



Proposal to extend operations at Redvale Landfill & Energy Park

Interim solution to manage Auckland's residual waste between 2029 - mid 2030s

We are seeking feedback on this proposal by 7 November 2025

Redvale Landfill & Energy Park



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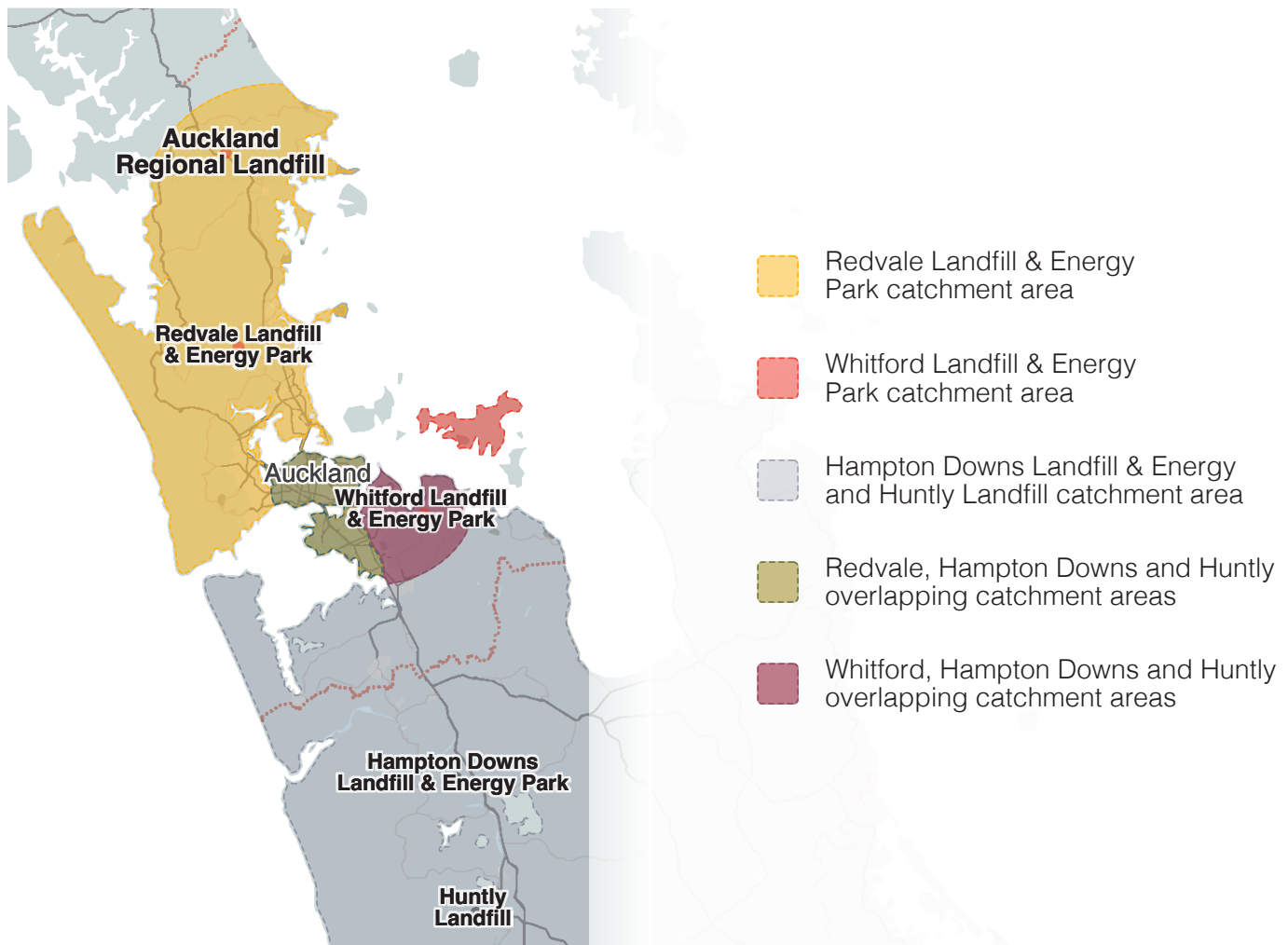


About this consultation



Redvale Landfill & Energy Park (Redvale Landfill), a nationally and regionally significant piece of infrastructure, which currently takes about half of Auckland's waste, is scheduled to cease accepting waste for landfilling in December 2028. Its planned replacement, Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL) in Wayby Valley, is still going through the appeals process and is not expected to open until the mid-2030s.

