WM New Zealand

Managing Auckland's Residual Waste 2029 - mid 2030s

Consultation on Rebalancing Landfill Use

Public Consultation Document

Consultation open: 28 July – 25 August 2025

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Executive summary

Auckland is facing a challenge in how it manages its residual waste

Redvale Landfill & Energy Park is scheduled to cease accepting waste in December 2028. Its planned replacement, Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL), is still progressing through appeals and is unlikely to be ready until the mid-2030s.

This creates a transition gap

Which is a period of several years where Auckland will still need to dispose of residual waste, but its long-term solution won't yet be ready. A practical, reliable interim plan is needed to manage that responsibly.

Through public consultation earlier this year, we explored broad alternatives like new technologies, new landfills, and more ambitious recovery targets. While waste minimisation and innovation remain long-term goals, none of the alternatives are available, consented, or scalable in time for the transition period.

Based on technical analysis and expert advice, WM New Zealand (WM) believes the most realistic and cost-effective interim approach is to use infrastructure under its control, by temporarily rebalancing waste volumes between two existing landfills: Redvale and Whitford.

This new phase of consultation explores how that rebalancing could work

We are seeking feedback on three options:

- **Option 1: Continue at Redvale Landfill**
- **Option 2: Send all waste to Whitford Landfill**
- **Option 3: Split volumes between Redvale and Whitford**

Each option involves assessing potential impacts in terms of community impact, traffic, emissions, costs, consenting risks, and system resilience. WM management currently sees Option 1 as the most workable, but no decisions have been made. The WM Board will consider feedback before any final direction is set.

We've heard from people, especially those living, working or running businesses in Dairy Flat, who feel they've already carried more than their fair share of Auckland's waste. We acknowledge that experience, and it's one of the reasons we're testing a range of options in this consultation.

To acknowledge the inconvenience of continuing operations in any community beyond existing consents, we're also proposing a range of community betterment initiatives. This would provide financial contributions tied to the volume and type of waste received at each site, for local benefit.

Your input will help shape how Auckland navigates this transition. We invite all Aucklanders, especially those in affected communities and customers, to share their views.

Introduction

This is the second consultation or feedback process WM New Zealand is running in relation to how Auckland should manage its residual waste between 2029 and the mid 2030s.

The first consultation was a broad analysis which looked at four options for managing residual waste - rebalancing the waste across existing landfills, identifying a new temporary landfill site, alternative technologies (e.g. incineration and gasification or pyrolysis), or Auckland minimises its waste and recovers more.

Following consultation, the analysis concluded that redistributing waste across existing landfills represents the only feasible immediate solution. This approach must be coupled with sustained efforts to minimise waste generation and enhance recovery rates. The feedback received contained no substantive evidence supporting new landfill sites or emerging technologies as viable alternatives to address the waste management challenges outlined below.

The analysis and findings report for this first phase are available at wm.nz/consultation.

This second phase consultation focuses on how we rebalance residual waste across existing landfills. The consultation examines the best approach for this rebalancing, acknowledges the impacts involved, and seeks input on what matters most to Aucklanders, particularly residents in communities already affected by landfill operations and commercial customers.

In line with our approach in the first consultation, WM continues to recognise the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is committed to working in partnership with mana whenua as kaitiaki of the land.

In parallel with this public consultation, we will be undertaking ongoing engagement with iwi and hapū who have mana whenua interests in the areas surrounding Redvale and Whitford. These discussions will ensure that cultural values, environmental perspectives, and tikanga Māori are appropriately reflected in the decision-making process. This engagement is ongoing and will inform both the assessment of options and the development of any future consent applications.

Following the completion of this consultation, a subsequent consultation on the solution will be undertaken as part of a specific resource consent application. This will be supported by detailed technical reports on the chosen solution and consulted on with the relevant neighbours to the facilities.

Whilst this document outlines WM management's preferred solution, the WM Board has not made a decision and will use the feedback gained through this consultation to assist in making its decision.

The waste challenge

Auckland is producing more waste, and we need a plan for where it goes

Auckland's growing population generates increasing amounts of waste. While recycling and recovery rates continue to improve, projections show we will continue to send large volumes of residual waste (referred to as "waste" throughout this document) to landfills for years to come. Council projections in the most recent Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2024 confirm that landfill disposal will remain necessary if we continue on our current trajectory for the foreseeable future. Auckland requires a local solution that can reliably handle our ongoing waste generation and secure the necessary approvals.

A shortfall is coming, and we need to be ready

At present, almost half of Auckland's waste, about 600,000 tonnes each year, goes to Redvale Landfill and Energy Park. But the landfill is due to cease accepting waste for landfilling in December 2028, and no other facility is currently consented to take on that volume of waste.

A new site, ARL, has been granted consent but is still going through appeals and won't be ready before Redvale Landfill & Energy Park stops landfilling, creating a gap of several years. Therefore, a temporary plan is needed for the waste that still needs to go to landfill.

We need a responsible local solution, even though it's only temporary

Sending Auckland's waste to other regions might sound simple. But it comes with higher transport costs, congestion, more emissions and relies on landfills that have their own environmental and consent limitations on the volume of waste they can process.

In order for the city to grow and function, Auckland needs to manage this waste using the infrastructure that's already available.

Waste recovery and reduction

While this consultation focuses on mid-term landfill needs, improving recovery remains essential. Better product design, material reuse, composting, recycling and repair are key to reducing waste long-term. WM is investing in recovery systems across plastics, organics, construction materials and more. These efforts support national waste goals and help reduce reliance on landfills. Recovery and rebalancing must work together to manage waste responsibly.

Technical details on rebalancing waste across existing landfills

Before we walk through the options, here are a few key details to help explain how they were developed and why some alternatives were ruled out.

Independent technical assessment

The options in this consultation were developed through a combination of community feedback and independent technical analysis. Two independent assessments helped us understand what would be feasible and what the impacts might be:

- **Tonkin + Taylor,** alongside other external experts, looked at environmental, planning and operational effects (which WM fed into), including qualitative scoring based on site characteristics, planning overlays, ecological risks and infrastructure feasibility.
- **NZIER** ran an economic and emissions-based analysis, modelling the relative costs, transport distances, truck movements, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the different options.

Together, the assessments helped identify which options were technically feasible and the impacts each would involve. For this consultation, we have consolidated these into three public-facing options (with variations under option 3) that reflect the viable approaches available.

