

4 October 2022

The Chairperson
Board of the Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 1550
HOBART TAS 7001

Attention: Mr Andrew Paul

Dear Andrew

UPDATED NOTICE OF INTENT - INCREASE OF FILLING HEIGHT AT THE DELORAINE LANDFILL

I write on behalf of Meander Valley Council (MVC) submitting this Notice of Intent (NOI) to increase the height of the Deloraine Landfill, located at 54 Tip Road, Deloraine.

The site is critical regional infrastructure for MVC, operating as a waste disposal site since the early 1970's and in a geographically central position within the municipality, approximately seven minutes driving distance from Deloraine and fifteen minutes from Westbury. It also has high visitation with around 13,000 entries in 2020. The Deloraine Landfill provides waste disposal and recycling services for areas of Meander Valley Council that do not have a kerbside collection service and the on-site tip shop is a community hub that encourages resource recovery and reuse. While MVC has a second landfill at Cluan, near Westbury, the Deloraine Landfill is Council's key disposal site licensed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania to receive 8,000 tonnes of waste per annum. Cluan is licenced for 4,500 tonnes of waste annually.

Recently it was identified that the maximum height had been reached at Deloraine Landfill. A drone survey conducted on the 13 January 2022 revealed that the existing height of the Deloraine Landfill was at RL 283. According to Attachment A the height of the completed landfill must not exceed the contours specified in Attachment B and shown on the EMP drawings 682 001-C05-C07. The maximum height at any point must not exceed RL 283.

EPA Tasmania was notified that the height limit was reached and it advised Council that a NOI should be submitted if MVC wishes to increase height and continue landfilling operations at the Deloraine site. The NOI allows environmental issues to be considered and to inform the final design of the proposal prior to lodgement of a Planning Application.

Consequently a NOI has now been prepared in accordance with the Guide for Preparing a Notice of Intent from EPA Tasmania. This addresses the requirements listed in the guidance document. Please see details below:

The name and contact details of the person lodging the application

John Chrispijn, Project Manager Waste Services Meander Valley Council. John's contact details: John.Chrispijn@mvc.tas.gov.au 0437 557 260 PO Box 102, Westbury Tasmania 7303

The name of the proposed project and its location

To increase the height at the Deloraine Landfill, 54 Tip Road, Deloraine. The site is approximately 3 kilometres south of Deloraine in northern Tasmania. Refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.



Figure 1 – Location



Figure 2 – Site map

It has an area of approximately 5.9 ha and Tip Road is accessed from Quamby Brook Road. The property is owned by the Meander Valley Council and is registered as PID1914365 and Title Reference 130751/1.

Deloraine Landfill is located in a small catchment of approximately 20 ha at the confluence of two shallow drainage valleys from the west and southwest. The overall surface drainage from the area would have originally joined Bonneys Creek, just south of the intersection of Tip Road, approximately 150 meters north of the site.

The zoning is Rural Resource. Surrounding the site are a gravel quarry to the north west, low density residential land to the south east, land used for agricultural purposes (largely grazing) to the north and native vegetation to the south and south west.

Background of the project proponent, including details of the proponent's experience and financial capacity to undertake the project and his, her or its contact details

Meander Valley Council is the project proponent and is a local government body in northern Tasmania. It covers the western outskirts of Launceston, and further westward along the Meander River; approximately 3,821 square kilometres. Meander Valley Council is classified as a rural local government area and as of 2021 has a population of 20,037.

In 1993, the municipalities of Deloraine and Westbury were amalgamated to form the Meander Valley Council. Meander Valley is classified as rural, agricultural and very large (RAV) under the Australian Classification of Local Governments.

In the 2021-22 Annual Report Meander Valley Council has an operating expenditure of \$20,612,521 and a capital expenditure of \$8,492,91.

Meander Valley Council has been managing the Deloraine Landfill since 1993. Council's contact address is 26 Lyall Street Westbury Tasmania 7303.

