



# Pasadena historic landfill environmental assessment

## Background

The City of Mitcham entered into a Voluntary Site Contamination Assessment Proposal under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* in September 2020. It details the intended scope of work, timeframes and objectives for an environmental investigation associated with a former landfill in Pasadena.

Environmental investigations at the site have been ongoing since the mid 1990s, undertaken by a range of organisations, including the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of South Australia. It has been identified more environmental investigation work needs to be done to better understand the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts.

## Upcoming environmental assessment

The potential environmental issues relate to the presence of landfill gas (methane) and the liquid that drains from landfill, known as leachate, which can enter groundwater. Landfill gas forms from the breakdown of organic waste in landfills. Landfill gas is typically made up of 99% methane and carbon dioxide.

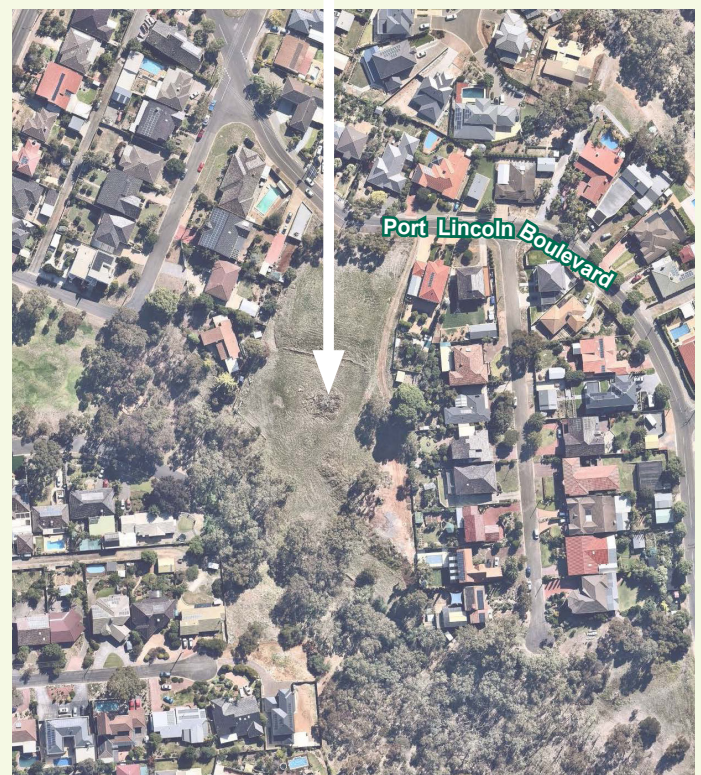
The aim of the upcoming assessment is to help us to more fully understand the potential environmental issues so that appropriate management and remediation measures, if required, can be developed.

New onsite and offsite groundwater wells and landfill gas bores at varying depths will be installed. Existing groundwater wells and landfill gas bores will be sampled.

Sampling of all groundwater wells and landfill gas bores will take place at different times of year to capture a range of climatic and soil moisture conditions.

The environmental investigation works, including reporting, will commence in early April 2021 and take 9 – 12 months to complete.

*The former landfill, the location of which is indicated by the arrow on the image below, was used as a landfill from the late 1950s to approximately 1969. The City of Mitcham was involved, along with others, in the disposal of general household waste at this site from 1959 to 1962.*



## Are there any health risks?

To date, unacceptable risks to human health have not been identified. If potential health risks are identified as a consequence of this work, these will be proactively addressed in collaboration with the EPA, SA Health and any respective private land owner.

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## About the drilling and sampling work

The environmental investigation works will begin in early April 2021.

**The scope of the works involves the installation of seven new groundwater wells and eight new landfill gas bores, sampling of new and existing wells and bores and limited sampling and monitoring of landfill gas in enclosed spaces.**

The drilling of groundwater wells and landfill gas bores will involve drilling rigs similar to the picture below.



The drilling and testing activities will be carefully managed to make these works safe for the site workers, pedestrians and residents.

Site workers will be required to wear hard hats, gloves, eye protection, steel cap boots and high visibility vests, which is standard procedure for any construction site.

Kerbs, footpaths or grassed areas will be repaired and made good once drilling activities have been completed.

## What to expect

The City of Mitcham and its contractors are committed to keeping the impacts of the installation of new groundwater wells and landfill gas bores to a minimum.

However, you may experience the following between early April and late May 2021:

- Works taking place on road verges and in open space areas between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.
- Temporary restricted access to properties where a bore or well is required close to a driveway.
- Traffic and pedestrian management around the work sites for the safety of workers, motorists and pedestrians.
- Varying noise levels, starting and stopping intermittently, associated with drilling. An air hammer and compressor will be in use as the groundwater wells have to be installed through a layer of fractured rock below the ground.
- Vibration associated with the start-up of machinery.

Any water coming up through the groundwater wells will be collected and removed.

Once the drilling and sampling program is completed, the only remaining visible sign will be the caps which sit securely and flush with the ground, sealing off the wells, as shown below.



## Environmental assessment timeline

Groundwater well and landfill gas well drilling and sampling takes place between early April - May 2021.



Ongoing landfill gas sampling takes place monthly for six months. Reporting takes place from May – September 2021.



Information and findings will be released following a full technical assessment of the data, which is anticipated by late 2021.



The requirement for future onsite works will be determined by the Detailed Site Investigation conclusions, the identification of remaining uncertainties and recommendations around potential ongoing monitoring.

## Who can we talk to for more information?

The City of Mitcham has engaged a dedicated engagement team, from local company ProManage, to work with property owners and residents to address their questions and any issues they have relating to the environmental investigation.

Should you wish to meet with, or speak to the team, please contact:

**ProManage: 8223 1695 (Leslie Wapler)**

**City of Mitcham: 8372 8888 (John Valentine)**

**Email: [leslie.wapler@tsamgt.com](mailto:leslie.wapler@tsamgt.com)**