Current WM landfills

The consultation focuses on two landfills:

- **Redvale Landfill & Energy Park** (referred to as “Redvale Landfill”) is consented as a Class 1 landfill. It currently accepts around 600,000 tonnes of waste each year, including disposal of around 400,000 tonnes to Class 1 landfill and 200,000 tonnes to Class 2 landfill. The existing consent to accept waste to landfill is due to expire in December 2028.
- **Whitford Landfill & Energy Park** (referred to as “Whitford Landfill”) is owned and operated by an unincorporated joint venture between Auckland Council and WM, called Waste Disposal Services. It is also consented as a Class 1 landfill, permitted to receive up to 350,000 tonnes of waste per year, with a designation limiting truck movements to 155 per day (using a 12-month rolling average). It currently accepts around 250,000 tonnes each year, including both Class 1 and Class 2 landfills. The current waste disposal consent runs through to 2041.

New consents and operational changes would be required for all options presented in this consultation. Many options will require adjustments across transfer stations and fleet operations to transport more waste to other disposal locations, and may involve changes to the waste acceptance criteria at the landfills, potentially redirecting customers to disposal via transfer stations instead of directly to a landfill.

Technical details on rebalancing waste across existing landfills

Why other landfills aren't included

This consultation focuses on options that WM can deliver within the time available.

The Auckland region currently relies on five operating landfill facilities for waste disposal – Redvale Landfill, Whitford Landfill, Hampton Downs Landfill and GRP Landfill at Pukemiro near Huntly (consented for Class 2 only), and, to a lesser extent, Northland Regional Landfill near Whangārei. Hampton Downs, GRP, and Northland Regional landfills are not owned or operated by WM and are outside the Auckland region.

Some were considered in earlier modelling, but were ruled out for a range of reasons.

For example, one of the options originally assessed was trucking 500,000 tonnes of waste to Hampton Downs, which is the most capable of receiving the volume from Redvale Landfill. However:

- Economic modelling estimated an incremental transport cost of $188-240M, and forecast productivity decline in the Auckland region due to increased congestion on the roading network.
- Legal advice identified a consent limit for waste disposal of 850,000 tonnes, which is broadly consumed from existing waste sources.
- Customer feedback in the first consultation indicated this was operationally impractical with possible funding concerns for implementation.

These third-party facilities are not included in the main options, under consultation, because WM does not own or operate them, and there are currently no agreements in place that would make them a viable or timely solution. However, their potential use has not been ruled out entirely. Should circumstances change, for example, if consented capacity became available and costs were acceptable, limited use of third-party landfills could be considered to supplement WM's solution for the transition.

What do we mean by a Class 1 and Class 2 landfill?

The 600,000 tonnes that currently go to Redvale Landfill are composed of two types of waste:

- **A Class 1 landfill** is designed to accept residual general waste. This can come from households, businesses and commercial services, and often contains organic material that can break down over time (known as putrescible waste).
- **A Class 2 landfill** accepts waste from construction and demolition activities, such as timber, bricks and concrete (non-putrescible).

The exact tonnage and mix to Class 1 and 2 landfill disposal can vary year to year. For simplicity of impact assessment in this consultation, we've used a standard estimate of 400,000 tonnes of Class 1 landfill disposal and 200,000 tonnes of Class 2 landfill disposal.

The options we're consulting on

Based on the technical analysis, we are now seeking feedback on three main options (with several variations under option 3) for how WM could manage Auckland's waste until ARL opens. Each has different implications for the communities of Redvale and Whitford and their surrounding areas. All options are considered deliverable, but some involve more complexity and risk than others.

Option 1: Reconsent Redvale Landfill (maintain status quo)

Continue sending current waste volumes to Redvale Landfill beyond 2028, under a new consent, until ARL comes online, with Whitford Landfill continuing to operate as it does now.

Option 2: Redirect all waste to Whitford Landfill

Cease using Redvale Landfill from 2029 and send all waste to Whitford Landfill, until ARL comes online, requiring new consents, alterations to the designation, and construction and operational changes.

Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

Split waste volumes between the two landfills until ARL comes online. We're presenting four variations of this option, based on different ways of dividing waste:

a. **Redvale - Class 1 landfill disposal, Whitford - Class 2 landfill disposal**
Redvale Class 1 landfill accepts general household and commercial waste and Whitford Class 2 Landfill accepts construction and demolition waste, requiring new consents at both sites and may require an alteration to the designation at Whitford Landfill.

b. **Whitford Class 1 landfill disposal, Redvale Class 2 landfill disposal**
Whitford Class 1 landfill accepts general household and commercial waste and Redvale Class 2 landfill accepts construction and demolition waste, requiring new consents at Redvale Landfill, alterations to the designation and significant operational changes at Whitford Landfill.

c. **Split waste between Redvale and Whitford Landfills based on source**
Allocate waste based proportionally on where it comes from in the region (e.g. north vs south Auckland), with both landfills continuing to operate and requiring new consents and an alteration to the designation for Whitford Landfill. For simplicity of technical assessment we have assumed 300,000 tonnes go to each site.

d. **Use Whitford Landfill's consented tonnage and send the rest of the waste to Redvale Landfill**
Maximise use of Whitford Landfill's current consented capacity (up to 350,000 tonnes), with the remaining waste going to Redvale Landfill under a new consent, approximately 500,000 tonnes.

Each option comes with different impacts, including on traffic, emissions, cost, local communities, and customers which are explained in the pages that follow.

Note: The solution may include use of third-party landfills where cost-effective and operationally feasible, but they are not the basis of this consultation. What wouldn't change in the options

The options we're consulting on

What wouldn't change in the options

- The landfill's maximum consented height and transport access won't change.
- We will accept the same types of waste. We'll also keep using the same procedures and equipment for waste disposal, covering and the same tools to manage and treat stormwater, leachate and landfill gas.
- The way we cover the landfill (on a daily and mid to long-term basis) and landscaping practices will also be the same. Uncovering old areas is an existing common practice. We do this today for going into areas we haven't been in some time, and the odour controls are adjusted (as normal practice) to ensure odour effects are appropriately controlled. We recognise there will be odours in relation to the landfill and we strive to continually do better to mitigate potential impacts by having an agile, adaptive management response.
- Our environmental monitoring around the site will remain, and the oversight and governance will also remain. This means the Landfill management plan will continually be reviewed by Council annually, and the Peer Review Panel and the Community Liaison Committee will continue their Work. Auckland Council will keep visiting and reporting on the site.

What could change at Redvale depending on the option

- Some critical infrastructure could be relocated, and there may be some changes to the footprint.
- We will steepen some of the landfill's side slopes, and where we do, we will build a bund (a raised barrier) at the bottom of the steepened slopes.
- We will most likely start filling from the Northwest corner and move clockwise, and temporarily store some soil in the eastern section.

What could change at Whitford depending on the option

- In principle, this means an acceleration of the existing Whitford landfill site and cell development plan. In the coming years, we will construct more lined cells earlier.
- We would work with Auckland Transport to see what could be done about the local roading network and managing congestion.
- As we are accelerating filling activity, the landfill would increase in height earlier than previously planned.

Community betterment

Each option also includes a reference to community betterment activity for the local communities that would continue to host landfill activity.

