

# Violet Town Landfill Rehabilitation Works

**Council allocated \$3 million in the 2022/23 Budget to rehabilitate the former Violet Town Landfill site.**

**The works, and ongoing monitoring for the next 30 years, are a requirement set out by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).**

## **What is the history of the old Violet Town Landfill?**

The former Violet Town Landfill site was opened prior to 1960 and was closed in 2010.

At the time of closing, the site was at capacity and Council had stopped accepting waste at the landfill site.

Since its closure, Council has maintained ongoing monitoring of the site.

## **Why must the site now be rehabilitated?**

As part of the EPA requirements for closed landfills, sites must be rehabilitated to an EPA-approved design to minimise the ongoing impact on the surrounding environment.

As part of these requirements, Council must also conduct ongoing monitoring for the next 30 years to ensure there is no impact on the surrounding environment.

## **Why do the works cost so much?**

The EPA has specific requirements around how the site should be rehabilitated, specifically around the compaction of the soil and type of soil that is used.

The cost of the project, however, was considerably reduced due to the fact that Council was able to demonstrate the site is low-risk to the EPA, which justified a lower standard cap for the project.

## **Why wasn't it restored 10 years ago when the landfill stopped accepting waste?**

Being aware of the intricate process involved and the resulting cost associated, Council was eager to justify the site as being a low-risk landfill.

This process required additional years of conducting monitoring the site.

Council is now in a position to restore the site after \$3 million was allocated to the project in the recent 2022/23 Budget.

## **Who has Council appointed to complete the works?**

Council has undertaken a competitive tender process for the construction works to rehabilitate the Violet Town Landfill.

Councillors passed a recommendation at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 19 July, 2022 to appoint the contractor.

Goulburn Valley-based contractor Apex Earthworks Pty Ltd were the successfully appointed tenderer to carry out the works.

## **When will the works begin?**

A contractor was appointed to the works at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 19 July, 2022.

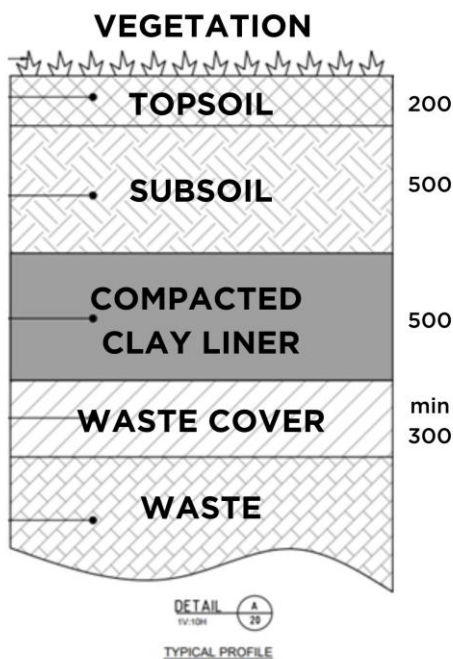
Following the meeting, a works schedule will be presented to Council with construction due to start no later than September, 2022.

### How is the site being rehabilitated?

The contractor will strip back the existing interim cap material and the slopes will be reshaped to reduce erosion.

A compacted clay liner will then be installed, followed by a subsoil layer and finally top soil and seeding. The below image provides a visual representation of the works.

As part of the project, onsite stormwater drainage will be upgraded, and a new storm water pond will be built.



### Will the site be repurposed once it has been rehabilitated?

Rehabilitated landfills require a period of 3-5 years following works for the cap to settle into its final form before any alternative use can be considered.

When the appropriate time has passed following rehabilitation works, Council will work closely to engage with the community on the best use for the site.

EPA guidelines restrict certain additions to the site such as buildings and water features but it is possible walking paths and/or bike tracks could be installed.

Common uses of former landfill sites include sporting grounds, public open spaces, and golf courses.

In the bordering municipality City of Greater Shepparton, the Australian Botanic Gardens were planted at the site of a rehabilitated former landfill site. You can find out more about the gardens [here](#).

### Has the site been used since it was closed in 2010?

Council hasn't used the landfill since it was closed in 2010 but it is co-located with the Violet Town Transfer Station.

Council undertakes monitoring of the site on a quarterly basis.

### Has there been a risk to users since its closure?

Council quarterly reports gathered from ongoing monitoring of the impacts of the closed landfill on the surrounding environment demonstrated there has been minimal impacts to the surrounding environment.

### Is there any risk to the community during the project?

Due to the time period in which the landfill was operating, there is potential that asbestos may be exposed during the construction.

Council has adequately planned for this and has informed the contractor who will undertake the appropriate action should this situation occur.

Council has also changed the entry location to the site to minimise the interaction between heavy plant and transfer station customers.

The construction contractor will also complete a traffic management plan as part of the works.