That leaves a gap where Auckland must safely manage around 600,000 tonnes of waste every year.



The solution

After two rounds of consultation and independent technical assessments, it is clear that using existing landfills is the only feasible medium-term option until ARL is ready.

WM New Zealand (WM) proposes to re-consent Redvale Landfill, extending its operation until 2036. While we would retain many current landfilling practices, there would be some changes to the way Redvale Landfill operates, including substantial operational and design changes to mitigate odour effects and address concerns. These changes balance operational workability with feedback received during the consultation process.

Whitford Landfill and Energy Park (Whitford Landfill) would continue to operate in line with its current designation and consents.



About this consultation

How we get there on time

To reconsent Redvale Landfill, WM will be looking to seek approval through the Government's fast-track consenting pathway – a legally streamlined pathway for projects with significant regional benefit (the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024). WM considers fast-track to be the best pathway that can realistically deliver the interim solution before Redvale Landfill closes.

Why we're consulting

WM is now seeking feedback on the proposal before lodging its fast-track referral application. The decision to proceed with extending operations at Redvale Landfill and progressing with a fast-track application remains subject to our Board's approval.

Building on earlier consultations

This is the third phase of consultation WM has undertaken to plan for Auckland's residual waste between 2029 and the mid-2030s.

In Phase 1, the consultation confirmed that new landfill sites or waste technologies could not be delivered in time to address the gap. The most workable medium-term option was rebalancing existing landfills, alongside a continued focus on waste minimisation and recovery for the long term.

In Phase 2, we tested how rebalancing might work. Most supported reconsenting Redvale, while Whitford residents raised strong concerns about traffic and Redvale residents emphasised odour and their expectation that the site would close.

This Phase 3 consultation is the final step before WM lodges its application. It is focused on delivering a solution for Auckland's waste challenge and optimising the way residual waste will be managed to reflect what was heard across the region and balance what is feasible during the period to 2036. Alongside this, WM continues to invest in and promote recycling and resource recovery, so that less material ends up in landfill and more value is returned to the circular economy.

The bigger picture

The long-term direction is clear - reducing waste, recovering more, and transitioning to a circular economy. This interim solution is about making sure Auckland can manage its waste safely, reliably, and locally during the transition.





Project summary

WM proposes to extend operations at Redvale Landfill until ARL is operational in the mid-2030s. Redvale Landfill would remain the primary disposal site during this period, with Whitford Landfill continuing to operate within its existing consents. While tonnages into Redvale have typically been between 600,000 to 800,000 tonnes per year across Class 1 and Class 2 waste streams, we will limit it to 600,000 tonnes per year.

To enable this, WM proposes to develop 4.5 million m³ of additional airspace within the existing Redvale Landfill facility, made up of:

- Approximately 3.1 million m³ of additional Class 1 capacity (on top of the existing Class 1 consented footprint)
- Approximately 1.4 million m³ of Class 2 extension



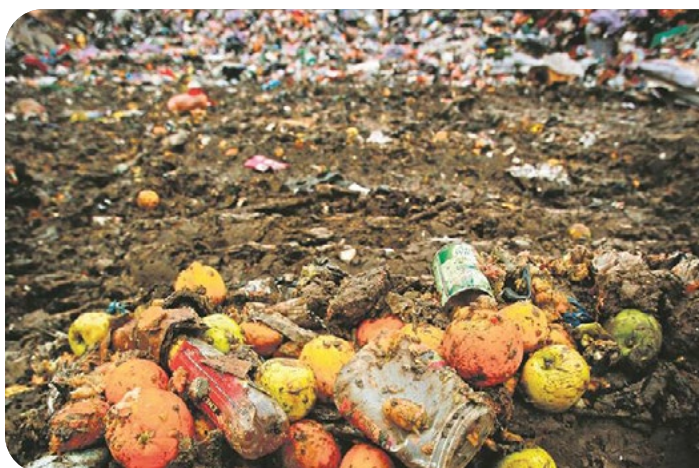
Class 1 waste is typically comprised of everyday general waste that **cannot be recycled**, including mixed rubbish from homes, businesses, and commercial services.

This type of waste can rot or decompose (known as putrescible waste) and therefore it's usually more odorous.



Class 2 waste is typically comprised of construction and demolition materials (e.g. timber, bricks, concrete, soil).

This type of waste doesn't rot or is slow-degrading (non-putrescible), so it tends to produce less odour.



Putrescible waste typically refers to biodegradable organic material that breaks down quickly and produces odour, leachate, and landfill gas – for example, food scraps, garden organics, and biosolids.