We acknowledge that each option presented in this consultation involves potential impacts, none are without consequence, and some communities will be impacted more than others.

That is why we are focused on community betterment - to provide improvements and in some cases financial contributions to the communities affected by the disposal of the 600,000 tonnes of waste, which will no longer have a consented destination when Redvale Landfill's consent ends in 2028.

How it would work

From the end of 2028 to the opening of ARL in the mid 2030s, we would make a financial contribution for every tonne of waste – from the 600,000 tonnes of waste that would no longer be covered by an active landfill consent after 2028 – that is received at either Redvale or Whitford landfill. These contributions would be made annually, and the amount provided would vary depending on how much waste is sent to each site and the type of waste received.

Funding is proposed to be directed to a local community trust near each site. These community trusts would have the power to decide how the funds are best used.

In the first consultation, we heard communities would benefit from:

- Roading and transport improvements.
- School parking.
- Environment and visual amenity improvements.
- Or benefits to those most impacted, suggestions included, double glazing, environmental testing, power and rubbish disposal.

Why we're proposing this

This initiative recognises that if landfill activity continues beyond current consent thresholds in or near a community, those living nearby should see a benefit in return. Betterment is our way of showing that commitment.

This proposal is separate from the planning process and will not affect how options are assessed or influence how decisions are made.

We are working with stakeholders in each community to work through the details including how it may be allocated and administered. If you have views on how betterment should be allocated and administered, we would love to hear from you through this consultation

An ancient 1,800-year-old kauri, preserved since the Taupō eruption around 232 AD, finds safe haven at Whitford Landfill through partnership with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki iwi - in the future it may be carved into a waka or pou.

How the options compare

The criteria used in this assessment

These criteria were shaped by what we heard from the community in our first consultation and by independent technical advice from Tonkin + Taylor, alongside other experts.

To understand the potential impact each option could have on local communities, customers, the environment, and the wider waste system, each was assessed using a consistent set of criteria:

- **Odour** - what people might smell around the landfill.
- **Visual and noise** - what people might see or hear around the landfill. This includes the site's visibility in the landscape, and noise and vibration from trucks or machinery.
- **Water quality and ecology** - how landfill activity may disturb ecosystems on land and in water, including potential impacts on streams, wetlands, native plants and wildlife near each site. It also includes how each option would manage stormwater, for example, the need for treatment ponds or containment systems.
- **Traffic** - distance and logistics of moving waste to each site, and the expected number of truck movements and pressure on local roads, intersections and nearby town centres.
- **Planning considerations** - how sites are located within existing planning frameworks and buffer distance to neighbours.
- **Landfill construction and operation** - the level of construction or operational changes needed to implement each option.
- **Off-site network costs** - the implications for the wider waste system, including the role of transfer stations, collection routes and transport hubs, as well as increased modelled transport costs, which would ultimately flow through to ratepayers and businesses.
- **Resilience** - whether the system stays stable and flexible, including having landfills and sites on both sides of the Harbour Bridge, to help manage potential disruptions or natural disasters.
- **Transport emissions** - consideration of the emissions created.
- **Multiple consent processes** - whether the option would require one or more new consents or other planning approvals, and how complex and time-consuming those consent processes are likely to be.

Weighing up the options

Each option has potential impacts, and the following pages are designed to help show these differences clearly.

For each option, you'll find a short explanation and a table showing how it performs across the criteria. To make the tables easier to follow, we've used a colour and size system to indicate the relative level of impact and complexity:

Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity

Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

These colours are not value judgements but based on technical assessment.

The comparisons used in this document are based on a common starting point - what would happen if no new consents were granted. Redvale Landfill would stop taking waste for landfilling after 2028, and Whitford Landfill would continue operating at its current level. This gives us a consistent way to compare the options.

This information is provided to support informed feedback and is not indicative of a decision having been made. This consultation will inform WM's planning.

Option 1: Reconsent Redvale Landfill (maintain status quo)

This option would continue sending the current residual waste (around 600,000 tonnes per year) to Redvale Landfill, beyond the existing consent expiry in December 2028. This would require a new resource consent to extend operations at Redvale Landfill.

Whitford Landfill would continue operating under its existing consent, receiving 250,000 tonnes annually (consented to receive up to 350,000 tonnes annually).

All community betterment would go to the Redvale community, as this option continues sending the 600,000 tonnes of residual waste to that site.

If reconsented, Redvale Landfill would continue accepting waste only until the new Auckland Regional Landfill becomes operational. Once ARL is open, landfilling at Redvale would cease, and the site would move into its closure and aftercare phase.

The potential impacts

- Redvale Landfill would keep receiving waste until ARL is fully operational, with potential odour and noise impacts similar to current levels, and some visual changes at Redvale due to revised final surface profile - with no change at Whitford.
- Some reconfiguration of the stormwater system would be required at Redvale Landfill, but no new impacts are expected on waterways or ecology.
- Lower emissions and transport costs than other options, due to proximity to waste sources and existing operations.
- Keeps both landfills in use, which helps the system stay flexible if disruptions occur.
- Only one new consenting process needed, making this option quicker and simpler to implement.
- Fewer changes needed overall, with no impact on haulage routes, wider waste infrastructure, or landfill operation, however, minor additional construction works would be needed to accommodate the new filling profile.

Option 1: Reconsent Redvale Landfill (maintain status quo)

How this option scores

Criteria (option 1)	Redvale	Whitford
Odour	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Visual & noise	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity
Water quality and ecology	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity
Traffic	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Planning considerations	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity
Landfill construction and operation	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity
Off-site network costs	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	
Resilience	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	
Transport Emissions	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	
Multiple consent processes	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	

Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity

Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

Higher potential risk of impact or complexity

We recognise that many in the Redvale community expected landfilling operations to stop at the end of 2028. Reconsenting Redvale Landfill may feel like a reversal of that expectation, and that concern is valid. This consultation includes options both with and without landfilling at Redvale. No decisions have been made, and community feedback will play an important role in shaping what happens next.

Option 2: Redirect all waste to Whitford Landfill

This option would see landfilling at Redvale Landfill end in December 2028. All residual waste currently going to Redvale Landfill (approximately 600,000 tonnes per year) would instead be redirected to Whitford Landfill. To enable this, Whitford Landfill would need to scale up significantly, operating at up to 850,000 tonnes per year.

All community betterment would go to the Whitford community, as this option would redirect the full 600,000 tonnes of waste to Whitford Landfill.