A description of the proposed project, including its key physical components

The proposal relates to an existing operation, Deloraine Landfill a Level 2 activity under the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994. EPN No. 7216/3 authorises the operation of the site.

The updated proposal is to increase the height of the active working area and the capped northwest landfill cell at Deloraine Landfill by four metres to RL 287. This would allow for the disposal of 10,8932.5 tonnes of waste, based on compaction at 600 kg/cubic metres.

In February 2022 Council notified the Director Environmental Protection Authority that the height of the Deloraine Landfill had reached RL 283.

According to Attachment A the height of the completed landfill must not exceed the contours specified in the EMP and shown on drawings 682 001-C07 in the EMP. The maximum height at any point must not exceed RL 283.

Council prefers to continue landfilling operations at Deloraine by increasing the height of the existing fill area, while design and construction of a new transfer station is progressed for the site. On completion of the transfer station it is Council's intention to close the site to landfilling and transfer waste to the Cluan landfill.

The Licensing Officer, Callum Lanagan-Jonas, advised the submission of planning application for the increase in height at the Deloraine Waste Depot, with the following information provided:

- An upgrade/intensification/expansion of a Level 2 landfill site is usually considered to be a Level 2 activity requiring assessment by the EPA Board under EMPCA, so it is assumed that, should a planning application be lodged for such an activity, that Council would refer that application to the EPA Board under s25 of EMPCA.
- A Notice of Intent is preferable as a first step rather than a planning application, as this allows environmental issues to be considered and to inform the final design of the proposal prior to lodgment of the application.

An outline of the proposed location of the project

The Deloraine Landfill is in a rural environment at 54 Tip Road, approximately 3 kilometres south of Deloraine in northern Tasmania (Figure 1). It has an area of approximately 5.9 ha and Tip Road is accessed from Quamby Brook Road.

The original proposal detailed in the Notice of Intent was for a 2-metre lift for only the active working area at Deloraine Landfill as shown in Attachment E.

The project evolved when additional volume was found in the northwest section of landfill see revised drawing Attachment F - Fill Increase Proposal Deloraine Landfill. The northwest landfill cell is currently capped with intermediate cover. Including this area in the 2-metre height increase provides an additional 2,278.5 tonnes to dispose of waste. Including both areas there's the capability to dispose of 9,478.5 tonnes of waste. This information was submitted to Environmental Assessments on the 15 August 2022.

After the submission of the Notice of Intent, Council Engineers have reviewed the proposal and recommended another increase in height see Deloraine Tip Interval Volumes and Volume Analysis Intervals Option 2. The maximum height now requested is for 4-metres, with a further 2-metre increase., or an additional 1,414 tonnes to dispose of waste. In total 10,893.5 tonnes of waste can be disposed of based on a 4-metre increase of both existing cell and rehabilitated north –west landfill cell.

An outline of the stakeholder consultation process undertaken or proposed to be undertaken, raised including the consultation method, stakeholders consulted or to be consulted and the issues raised or to be raised

Community engagement activities from the Meander Valley Council for this proposal will include:

- A letter from Meander Valley Council to landowners immediately adjacent to Deloraine Landfill outlining the proposal and the need to increase height.
- Personal briefings offered to all landowners immediately adjacent to Deloraine Landfill. These briefings will be referenced in the letter that is mailed out.
- A letter from Meander Valley Council to landowners adjacent to the Deloraine Landfill stating that a Planning Application has been received by Council.
- An advertisement in the Examiner Public Notices; and
- A display of the proposal in the Meander Valley Council Chambers.

Issues to be raised in the stakeholder consultation include:

- The proposal to increase height at Deloraine Landfill and that a lift of 4-metres would provide an additional 10,8932.5 tonnes for waste disposition.
- The proposal will have non-measurable impact to landowners adjacent to Deloraine Landfill.
- The proposal is in the community interest allowing waste disposal to continue and meeting regional service needs.
- There are no additional environmental impacts from the proposal as the active cell area of the landfill has a clay liner and is connected to a leachate collection system. Environmental and operational issues of the proposal will be managed through existing documents including Attachments A and B.