It does not include inert or slow-degrading materials such as untreated timber, paper, or cardboard unless mixed with putrescible waste.



Across consultations one and two, communities, customers, and other stakeholders gave us clear and often candid feedback. Under this proposal, many existing practices would remain in place; however, WM is suggesting some operational and design changes. These changes are proposed to ensure Redvale Landfill continues to operate to the highest environmental standards and reflect community feedback from the first two consultations, particularly around odour management.

Key changes and a summary of what will remain the same are covered in the following section.

Timing

WM will be seeking consent until 2036.

The transition to closure at Redvale would occur once ARL is consented and constructed. There would be a short overlap period while Redvale winds down and ARL starts up - this ensures the first material placed at ARL forms a safe protective layer over the new liner. Once that layer is deep enough, all waste will be diverted to ARL.

Redvale would then move into a two-year closure process, including final capping and rehabilitation, followed by a long period of aftercare. Regular updates on timing and milestones will be provided to the community liaison committee.

What will change

Key practices to minimise odour emissions will continue in a similar manner to existing operations. However, specific changes are proposed to further improve the control of odours. These changes include how waste streams are handled, smaller active areas, improved cover, seasonal operating protocols, and clearer separation of odorous and non-odorous materials.

The timing of any construction to implement these changes is still in development and will be communicated as the project progresses.

Odour sources at Class 1 landfills are caused by uncovered waste at the working face, tipping of odorous loads, pulling back daily cover in the morning, excavations into old waste, leachate and landfill gas.

The changes outlined in this section help improve day-to-day practices to reduce odour risk.



Working face

The size of the working face at the Class 1 Landfill will be limited to no more than 900m² (excluding the push ramp). Currently, the area of the working face is not limited by consent conditions but is managed to a target of no more than 1,200m² (excluding the push ramp). A smaller working face is expected to result in lower odour emissions.

To minimise the working face to the proposed 900m², there will be separation of potentially odorous waste from non-odorous waste. This will be done through the use of separate working face areas within the Class 1 landfill expansion.

Daily cover

The use of daily cover will remain critical to minimising odour emissions from the active working area. Daily cover will double from 150mm to approximately 300mm, and intermediate cover will increase to 450mm. Thicker cover reduces exposed waste and fugitive landfill gas, minimising odour at the working face and keeping emissions low outside operating hours. It also improves pest control.

To reduce the potential for odour effects related to pulling back daily cover, it is proposed that a winter morning protocol will apply from 1 May to 31 August inclusive each year. During this period, WM will not accept Class 1 putrescible waste before 7:30 am to avoid odour releases in calm, cold conditions.

500m buffer

No putrescible (higher odour potential) waste will be placed within 500m of any currently existing residential household (being a dwelling used for permanent or semi-permanent occupation, excluding accessory buildings) - creating a 500m buffer.

Within this buffer, WM will place only non-odorous, non-putrescible materials – for example, inert construction and demolition waste, non-odorous soils and cover materials.

A larger setback reduces odour risk and day-to-day impacts for neighbours. The 500m buffer is several hundred metres further than current operations.

Other changes

Landform

Continuing to send Class 1 waste to Redvale Landfill means fitting more waste into the existing footprint. WM will create additional airspace by steepening the outer slopes and forming a flatter top.

The landfill will not be made higher than it is now to comply with the airport overlay (a planning control that protects flight paths by setting height restrictions on structures and landforms in the area around North Shore Airport), and it will remain stable, using a geotechnical design that will meet a one-in-450-year seismic event standard.

The process for placing Class 1 waste within the existing footprint will be:

1. Stripping back any existing final and/or intermediate cover, leaving approximately 300mm cover in place and stockpiling for reuse.
2. Removal of the remaining intermediate cover where waste will be placed for the day.
3. Placement of waste and then daily cover at the close of the day.