The potential impacts

- The risk of potential odour, noise, visual and traffic impacts at Whitford is expected to increase due to higher waste volumes and activity.
- Stormwater upgrades would be required at Whitford Landfill, but impacts on waterways and ecology are expected to be managed.
- Higher transport emissions and costs due to longer travel distances across Auckland.
- Relying on one site limits flexibility if disruptions occur.
- One new resource consenting process needed as well as Auckland Council altering its designation conditions. The scale of change could make this more complex.
- Significant increase in construction activity would be needed, along with changes to haulage routes, entrance and exit points, and supporting infrastructure including off-site truck movements, to accommodate an accelerated construction programme.
- Waste will need to be redirected through different routes, transfer stations, and alternative landfills, which will face increased pressure.

Option 2: Redirect all waste to Whitford Landfill

What would happen at Redvale Landfill?

Should Redvale Landfill cease accepting residual waste at the end of 2028, activity at the site will not stop immediately. A long aftercare period of work would still be needed to safely decommission the site, including capping, contouring, gas management, power generation and long-term environmental monitoring. While there would be no new waste deliveries for landfilling, site activity would continue during this period.

There is also the potential for the site to be used for future waste recovery and processing activity, which could support Auckland's long-term goal of reducing landfill reliance. Even if Redvale Landfill stops receiving waste, its closure would still create wide-reaching impacts across the waste management system, and that's what this assessment considers.

How this option scores

Criteria (option 2)	Redvale	Whitford
Odour	●	▬
Visual & noise	●	▬
Water quality and ecology	●	▬
Traffic	●	▬
Planning considerations	●	▬
Landfill construction and operation	●	▬
Off-site network costs	▬	
Resilience	▬	
Transport Emissions	▬	
Multiple consent processes	●	

● Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity

▬ Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

▬ Higher potential risk of impact or complexity

Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

This option proposes distributing Redvale's current disposal tonnage between Redvale and Whitford landfills, using both sites in parallel. The goal is to reduce pressure on any single site by spreading the potential environmental, social and infrastructure impacts across the network.

Whitford Landfill currently has in the order of around 100,000 tonnes of available capacity under its existing consent each year. This spare tonnage could be used immediately to handle part of Redvale's 600,000 tonnes of waste, while other elements of the options undergo further consenting processes.

Because both landfills would remain in use, all variations would likely require new consents at one or both sites. In some variations, an alteration to Whitford Landfill's existing designation would also be needed to allow for increased waste volumes and truck movements. That makes this option more complex and harder to deliver on time, especially if one approval is held up and puts pressure on the other site.

This option is presented in four variations, reflecting different ways to divide Class 1 and Class 2 landfill disposal, and how Whitford Landfill's current capacity could be used.

Betterment activity would be shared between the Redvale and Whitford communities, based on how much and type of waste each site receives under the variations in this option.

Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

Option 3a: Redvale Class 1 landfill, Whitford Class 2 landfill

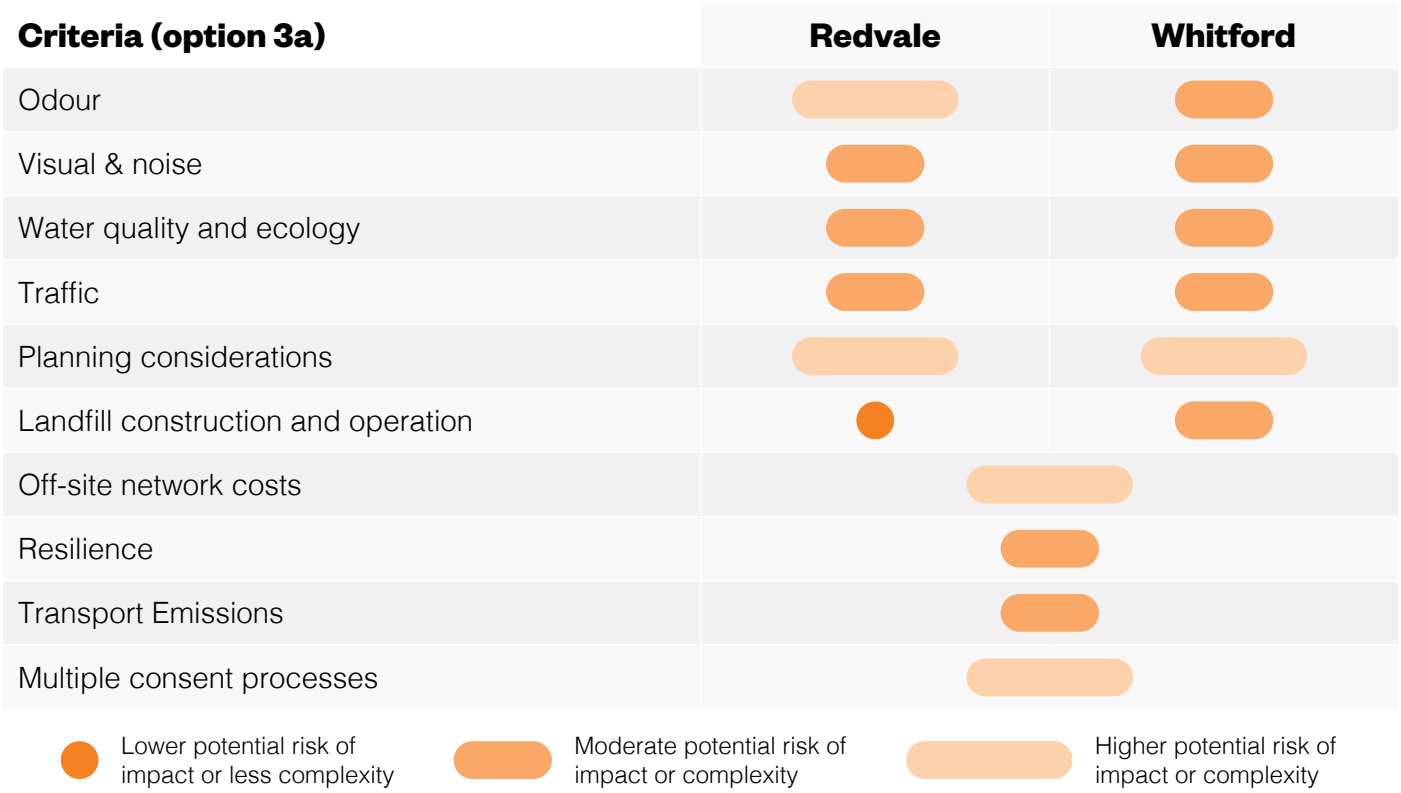
Under this variation, a new Class 1 consent would be required at Redvale Landfill for around 400,000 tonnes per year.

Whitford Landfill would require a new consent and alterations to the designation to take an additional 200,000 tonnes per year. This would increase the combined annual consented acceptance at Whitford Landfill to 450,000 tonnes each year.

The potential impacts

- Risk of potential odour, noise, and visual impacts would continue in line with current levels at Redvale. Impacts at Whitford would likely remain similar to current levels.
- Some upgrades would be needed to stormwater systems and site infrastructure at both landfills.
- Increased truck movements and changes to haulage routes and waste flows would add pressure to the wider system.
- Transport emissions and costs would be moderate, as waste is split across both sites.
- Both landfills remain in use, maintaining network flexibility if one site is disrupted.
- Two new consenting processes would be required, adding complexity and time to the planning process.

