



DECEMBER 2024

MAITLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

Newsletter for Site Neighbours

maitland
CITY COUNCIL

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for neighbours of the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility (MRRF), previously known as the Mount Vincent Waste Management Centre. Maitland City Council is committed to managing the MRRF in a manner that minimises the impacts on the environment and surrounding neighbours.

This newsletter includes information on a number of operational improvements made at the site, as well as details of its ongoing transformation. The newsletter will be circulated amongst neighbours of the MRRF annually or when there are significant changes to the operation.

We encourage you to stay informed and involved in the site operations and upcoming changes and welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns or comments please contact the Operations Manager, Michelle Lindsay on 4934 9700 or via info@maitland.nsw.gov.au.

Operational improvements

The facility must be managed in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence (EPL), the Development Consent conditions and relevant environmental legislation. These include a range of

requirements relating to water, dust, odour and noise, and the need to undertake environmental monitoring. The results of monitoring and the pollution response plan for the site can be found on Council's website here www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/facilities/maitland-resource-recovery-facility



Environmental audit

At the end of last year, we appointed a consultant to undertake an independent environmental audit of the facility operations. The audit set out to assess our environmental practices and compliance against our EPL, consent conditions and relevant legislation.

The results of the audit indicate that the facility is being well managed and highlighted several positive aspects of our operations. It also pointed out a few areas for improvement, including a review of the Landfill Environmental Management Plan. We are now working to address these issues.



Litter management

We now have in place a robust litter program to reduce wind blown litter leaving the site. This includes a number of new permanent litter fences adjacent to our recycling areas and east of the active tipface (shown in the photo to the left).

As part of the program we are also undertaking more frequent litter collections.

Daily cover of the landfill

Earlier this year, we purchased and started using a new landfill spray cover applicator for the site. This has included a trial of a new spray material (the blue material shown in the photo to the right) that blends clay binders, reinforcing fibres and polymers to further reduce litter, odour, pests and fire.



Addressing your concerns

During the 2023-24 financial year, we received one noise complaint and two odour complaints from local community members. Following an investigation of the three complaints, we were able to identify the source of the issue. Operations were then modified to reduce the likelihood of continued impacts to the local community.

We encourage you to reach out as soon as practicable if you notice any instances of excessive noise or odour. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us identify and address these issues quickly.

New plant and equipment

We have recently purchased and received a new landfill compactor (shown in the photo to the right) and a new tracked loader for landfill operations. This new machinery will assist in managing the level of noise emitted from the site.



New roads and recycling areas

In September 2023, we opened a new sealed road network and recycling drop off areas to improve customer experience and reduce dust generation. This has also seen the delivery of an all-weather drop off bay, which ensures customers can access the site for waste disposal in wet weather and some wind events. This work was stage one of the transformation of the site.

MRRF Transformation

Why transform the site?

The transformation of the MRRF is driven by the site's landfill capacity, which has less than 10 years of remaining life.

To ensure we have a waste management facility for Maitland residents in the future, we are investing in new infrastructure and facilities to set the site up for long-term success.

The new infrastructure will facilitate the continued acceptance, recovery, and transfer of waste to appropriate recycling and disposal locations, ensuring the site has capacity to accept waste long after landfilling is finished.

By improving our facility and processes now, we are securing a sustainable and resilient waste management operation for decades to come.

The transformation centres around improving the customer experience, as well as increasing our resource recovery capacity. The new infrastructure will allow us to separate more recyclable materials so we can reduce the amount of waste being disposed of in landfill.

Current work



Construction is currently underway for stage two, which will deliver an upgraded site entry including a new gatehouse building and replacement of inbound and outbound weighbridges (shown in the illustration to the left). This improvement will make entering and exiting the site easier, with less traffic queuing out onto Mount Vincent Road. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2025.

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was developed for both stage one and two of the transformation. This details any potential impacts from the development and outlines measures to mitigate them. This process ensures our development activities align with environmental regulations and best practices. You can access the REF on the major projects page for the site on Council's website

www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/projects/maitland-resource-recovery-facility-upgrade.



Future work

Council has approval to construct and operate transfer station and resource recovery infrastructure, which will be delivered in stage three of the site's transformation. This will include the construction of undercover mixed waste unloading bays for cars and trailers, as well as a resource recovery operating area and building where waste will be sorted and transported. Construction is expected to commence in 2025.

The existing approval for the transfer station and resource recovery infrastructure was received in 2019. At that time an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared. An EIS is a rigorous process, requiring input from various technical specialists and involving extensive field studies. It is essential for obtaining approvals for major projects and ensuring all environmental, social, and economic factors are considered in the decision-making process.

Since 2019, Council has altered the layout and design of the infrastructure to better improve our resource recovery ability in line with targets set in Council's Environment Sustainability Strategy (ESS), and Waste Services Management Plan (WSMP). These slight changes in design triggered the need to modify the existing approval, and requires Council to prepare an updated EIS.

Work on this updated EIS has commenced and will specifically address the potential impacts on surrounding properties. It will include detailed impact assessments on air quality and odour, noise and vibration, soils and water, traffic and transport, flora and fauna, and mine subsidence, as well as visual and socioeconomic impacts, and propose strategies to minimise these disruptions to the local community. This study is a crucial step to modify the development application (DA) to proceed with the stage three infrastructure. The findings of the EIS will help us ensure our operations are environmentally friendly and community-conscious.

Community consultation process

As part of the EIS process, we will engage in thorough community consultation to ensure your concerns and suggestions are heard and addressed. This will involve several steps:

Dedicated inbox: We will set up a dedicated inbox to receive and respond to your enquiries.

Information session: We will organise information sessions where experts will explain various aspects of the EIS and the proposed mitigation measures. These sessions will be designed to provide detailed information and document any concerns. These meetings will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the project and ask questions directly to our team.

Your feedback is vital in ensuring the EIS accurately reflects community concerns and proposes effective solutions. We are committed to transparency and will provide regular updates on the progress of the EIS and the consultation process.

Your involvement

We value the input of our neighbours. We will keep you updated on the progress of the EIS and other project milestones. We also welcome your feedback and questions at any stage of the project.