Class 2 footprint extension

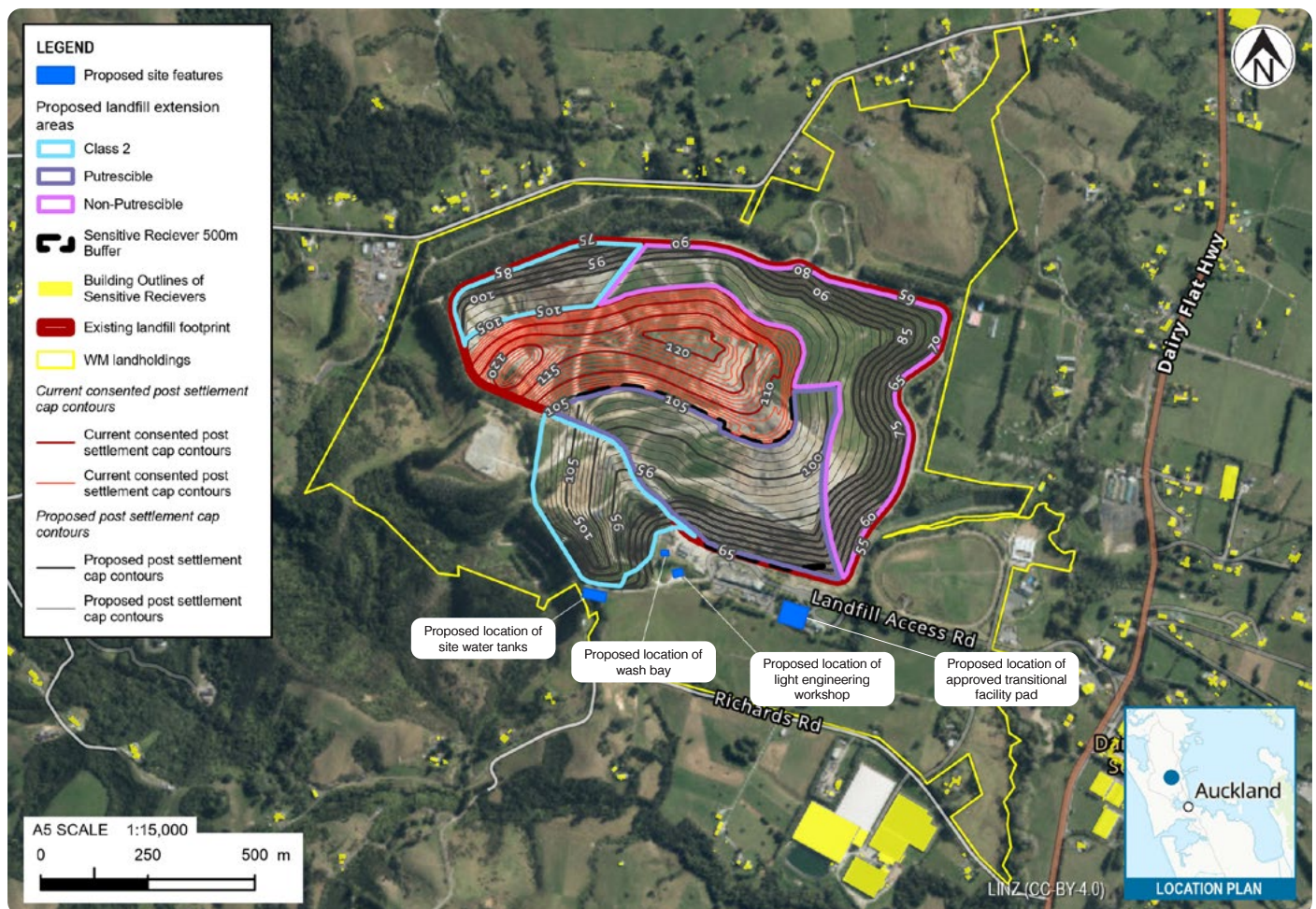
To accommodate the additional Class 2 landfill waste, WM will build a separate cell on the south-western side for largely inert, non-putrescible streams, converting and lining an existing area.

The extension will include stormwater management systems that meet best practice and regulatory requirements. Design and construction will follow international best practice for solid waste disposal, including the liner and leachate collection system. There will be no environmental impacts on the groundwater or surface water as a result of this extension.

The share of Class 2 material is expected to increase over time as sorting and recovery improve. Odour risk from this Class 2 cell is low.

Site facilities

To accommodate the Class 2 extension, several on-site facilities will be relocated, including the ATF (approved transitional facility¹) pad, washbay, light engineering workshop, and site water tanks. New locations are shown on the proposed site-facilities with the map below.



1. www.mpi.govt.nz/import/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities-for-border-clearance/



What stays the same

Traffic and truck movements – overall vehicle numbers and routes remain consistent with current consented operations, with up to 650 waste truck movements per day, inclusive of inbound and outbound loads. Keeping Redvale as the primary site avoids large truck increases at Whitford.

Noise - the Auckland Unitary Plan noise limits will continue to be met. Primary noise sources are waste placement and compaction, operation of landfill gas generators and ancillary equipment, and truck movements around the site – controls associated with these facilities will be maintained in accordance with best practice.