How this option scores



Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

Option 3b: Whitford Class 1 landfill, Redvale Class 2 landfill

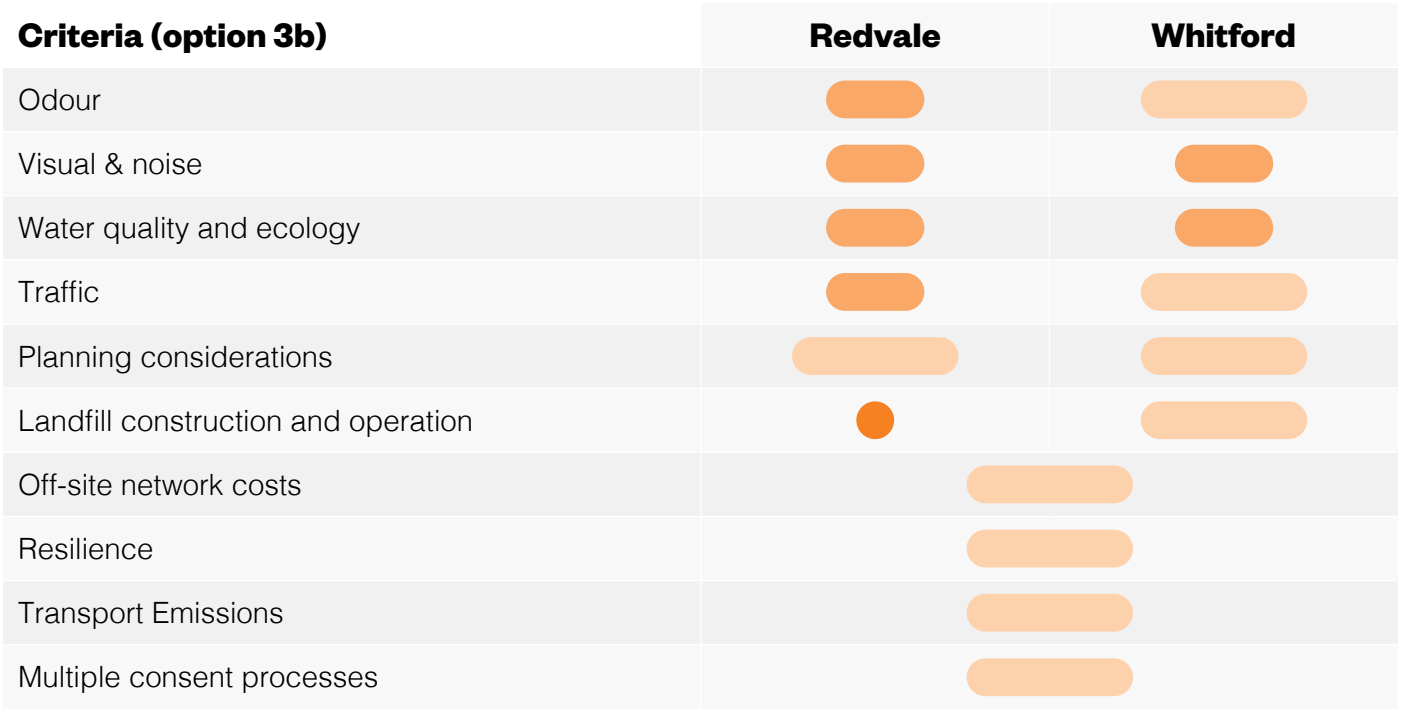
Redvale Landfill would require a new landfill consent for around 200,000 tonnes per year of construction and demolition waste, while Whitford Landfill would manage an additional 400,000 tonnes of Class 1 disposal.

New consents would be required at both sites, and a designation alteration would be needed at Whitford Landfill to accommodate higher volumes and increased truck movements.

The potential impacts

- Although potential impacts could be managed through operational controls, there is risk of odour and noise impacts increasing at Whitford as it takes all general waste. Redvale Landfill would see only Class 2 waste and less activity than present, therefore there is lower risk of potential odour and noise impacts.
- Traffic volumes at Whitford would increase, while traffic at Redvale would be lower than current levels.
- Stormwater and infrastructure upgrades would be needed at both sites but no new ecological impacts are expected.
- Waste would be split by type across the region, adding pressure to transfer stations and the wider system.
- Transport costs and emissions would be the highest of all options, due to longer travel and separate waste flows.
- Reducing Redvale Landfill's role to Class 2 limits flexibility if Whitford Landfill is disrupted.
- Two consenting processes would be required, adding complexity and time to the planning process.

How this option scores



Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

Option 3c: Split between Redvale and Whitford landfills based on source

In this variation, tonnage would be divided between the two sites based on where the waste is collected from (for example, northern versus southern parts of the city). This would aim to optimise the use of Auckland's existing waste collection network.

New consents would be required at both sites, and an alteration to the designation at Whitford Landfill to accommodate higher volumes and increased truck movements. For technical assessment, we have assumed 300,000 tonnes of Class 1 and Class 2 landfill disposal are received at each site. Should this option go ahead, the exact waste split would be confirmed through further analysis.

The potential impacts

- Waste would be shared across both sites, with risks of odour, noise and visual impacts expected to be lower or similar to current levels at Redvale. The risk of potential impacts at Whitford is likely to increase, although could be managed.
- Stormwater upgrades and operational changes would be needed at both sites, but no new ecological impacts are expected.
- Moderate truck volumes would continue at Redvale and increase at Whitford.
- Transport emissions and costs would be moderate, reflecting reduced long-haul trips and adjustments to waste collection and transfer routes.
- Using both sites helps reduce pressure on the wider network and keeps the system flexible during disruptions.
- Two consenting processes would be required, adding complexity and time to the planning process.

How this option scores

Criteria (option 3c)	Redvale	Whitford
Odour	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Visual & noise	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Water quality and ecology	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Traffic	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity
Planning considerations	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity
Landfill construction and operation	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity
Off-site network costs	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	
Resilience	Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity	
Transport Emissions	Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity	
Multiple consent processes	Higher potential risk of impact or complexity	

Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity

Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

Higher potential risk of impact or complexity

Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfills

Option 3d: Use Whitford Landfill's consented tonnage and send the rest to Redvale Landfill

This variation proposes using Whitford Landfill's remaining headroom (around 100,000 tonnes of per year) without requiring a new consent. This will result in a total tonnage at Whitford Landfill of 350,000 tonnes per year. The remaining 500,000 tonnes per year would go to Redvale Landfill under a new consent.

