

Northern Batter Remediation

Performance Monitoring

Council installed a venting system between July 2022 and September 2023 along the Northern Batter to intercept landfill gases. Monitoring of the venting system performance will be maintained over an extended period of time to confirm that the system works in all seasonal conditions.

Since May 2023, monitoring of the venting system's performance has shown that the landfill gases at more than 75% of the locations at the boundary have reduced to below the EPA criteria set as a target for remediation.

Council has prepared validation documents which are being reviewed by the EPA accredited site auditor.

Further studies by Council's environmental consultants remain ongoing for those locations where the landfill gases have not reduced to below the EPA criteria. The below ground conditions at these locations are likely affecting this outcome, and these further studies will help understand the conditions, identify any alternate sources and confirm any possible risks to the local environment. Council expects that these additional studies will continue to meet the EPA's established validation timeframe.

Council remains engaged with the families who live close to the Northern Batter as this validation work continues.



Figure 1: Weed infestation and poor growth of the eco-blanket along the western part of the northern batter along with erosion potential along the steep embankment.

Landscaping

Over the past several months the landscaping on the east side of the Northern Batter (closest to the turning circle) has been thriving, with the native plants settling well into their new environment. The hedge installed along the ball fence is a great example of this. The western side of the Northern Batter has been more challenging where germination from the eco-blanket has not established the anticipated native cover along the steep embankment.

In April, Council planted a large number of native species as tube stock in the area which are being watered as needed, and closely monitored to make sure they can successfully compete with the weeds that have grown in the area since late 2023.



Figure 2: Growth of the tube stock planting in April is being monitored

Ongoing monitoring of the whole site

Council continues to monitor the perimeter of the Oval to obtain relevant environmental monitoring data to allow for the ongoing assessment of the contamination status of water (groundwater, surface water, leachate, and seepage) and ground gas at and around the site.

Foxglove Oval Environmental Works – Community Update

Along the steep slope of the western side (Western Batter) of the Oval leachate seeping from the landfill is being intercepted and managed via Council's existing leachate management infrastructure. Council is assessing this system to confirm its adequacy to contain the leachate and whether any other controls are needed. The need for any remediation in this area is still being assessed.

The Western Batter forms part of the landfill cap. Managing the vegetation in this area has presented challenges over the years. Council recently introduced goats as a livestock approach to managing the vegetation in an holistic way while the environmental monitoring continues in this area.



Figure 3: Goats providing holistic vegetation management.

Project Background

The remediation at Foxglove Oval is guided by the Foxglove Oval Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP). The remediation objective is to reduce (and then maintain) methane and carbon dioxide landfill gases to acceptable levels at the site's boundary, both at the surface and below ground.

Hornsby Shire Council installed a number of underground wells around the former landfill site and has been monitoring the landfill gases since 2018.



Figure 4: Goats providing holistic vegetation management.

Council's key priority is to keep its community safe. Since 2019 Council has worked closely with the 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 regulatory requirements.

Future engagement with residents and oval users

Council will continue liaising closely with nearby residents about the validation monitoring results at the Northern Batter. Council will also update the local community and park users about any planned activities on other areas adjacent to the Oval via these newsletters.

The Oval remains safe to use.

If you have any questions, please take a look at some of the documentation included on Council's Foxglove Oval website or contact Council via the 1800 number or email below.

For more information or to provide feedback:

Phone: 1800 413 700 (free call)
Email: foxglove@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Web: hornsby.nsw.gov.au/foxglove