A general description of the physical environment that may be affected by the project

The project is contained to the active working area and the capped northwest landfill cell at Deloraine Landfill as shown in Attachment E and updated Attachment F an operating landfill that is managed in accordance with Attachments A and B.

Potential environmental impacts from the proposal including leachate, runoff and landfill gas are managed by a leachate collection system.

The key environmental, health, economic and social issues identified from the project to date

Potential environmental and health issues identified from increasing height at Deloraine Landfill include the existing leachate and landfill collection systems. Physical impacts such as dust, litter and odour issues are controlled through the requirements in Attachments A and B. There are no environmental and health impacts for adjoining areas.

The proposed increase of height at the Deloraine Landfill will have no noticeable effect on the daily traffic to and from the site and traffic volumes. See attached Attachment H.

The site serves as critical Council infrastructure, providing a regional landfill to the municipality's eastern townships and rural communities that do not receive a kerbside collection service. Without the planning approval to increase height, the Deloraine Landfill would need to close within a short time period. Under Attachment A this would trigger significant rehabilitation and reporting that Council has not yet planned including:

- Providing a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan 30 days after notifying the Director of the EPA Tasmania the planned cessation of operations.
- Undertaking rehabilitation upon cessation and progressive rehabilitation.

The cost for rehabilitation (immediate and final cover) if Council closed Deloraine Landfill based upon that the maximum height was reached around \$3,228,000. This is significant costs that Council would need to bear immediately.

Increasing the height of the Deloraine Landfill, would avoid or offset the need rehabilitate the site straightaway and provide additional filling capacity.

The indicative cost for planning would be approximately \$5000 which would include planning report, internal officer hours and planning permit.

The surveys and studies proposed or underway in relation for the project to date

A drawing has been prepared see Deloraine Tip Interval Volume, to show the edge of the slope and the full extent of the 4-metre lift over the active working area and capped northwest landfill cell at Deloraine Landfill.

Proposed timetable for the project

Council is aware that the typical NOI assessment is four to six weeks. Based upon whether the proposal is approved the Planning Permit process can take up to 6 months.

Council would like to emphasize the urgency of getting approval to increase height at Deloraine Landfill as soon as possible. The site is currently at maximum height and is the municipality's main disposal site servicing its western towns including areas without kerbside collection services. The approval will provide an additional two years of landfill disposal at Deloraine (based on the filling rates from previous years). This will provide sufficient time for Council to complete its proposed transfer station, while budgeting and planning the closure and rehabilitation of Deloraine Landfill.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999

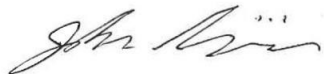
Approval is not needed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999* and neither is a referral needed to be sent to the Commonwealth Government for determination.

Status of the proposal under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

- a. Planning application will be needed;
- b. A single permit application will be required;
- c. Application will be made under Section 57 of the LUPA Act;
- d. Existing zoning is *Rural Resource* and it will not change;
- e. The proposal is for the intensification of an existing activity, being a landfill site; and
- f. The proposal is not for a substantial intensification as per subsection 12(7) of the LUPA Act.

I can be contacted on 03 6393 5329 or 043 7557 260. My email is john.chrispijn@mvc.tas.gov.au if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



John Chrispijn

Project Manager, Waste Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- A: Deloraine Landfill Environmental Protection Notice (EPN) No. 7216/3
- B: Deloraine Refuse Disposal Site Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- C: Location Map Deloraine Landfill
- D: Deloraine Landfill Title Reference 130751/1
- E: Deloraine Waste Disposal Site -54 Tip Road
- F: Revised Fill Increase Proposal Deloraine Waste Disposal Site
- G: Email Re: Deloraine Landfill additional space for new cell.
- H: Road Authority Confirmation of Unchanged Traffic Volumes Letter

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS:

Deloraine Tip Interval Volumes; and
Volume Analysis Intervals Option 2.