The potential impacts

- Risk of odour, noise and traffic at Redvale would stay similar to current levels; Whitford may potentially experience minor increases, however, potential odour and noise impacts are likely to be managed.
- Some visual impacts would be expected at Redvale due to the revised final surface profile, no change is expected at Whitford.
- No new ecological impacts are expected, with only moderate stormwater upgrades needed at Whitford Landfill.
- Minimal construction or changes to haulage routes or infrastructure would be required.
- Transport costs and emissions would remain low compared to other options due to efficient distribution.
- Only one new consent process is needed (at Redvale Landfill) keeping consenting simpler and quicker.

How this option scores

Criteria (option 3d)	Redvale	Whitford
Odour		
Visual & noise		
Water quality and ecology		
Traffic		
Planning considerations		
Landfill construction and operation		
Off-site network costs		
Resilience		
Transport Emissions		
Multiple consent processes		

Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity

Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity

Higher potential risk of impact or complexity

Comparing the options

	Option 1: Reconsent Redvale Landfill & Energy Park (status quo)		Option 2: Redirect all waste to Whitford Landfill & Energy Park		Option 3: Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford landfill & energy parks							
					3a. Redvale Class 1 landfill, Whitford Class 2 landfill		**3b.** Whitford Class 1 landfill, Redvale Class 2 landfill		**3c.** Split waste between Redvale and Whitford Landfills based on source		**3d.** Use Whitford Landfill's consented tonnage and send the rest of the waste to Redvale Landfill	
Criteria	**Redvale**	**Whitford**	**Redvale**	**Whitford**	**Redvale**	**Whitford**	**Redvale**	**Whitford**	**Redvale**	**Whitford**	**Redvale**	**Whitford**
Estimated tonnage (annual)	600,000	250,000	0	850,000	400,000	450,000	200,000	650,000	300,000	550,000	500,000	350,000
Odour												
Visual & noise												
Water quality and ecology												
Traffic												
Planning considerations												
Landfill construction and operation												
Off site network costs												
Resilience												
Transport Emissions												
Multiple consent processes												

Key: Lower potential risk of impact or less complexity — Moderate potential risk of impact or complexity — Higher potential risk of impact or greater complexity

Note: The baseline for this assessment assumes that no new consents are granted, meaning Redvale Landfill would stop receiving residual waste after 2028, and Whitford Landfill would continue operating at its current consented level. For more information on this baseline scenario, see 'Weighing up the options' in the section above.

WM's current preferred option

WM management has looked closely at all three options. Right now, it sees **Option 1, Reconsent Redvale Landfill & Energy Park**, as the most workable interim solution.

Under this option, current waste volumes would be sent to Redvale Landfill beyond 2028 until ARL comes online, under a new consent, and Whitford Landfill would continue to operate as it does today.

We're sharing the position openly so you can test it, challenge it, or support it through this consultation.

The final decision will be made by WM's Board, after this consultation, and only once feedback from mana whenua, local communities, customers, and other stakeholders has been fully considered.

Why this is our current thinking

Option 1 is currently seen as the most workable because it:

1. Reduces how far waste needs to travel, cutting down on truck movements, emissions and transport costs.
2. Minimises impact on nearby streams, wetlands, and habitats, as it reflects existing operations which have shown no adverse effects in these areas.
3. Requires only one new consenting process, lowering the risk of delay or disruption to Auckland's waste services.
4. Avoids major infrastructure changes, maintaining continuity while long-term plans progress.
5. Keeps waste services reliable and resilient, while continuing to reduce landfill use over time.
6. We've heard feedback from customers that this minimises impacts to their business.

At the same time, WM understands that this approach may be difficult for the Redvale community, particularly for residents who expected the site to close in 2028. These concerns are real, and this consultation is an opportunity to share them, so they can be properly considered before any decision is made. WM is only seeking consent until ARL comes online.

Your feedback matters

We recognise that choosing any option will have impacts, and it's important we hear directly from those most affected - the local community, iwi, customers, shareholders and Council.

This is a genuine consultation. WM hasn't made a decision, and we want to hear your thoughts, whether you support this approach or prefer another option.

After consultation, the WM Board will make a decision based on all the information available and will explain how community feedback was considered in that process.

How to share your views

Have your say

We want to hear your views on the options for managing Auckland's waste between the scheduled end of landfilling operations at Redvale Landfill and the expected opening of the Auckland Regional Landfill.

This consultation is focused on three key questions:

1. Which option seems most workable or acceptable to you, and why?
2. If an option goes ahead, are there particular impacts you'd want WM to manage carefully?
3. Do you have any suggestions on how the proposed community betterment activity should be administered and allocated?

Your feedback will help inform the decisions WM makes about planning, consenting, and investment, and ensure those decisions reflect the needs and concerns of the wider community.

Ways to share your feedback

You can provide your submission in the way that works best for you:

- **Online submission form**
  Visit our consultation webpage at www.wm.nz/consultation and complete a submission form.
- **Email**
  Send us your feedback to submissions@wm.nz
- **Post**
  Submissions can be posted to:
  ARL Transition Consultation
  Private Bag 14919
  Panmure
  Auckland 1741

- **Attend a community session**
  WM will be hosting local consultation sessions, including in-person meetings and online drop-ins. These are a chance to hear more about the options, ask questions, and speak directly with the team.
  - **Redvale Community Hui**
    Dairy Flat Community Hall
    Corner of Postman Road and SH17, Dairy Flat
    Wednesday, 13 August 2025
    6:30pm
  - **Whitford Community Hui**
    Whitford Community Hall
    1 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Whitford 2571
    Thursday, 14 August 2025
    6:30pm

There will also be online consultation sessions. Visit www.wm.nz/consultation for Teams links:

- **Tuesday 29 July:** 10:00am – 11:00am
- **Thursday 14 August:** 11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Tuesday 5 August:** 11:30am – 12:30pm
- **Tuesday 19 August:** 11:30am – 12:30pm

How to share your views

Talk to someone independent.

WM has engaged an independent consultant to hold one-on-one conversations with people in communities that may be affected by the options in this consultation, especially those near Redvale and Whitford landfills.

These conversations provide a chance to talk through your views, ask questions, and raise any specific concerns you may have. They'll also help WM better understand the issues that matter most to individuals, and how any potential impacts could be managed if an option goes ahead.

The consultant will be attending community hui during the consultation period. If you would like to request a conversation directly you can contact:

William Keung
WERKITS
william@werkits.com
027 490 8501

Stay informed

After the consultation closes, WM will review all submissions and consider your feedback as part of the decision-making process. A summary of what we heard will be shared on our website and social media.

We value the participation of tangata whenua and the wider Auckland community in shaping the future of waste management. Your input will help us make the most informed and responsible decision for this important transition. We look forward to hearing from you.