Dust controls - existing controls will remain in place with a 30 km/h onsite speed limit, water trucks used as required, road washing after wet weather, grassing of intermediate and final cover in the next planting season, and a wheel wash with rumble strips to prevent transmission onto public roads.

Litter controls - litter fencing will continue to catch windblown waste, with weekly roadside patrols and prompt collection of any landfill litter from neighbouring properties on request.

Water quality and ecology - stormwater and leachate management will continue as they do today, consistent with best-practice modern engineered landfills.

Gas-to-energy generators - remain the same and will continue to produce energy and export to the grid.

Monitoring - odour walkovers, surface emissions checks, and groundwater and surface-water monitoring will continue.

Core operating hours - remain the same as current operations. The winter morning restriction above will apply to higher-odour risk loads.



Over the past two consultations, we've listened closely and learnt a great deal. The Redvale community has told us they want more regular updates, clearer communication and a complaints process that works faster and more effectively. We take that feedback seriously and are making changes in response.

Increasing transparency

We are revamping the Dairy Flat Newsletter to provide more regular updates, with clearer information about site operations, upcoming milestones, and improvements underway.

The [Dairy Flat Community Trust website](#) will also continue to be a key channel for sharing updates. The site provides news about local grants, information on how to apply for funding, and details about how the Trust is supporting community projects. By keeping this information current and accessible, we aim to make it easier for residents to see what support is available and how the trust is contributing to community wellbeing.

Alongside this, [the Redvale Energy Park Community Liaison page](#) is regularly updated and provides:

- Contact details for all Community Liaison Committee (CLC) members
- Information on how to get in touch with the Redvale team or make an odour complaint
- Past editions of the Dairy Flat Newsletter
- Dates of upcoming CLC meetings
- Minutes of historic CLC meetings

Together, these channels make it easier for the community to stay informed, know who to contact, and access the information that matters most.

Improving the complaints process

From October 2025, WM will introduce an automated complaints system. This system will instantly log and triage odour reports, directing them straight to our odour specialist and the on-duty managers. On-site checks can then be carried out within minutes, with clear accountability for actions taken.

Each report will be recorded in a consistent way, ensuring a transparent track of how concerns are investigated and addressed. This replaces the current manual process and is designed to speed up investigations, strengthen accountability, and give the community greater confidence that issues are acted on promptly.

These changes are part of our ongoing commitment to improving how we operate, guided by what we hear from the community.





How to have your say



We are seeking feedback on the proposal before lodging a fast-track referral application. You can share your views in the way that works best for you – whether that's a single comment or more detailed feedback.

Your feedback will help inform WM's Fast Track referral application.

Please submit your feedback by 7 November 2025.

Email

Send us your feedback to submissions@wm.nz

Post

Feedback can be posted to: ARL Transition Consultation, Private Bag 14919, Panmure, Auckland 1741

Attend the Redvale community hui

WM will be hosting a local consultation session - this is a chance to hear about the proposal, ask questions, and speak directly with the team.

- Redvale Community Hui
Dairy Flat Community Hall
Corner of Postman Road and Dairy Flat Highway
Monday 20 October, 6.30pm

One-on-one meetings

If you would like to arrange an in-person, phone, or online conversation with one of our team members, please let us know at submissions@wm.nz and we'll find a time that suits.



What happens next



WM will use feedback received during this consultation, along with technical assessments, environmental and cultural factors, and regulatory requirements, to finalise its fast-track referral application, which we expect to submit before the end of the year.

The Fast-track Approvals Act process

The New Zealand Government created the Fast-track Approvals Act to help progress nationally and regionally significant projects more quickly, while still protecting environmental and community interests.

How the process works:

1. **Application** - WM applies for its project to go through the fast-track process.
2. **Referral decision** - Ministers decide whether the project is suitable for the fast-track pathway.
3. **Expert panel** - If referred, an independent panel is appointed. The panel reviews the application, looks at the evidence, and seeks input from councils, iwi/Māori, affected communities, and other stakeholders.
4. **Substantive application** - The panel considers the full application, including any conditions needed to manage environmental, cultural, or community impacts.
5. **Decision** - The panel makes a recommendation. Ministers then decide whether the project is approved, declined, or approved with conditions.

Timeline

- **14 October - 7 November 2025:** phase 3 consultation with the local community and key stakeholders.
- **29 October 2025:** WM decision on whether to pursue a Fast-track consenting path for Redvale Landfill extension.
- **Late 2025:** if approved by the Board, WM submit Fast-track referral application.



Let's take care of it

wm.nz

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Redvale Landfill & Energy Park