

## Community Updates

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Regular information updates on the progress of works and Air Quality monitoring reports will continue to be posted to: **[sunshinelandfill.com.au](http://sunshinelandfill.com.au)**

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## Sunshine Landfill Community Notice

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**January 2021**

Sunshine Landfill on McIntyre Road, Kealba, is no longer accepting new waste at the site until further notice as part of the operators efforts to reduce the amount of time necessary to complete the remediation of four localised hotspots at the site.

The landfill temporarily suspended the acceptance of waste deliveries from the close of business on the 23rd of December 2020. Normal operations will remain suspended until further notice.

The impact the decision will have on contributing to a reduction in the time required to complete remediation works is yet to be measured as excavation and waste transferral processes are analysed for any material increase in efficiency.

Excavation and treatment of the waste is being conducted in line with the Hotspot Remediation Design approved by the Environment Protection Authority. As at the end of December 2020, more than 20,000 cubic metres of material has been excavated and treated.

Remediation works restarted the week commencing Monday 4 January 2021 following the Christmas/ New Year shutdown, which was shortened by one week to help expedite the completion of works. Community members are encouraged to visit **[sunshinelandfill.com.au](http://sunshinelandfill.com.au)** for the latest information on the progress of remediation works and air quality monitoring reports.

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## Community Forum

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The landfill operator will conduct a third Community Forum from seven PM on Thursday 18 February 2021.

To meet Covid-safe guidelines, the Forum will be held online via Zoom. Access to the meeting will be via a link posted the day of the scheduled meeting to [sunshinelandfill.com.au](http://sunshinelandfill.com.au).

The views of residents are important to the landfill operator. While the Forum will provide interested community members with an update on progress of works it will also seek input from residents on a proposal to introduce additional new measures aimed at speeding up the remediation process.

The landfill operator is considering seeking approval from the Environment Protection Authority to increase the number of hours that can be worked each weekday by commencing 1 hour earlier and undertake remediation works from 06:00 to 12:00 on Saturdays.

Across the course of a week, it is anticipated up to an additional 11 hours of excavation and treatment could be undertaken depending on the nature of the material. The additional hours would add to the range of other measures implemented over the past four months to reduce the overall time needed to safely complete remediation works.

Those measures comprise the temporary suspension of 'ordinary works', introduction of process enhancements relating to the daily cover requirements for material on the temporary laydown area, the deployment of additional equipment and a reorganisation of rostered work.

## Christmas/New Year Inspections

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The Environment Protection Authority visited the site on 23 December 2020 to confirm all preparatory measures for the holiday break were in place. EPA Officers toured the site, viewing excavation points, confirming the temporary laydown area was clear of material and that equipment was in place should it be required to respond to any environmental events.

In line with commitments made to the Environment Protection Authority and the community, the site was consistently monitored during the Christmas/New Year shutdown. Each day from 24 December 2020 to 4 January 2021, hourly observations of the site were undertaken and formally logged. No environmental events were detected during the shutdown.

A precautionary inspection of the site and neighbouring homes was undertaken on Boxing Day due to high temperatures and a strong northerly wind. While odour was present within the site's boundaries, no odour was detected in nearby residential areas, which was toured by landfill management.

A range of factors can influence odour levels beyond the site boundary, including cold temperature inversions, extreme heat, rainfall, and wind direction. They can also be influenced when waste that is buried deeply, is older and hotter is exposed because of excavation being undertaken as part of remediation works.

**Air Quality Monitoring:** The cycle of air quality monitoring continued uninterrupted during the holiday break. Reports for December 2020 and the first half of January 2021 are available at [sunshinelandfill.com.au](http://sunshinelandfill.com.au).

The EPA states that "air quality monitoring has found no issues of concern with respect to human health to date and it expects there will continue to be no health impacts."

## Remediation Timeline

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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 and that was 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 more than 20,000 cubic metres of material having been excavated and treated. Excavation works continued.

**December 2020** – Excavation works continued until close of business on 23 December. Acceptance of new waste at the site was suspended until further notice to determine whether such action might help reduce the time necessary to complete remediation works. An online Community Forum was held.

**January 2021** – Remediation works recommenced from the week beginning Monday 4 January and are ongoing. A Community Information Notice was letterboxed to residents, primarily informing them of a third Community Forum to be conducted on 18 February 2021.