour are agreed with the EPA and deployed.

December 2019 – A Landfill Hotspot Remediation Action Plan was drawn up and approved by the EPA. An Investigative Drilling Program commenced. It was designed to identify the location and number of potential hotspots within the boundaries of the landfill site and would result in more than 160 bore holes being drilled with approximately half of the boreholes fitted with temperature monitoring sensors.

An Air Quality monitoring program commenced. Interim measures to reduce smoke and odour continued.

A Pre-Christmas community meeting was conducted providing residents with a detailed briefing of activities and initial remediation options.

January 2020 – The Investigative Drilling Program continued, and data collection commenced.

February 2020 – Analysis of data collected from the Investigative Drilling Program was undertaken to inform the final remediation design. The Landfill Hotspot Remediation Design was submitted to the EPA.

March 2020 – Preparatory works commenced including the construction of new access ramps and the base for a Temporary Laydown area, which would be used to treat warm to hot waste so it was sufficiently cooled before transferral to other active cells within the landfill.

April 2020 – The EPA approved the Landfill Hotspot Remediation Design on 27 April. Preparatory works continued.

May 2020 – A selection process to engage independent specialist contractors commenced. Preparatory works continued.

June 2020 – Independent contractors and equipment arrive on sight. The Temporary Laydown Area is constructed. Community Information letter box drop undertaken.

July – August 2020 – Excavation works commenced to expose the hotspots. Technical experts assess the efficiency of the approved process. EPA approves requested process modifications, designed to increase the rate of excavation, and reduce the overall time to complete remediation. The process modifications were undertaken as a trial in September. A second Community Information Letter Box drop is completed.

September 2020 – Process enhancements as agreed with the EPA are trialled and technical analysis of the results demonstrated the rate of excavation had more than doubled when compared to the original process.

A second community meeting was conducted to inform residents of the progress of remediation works.

October 2020 – The EPA approves an amended Landfill Hotspot Remediation Design, enabling the continuation of the enhanced process that was trialled in September. Excavation works continued.

November 2020 – Increased excavation rates continued with a more than 20,000 cubic metres of material having been excavated and treated since remediation works commenced at the beginning of July. Excavation works continued.

December 2020 - Excavation works continue until close of business on 23 December and resume on 4 January 2021 a week earlier than originally planned and to assist in reducing the overall time to be taken to complete the remediation works.

January 2021 – Excavation works resume. No environmental incident detected during the Christmas/New shutdown. Landfill management proposes an extension of permitted work hours to the Environment Protection Authority to further increase the rate of work and reduce the overall time required to complete remediation.

February 2021 - Hotspot#3 was exposed on 9 February. EPA and community alerted. A third on-line Community Forum was conducted. A survey was undertaken to measure progress of works. Since the commencement of excavation works to the time of the survey, more than 49,000 cubic metres of material had been treated. The rate of progress had more than doubled since the previous survey period. Landfill management informs community that works are forecast to be complete by the end of September 2021.

March 2021 - Environment Protection Authority issues a new clean up notice. Works continue to abate Hotspot #3 as crews simultaneously work toward Hotspot #4 located near the Sunshine Avenue Boundary of the site. Fresh clay cover is applied to an area generally referred to as Hotspot #1 to reduce odour emissions.