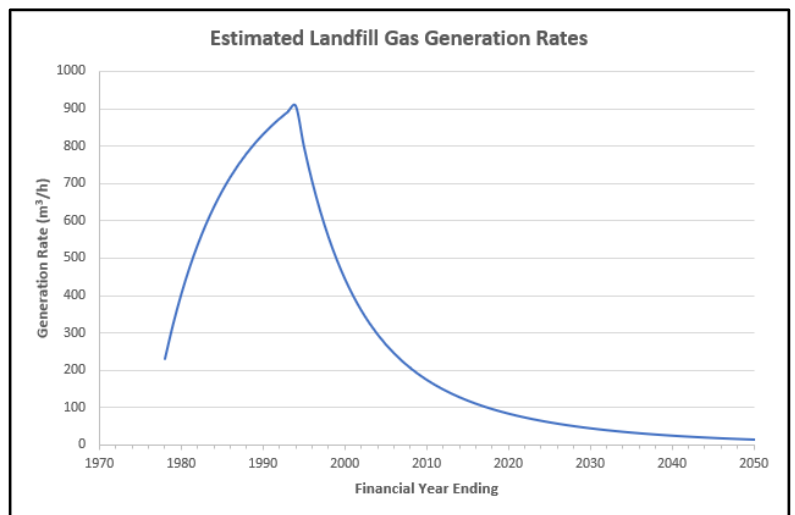


### UPDATE - JULY 2023

This Fact Sheet is to update you about the former Anambah landfill site, on Anambah Road, Rutherford. Owned by Maitland City Council, it is a historical landfill site that operated from 1976 to 1993.

### KEY UPDATE POINTS

1. Council has engaged a contaminated land consultant to prepare a remediation action plan for the site. This work is underway, and a plan is expected to be drafted later this year once additional pre-design studies are complete. The plan will then be reviewed by an independent EPA-accredited site auditor and formally reported to the Council.
2. Based on information provided by Council, the EPA has declared the site as “significantly contaminated land” under the provisions of the Contaminated Land Management Act, for landfill gas components methane and carbon dioxide. Council intends to enter into a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) outlining management of landfill gas. The VMP will be subject to approval by the EPA, and compliance with the VMP will be overseen by the independent EPA-accredited site auditor.
3. We expect gas generation rates to gradually decline, as the landfill is several decades old, and past its period of peak gas generation. See the graph to the right.
4. Regular site monitoring has given no unexpected results. Gas continues to flow underground at a higher rate when the barometric pressure is falling, and lower rates during rising barometric pressure.
5. Air has been monitored in two buildings closest to the landfill site and many sub-surface service pits nearby with no results above usual background levels. No gas has been detected at ground level beyond the site boundaries.



*Estimated landfill emission rates based on modelling using the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Solid Waste Calculator 2021-22*

### BACKGROUND

Landfill sites usually generate landfill gases, such as methane, in a natural process as the waste inside the landfill breaks down. This can occur for some decades after the landfill is closed. Surface gas monitoring at the landfill site has shown a number of locations where methane concentrations were above the nominated assessment criteria.

During routine monitoring of the former Anambah landfill site, environmental consultants have identified that landfill gas is migrating underground and beyond the site boundaries. There has been no gas detected at the surface beyond the site boundaries. Council's priority is to understand the extent of the issue and undertake remediation actions to manage this naturally produced gas.

## AM I OR IS MY FAMILY AT RISK?

The well-being of our community is our top priority. Gas can build up in enclosed spaces. Because the former landfill site and adjoining vacant land is an open space, the risk of landfill gas impacting people using the land is extremely low. Recent landfill gas monitoring of buildings and underground service pits on land adjoining the site showed that levels of methane were well below EPA guidelines.

## HOW WILL COUNCIL MANAGE POSSIBLE RISKS TO RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Council has appointed a contaminated land consultant to develop a remediation action plan. Remedial options will be identified and implemented. Council will consult with the local community as this develops.

## ARE USERS OF THE FORMER LANDFILL SITE, ADJACENT VACANT LAND AND BACKYARDS AT RISK?

No, they are not at risk. As these areas are open spaces there is no risk of gas building up. The former landfill site is closed and fenced off. It is only accessible to Council staff and consultants or contractors.

More information on landfill sites can be found on the NSW EPA website at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)



Above: The former landfill site and surrounds, showing monitoring locations.

## A NOTE ON SNAKES

Council is aware that snakes have been spotted on and around the site. While a narrow area around the adjoining lot is mown, it is not possible to clear the entire area due to the land condition and the presence of monitoring equipment. As they are native animals, snakes are a protected species and it is an offence to harm them. For more information, including what to do and who you can contact if you see a snake, please take a look at our webpage on wildlife. <https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/services/environment-sustainability/wildlife>

## FURTHER INFORMATION

We will continue to engage with local residents and community members to discuss any concerns. Further information is available on our website at [www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/anambah-landfill](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/anambah-landfill). If you wish to speak with a project team member about this work, you can contact us:

Phone freecall: 1800 066 243. Email: [contact@ghd.com](mailto:contact@ghd.com)