Consultation timeline

- **Public consultation and submissions open:** 28 July
- **Online drop-in sessions:** visit www.wm.nz/consultation for times and dates.
- **Redvale community hui:** Wednesday 13 August
- **Whitford community hui:** Thursday 14 August
- **Community consultation (WERKITS):** 18 – 29 August
- **Public consultation and submissions close:** 25 August
- **WM New Zealand reviews all submissions:** 25 August – 8 September
- **Findings released:** 12 September
- **Post-consultation Redvale community hui:** date to be confirmed
- **Post-consultation Whitford community hui:** date to be confirmed

FAQs

Big-picture questions from our first consultation

These questions came up during the initial consultation and are still important today.

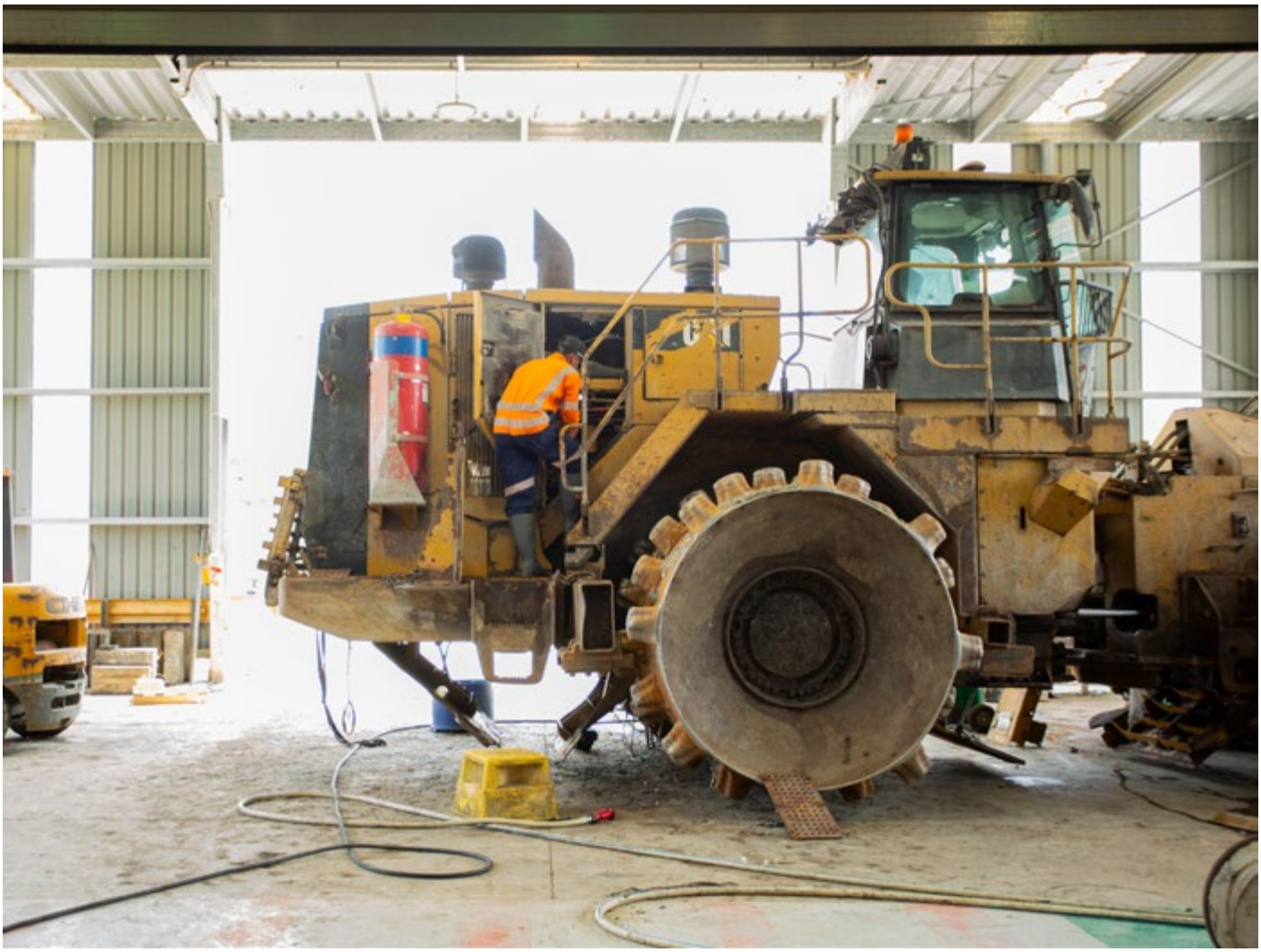
- **Why can't we just recycle all of our waste?**
  Recycling and recovery systems are improving all the time, and they remain a key part of Auckland's long-term plan. But even with better systems, not all materials can be recycled or recovered. Some products are made from mixed materials, or contaminated, or are simply not recyclable with current technology. That's why Auckland still needs landfill space for the things we can't yet recover.
- **Why aren't we pursuing alternative technologies like waste incineration?**
  WM isn't pursuing alternative technologies during this interim period because, after visiting global plants, engaging with major providers, and commissioning independent technical and commercial reviews, it found this solution isn't viable for the period being reviewed. No new evidence during the first consultation changed that assessment.
- **Why can't we just stop producing so much waste?**
  That's the goal, and WM supports it. Waste minimisation is a shared challenge that involves individuals, businesses, councils, product manufacturers and distributors. While progress is being made, Auckland still generates waste every day that needs to be managed safely. This consultation focuses on how to manage the remaining waste, between 2028 and the mid 2030s, until better systems are developed.
- **What level of independence do your consultants have?**
  Processes are in place to manage any perceived or actual conflicts of interest. All consultants engaged in this project are governed by professional codes of conduct which manage both independence and conflicts of interest. One of the organisations utilised shares a director with WM, and appropriate practices are followed to manage conflicts of interest, as you would expect of any professional director.

Questions about this phase of consultation

These focus on the next step in the decision-making process.

- **What is this consultation about, and how is it different to the one earlier this year?**
  This consultation builds on what we heard in the first round. That phase looked at big-picture options and confirmed support for recovering more and reducing landfill. But it also showed that most alternatives aren't deliverable in time. This consultation now focuses on how Auckland can manage waste between 2028 and the mid 2030s using the infrastructure that's available.
- **Why is Redvale Landfill still being considered? Wasn't it set to close in 2028?**
  We understand that many people expected Redvale Landfill to stop landfilling in 2028, and we acknowledge the frustration this may cause. Continuing at Redvale Landfill is not an assumed outcome, but it is technically feasible, subject to new consents. It's included in this consultation so that the decision-making process can consider all workable medium-term options.
- **Has WM already decided what it's going to do?**
  No. WM has shared its current thinking (Option 1) to be transparent. The final decision will be made by the Board after considering all feedback.
- **Why can't we just send the waste somewhere else, like Hampton Downs?**
  WM does not own or operate Hampton Downs, and there is no agreement in place to use it. While it was considered in early modelling and demonstrated substantial transport costs, congestion and emissions, it's not a solution that WM can deliver or rely on. This consultation focuses on options that are within WM's control and can realistically be implemented in time.

