



28 June 2024

Update on Odour Management Works

As part of our commitment to the community, we will provide regular updates for residents and neighbours of our Woodlawn Eco Precinct regarding works to the landfill gas (LFG) extraction and treatment system. Below you will find a schedule for proposed improvements at the site over the coming months.

Progress updates on remaining works noted in the [May 2024 CLC meeting \(slide 17\)](#):

- *Improve landfill cover, active tipping area etc, third party review ongoing by Tonkin - as per IOA. They recommend using tarps as cover. Investigating ADC options - tarp supplier site visit 21/3, RFP and request for work methods to include in a trial application.*

An independent consultant, Tonkin, has recommended using tarps to cover waste as they are more effective in controlling odours than typical daily cover materials. A final report is still being written on this recommendation, but we have already moved to bring about this change. A licence variation application has been submitted to the EPA requesting the use of these recommended tarp systems as daily cover for the waste. At the same time we have been developing a plan to collect more landfill gas along the perimeter of the landfill through a new perimeter extraction system.

What works are taking place from 28 June 2024?

We intend to reconnect at least 5 extraction wells in the coming week following the completion of construction activities. The reconnection of these wells will increase gas extraction from the landfill, which should further improve environmental outcomes for the Woodlawn Eco Precinct site and neighbouring areas. These reconnections will occur between Friday, June 28 and Friday, July, between 7am and 6pm.

Modifications by a third party company to Biofilter #2 are underway at the mechanical biotreatment plant (MBT) following their successful deployment in Biofilter #1. These biofilters clean the air directed through them from the maturation sheds and connected operational areas at the MBT. The modifications include changes to spray nozzles that water odour-reducing bacteria hosted in the biofilters. This allows these important but delicate bacteria to get sufficient moisture without being saturated. These works are progressively being completed now with a project completion target date of Thursday, July 4.

Why are the gas well works needed?

The works are necessary to ensure the existing well network is maintained in order to maximise the extraction of landfill gas, by removing any blockages and remediating any wells that require repair. The system requires regular and ongoing maintenance. Adjustments to the gas wells ensure that the controls continue to operate efficiently. At times, certain parts of the system may be taken temporarily offline as required.

What is Veolia doing to prevent odour during the gas well works?

Even when some parts of the network are taken offline, gas extraction wells immediately beside these remain online during reconnection activities. As a precaution, the extraction vacuum on these adjacent wells are increased so they can extract gas from the offline area. This supplements our existing odour prevention measures and reduces fugitive emissions and odours.



What is Veolia doing to improve Leachate and Water Management?

History / context:

Unprecedented consecutive La Niña years along the NSW coast in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 produced record breaking rainfall. This resulted in leachate being generated at a level beyond the current water storage capacity at the Precinct. These high leachate levels can potentially impact offsite odours.

Strategy / actions:

Throughout this period, Veolia has continued to take measures in response to the wet weather. We have implemented numerous projects costing around \$11.2 million to improve liquid management infrastructure at the Woodlawn Eco-Precinct over the past 4 years. We are seeking relevant approvals to undertake further significant upgrades over the next 3 years to make us more resilient to extreme rainfall events. This includes the following:

- We are currently seeking planning approval via Modification 7 for a new Reverse Osmosis plant to provide a 'non-evaporative' method to reduce storage pressures on the site at a cost of over \$7M (**Mod 7**). This modification is with the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). We have been working with the Department to have it assessed and have been consulting with them on the draft modification assessment report since December 2023. The DPHI has been working on the adequacy review of the finalised modification report since mid May 2024. The concerns of the community are a priority for Veolia. The zero discharge site was a commitment made in large part due to considerations of drinking water catchment. Mod 7 proposes to treat leachate to a water quality consistent with drinking water guidelines. This water would then be used to irrigate adjacent fields.
- We are also seeking planning approval for a new 52ML containment dam at a cost of more than \$6 million (**Mod 6**). The draft modification report for Mod 6 was shared with DPHI and EPA in December 2023. DPHI accepted the modification report for exhibition on 3 May 2024.
- Veolia previously submitted scoping letters and initiated community consultation in May 2023 as part of Mod 6 in relation to offsite tankering to further reduce pressures on the site's storage capacity. Veolia received community feedback about the logistics of moving this material through Tarago. As a key member of a broad community, and seeing the new 52 ML containment dam has been generally well received, Veolia removed the transport of leachate offsite components from Mod 6.

The development of these projects has necessarily been an iterative process, informed by regular meetings with relevant regulatory and community groups. We withdrew the road tankering of leachate to our sister site in Spring Farm for treatment following community concerns about the logistics of moving this material through Tarago township by road.

Your support for these alternatives will help us manage and reduce leachate inventories onsite and, by extension, allow us to better manage odour. The submission link for Mod 7 will soon be open, and can be found on the major project page for the [Bioreactor](#).

What should I do if I have an issue?

If community members have any concerns, please call Veolia's complaint hotline on 1800 241 750 or [contact us](mailto:contactus@woodlawn@veolia.com) at [woodlawn@veolia.com](mailto:contactus@woodlawn@veolia.com)

We will continue to provide regular updates to keep the community informed, including when any works which may have the potential to increase odour are likely.