FAQs



- **Will my feedback make a difference?**
  Yes. Feedback from this consultation will directly shape WM's planning. It will also help identify what matters most to people, like traffic, noise, local impacts, or environmental concerns, so these can be addressed in the next stage. Your input will help make sure the chosen approach is both workable and acceptable.
- **What is WM doing to listen to the local communities?**
  As well as community hui, online drop-ins and collecting written submissions, WM has engaged an independent consultant to speak one-on-one with local residents. These conversations will help WM understand local concerns in more detail and explore ways to manage impacts if any option goes ahead.
- **What happens after the consultation?**
  After the consultation closes, WM will review all feedback, share a summary of what we heard, and use it to help shape the next stage of planning.
- **Who can I contact if I have questions or want to speak to someone directly?**
  You can contact us at submissions@wm.nz or visit www.wm.nz/consultation. If you'd prefer a one-on-one conversation, an independent consultant is available to speak with residents. See the "Talk to someone directly" section in this document for details.

Useful resources

Managing Auckland's Residual Waste 2029 – mid 2030s: Public Consultation Document (Phase 1)

www.wm.nz/globalassets/004-wm-new-zealand/0013-consultation/wmconsultation-10.04.pdf

Managing Auckland's Residual Waste 2029 – mid 2030s: Findings from Public Consultation (Phase 1)

www.wm.nz/globalassets/004-wm-new-zealand/0013-consultation/00320_29may_arl_wmconsultation_report_findings_2025_fa_digital.pdf

Auckland's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2024

www.akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan-2024-2030

Auckland's Journey Towards Zero Waste

www.wastenothing.co.nz/

About WM New Zealand

www.wm.nz/about/

About Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL)

www.wm.nz/my-region/auckland/auckland-regional-landfill/

Waste and resource efficiency strategy

https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/new-zealand-waste-strategy-v2.pdf

Auckland's Waste Assessment 2023

https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/environmental-plans-strategies/docswastemanagementplan/waste-assessment-2023.pdf

Independent technical reports were used to help assess the medium-term landfill options included in this consultation. These assessments looked at a range of factors, such as community impacts, traffic, emissions, cost, and system resilience. They helped shape the three options we're now seeking feedback on.

These reports are detailed and technical, and we want to make sure they're explained clearly and in context. Rather than publishing them on their own, we're offering one-on-one conversations where we can talk through the findings, answer questions, and make sure the information is as useful and accessible as possible.

If you'd like to talk through either report in more detail, you can request a conversation with a member of our team.

To arrange a one-on-one conversation, please contact submissions@wm.nz

Glossary and definitions

Airspace (landfill) - The volume of space available at a landfill site for placing waste. It determines how much waste the site can accept over time.

Class 1 landfill - Typically accepts household and commercial waste, it's general waste that can't be recycled or recovered.

Class 2 landfill - Accepts waste types like construction and demolition material. May require different management than Class 1 landfill.

Consent / resource consent - Legal permission required under New Zealand law (RMA) to carry out activities like operating a landfill. Consents set conditions for how the activity must be managed.

Decommissioning (a landfill) - The process of aftercase which is, safely closing a landfill, which can include capping, gas capture, environmental monitoring, and repurposing the land.

Designation (planning designation) - A special planning tool used by councils to set aside land for public works or infrastructure. Alterations to designations may be required to allow more truck movements or different uses.

Designation alteration - A formal change to how a piece of land is used or what activities are allowed, often related to infrastructure (e.g. increasing truck movements at a landfill).

Haulage routes -The roads and pathways used by trucks to transport waste from transfer stations or collection points to landfill sites.

Landfill - A site for the disposal of waste by burial. Modern landfills are engineered to manage environmental impacts like odour, leachate, and gas.

Leachate - Liquid that drains from waste in a landfill. It can contain pollutants and must be collected and treated to protect the environment.

Multi-criteria analysis (MCA) - A decision-making method used to assess options against a range of factors (criteria), not just cost. It helps compare complex choices based on environmental, social, technical and economic impacts.

Planning constraints / overlays - Rules or designations in a district or regional plan that affect what can be done on a site, like heritage protections, zoning restrictions, or ecological areas.

Product stewardship - A system where manufacturers and importers take responsibility for the waste management of their products, including disposal and recycling.

Putrescible waste - Waste that can rot or decompose, such as food scraps, garden waste, or other organic material. This type of waste tends to produce stronger odours as it breaks down.

Rebalancing - Temporarily adjusting how much waste is sent to different landfills to manage waste volumes, community impacts, and infrastructure limits.

Residual waste - Waste that cannot be recycled, composted, or otherwise diverted, and therefore must go to landfill.

Sensitive sites - Places like homes, schools, marae, parks or other locations where people may be more affected by landfill activity (e.g. noise, odour, or traffic).

Stormwater - Rainwater that runs off roofs, roads, and other surfaces. At landfills, it needs to be carefully managed to avoid pollution.

Transfer station - A facility where waste is temporarily stored and sorted before being transported to a landfill or recovery centre.

Waste recovery - Processes that extract value from waste, such as recycling, composting, or reusing materials so they don't end up in a landfill.

Submission form
Phase 2 - Rebalancing Landfill Use

WM New Zealand

Contact details

First name:

Last name:

Name of organisation (if applicable):

Email:

Address (optional):

Phone number (optional):

Which option feels most workable or acceptable to you, and why?

Please rank the options below from 1 to 6, with 1 being your most preferred option to 6 being your least preferred option:

- ☐ Option 1: **Reconsent Redvale Landfill (maintain status quo)**
- ☐ Option 2: **Redirect all waste to Whitford Landfill**

Option 3: **Balance waste between Redvale and Whitford Landfill and energy parks**

- ☐ Option 3a: **Redvale Class 1 landfill, Whitford Class 2 landfill**
- ☐ Option 3b: **Whitford Class 1 landfill, Redvale Class 2 landfill**
- ☐ Option 3c: **Split waste between Redvale and Whitford Landfills based on source**
- ☐ Option 3d: **Use Whitford Landfill's consented tonnage and send the rest to Redvale Landfill**

If an option goes ahead, are there particular impacts you'd want WM New Zealand to manage carefully?

Do you have any views on how the proposed community betterment initiative should be administered or allocated?

Consent to use feedback:

By submitting this form, you consent to your feedback being used as part of WM New Zealand's public consultation process. Your personal details will remain confidential.

You can send your submission via post, email or through our online submission form here: www.wm.nz/consultation


WM New Zealand
Let’s take care of it
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