

ODOUR ABATEMENT TASKFORCE

Update on odour issues

Cleanaway New Chum site update

The department continues to undertake site visits to monitor Cleanaway's onsite remediation progress.

Cleanaway continues to transport water off-site to the Bundamba sewerage treatment plant via five authorised points (manholes) and to Cleanaway's Yatala water treatment plant.

Aerators and deodorisers continue to operate across the site and the exposed pond area continues to be dosed with chemicals to improve the water quality and reduce the odour.

Cleanaway has established a dedicated [web page](#) providing updates on the situation and progress being made onsite. This page provides a mechanism for community members to leave a comment which is responded to within 24 hours. A dedicated community hotline has also been established 1800 319 815.

Cleanaway community reference group

Cleanaway is calling for expressions of interest to join the New Chum Flood Remediation Community Reference Group (CRG).

CRG members will be asked to provide input into Cleanaway's decision-making process regarding flood remediation and assist with the development of a Community Benefit Fund for New Chum.

Expressions of interest (EOI) can be submitted by Wednesday 23 June. For more details about the CRG and how to submit an EOI, visit [Cleanaway New Chum flood remediation](#).

Community frequently asked questions

What's happening to the water being removed from the Cleanaway site?

The leachate (contaminated water) being removed from the New Chum site is being sent to sewage treatment under a trade waste agreement with the sewage treatment plant operator.

The department does not regulate trade waste agreements, but the department does regulate the sewage treatment facility that is accepting the leachate for treatment under an environmental authority.

The environmental authority requires the sewage treatment to achieve a water quality standard before the treated water can be released into the receiving environment.

The PFAS levels in the leachate disposed to sewer are meeting the limits required by the operator of the sewage treatment plant to be accepted for treatment.

When leachate is discharged into the sewer system, it must be tested for certain substances and at a frequency determined by Queensland Urban Utilities.

This ensures it complies with the plant's acceptance criteria and capability to manage key contaminants. Samples are taken from the sewer discharge location once per day by Queensland Urban Utilities.

The samples are then tested at a Queensland Urban Utilities laboratory for analysis for a range of analytes before they agree to accept the waste.

Are rate payers paying for the water treatment?

No. Cleanaway is paying for the treatment of the water as part of the trade waste agreement.

Why hasn't Cleanaway been running trucks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to fix this problem more quickly?

The number of trucks operating is limited by the volume of water that can be discharged into the sewage treatment plant.

At this stage, this is being fulfilled during business hours. If additional volumes are permitted in future, Cleanaway can seek approval from Ipswich City Council to be able to operate trucks 24/7.

Air quality monitoring

The 'static' [air quality monitoring](#) data has been updated to include data from 15 April to 25 May.

Results from a further six community monitoring sites have also been published. There are currently 13 results live on the website from air monitoring canisters at eight homes in Collingwood Park, two in Redbank Plains, and one in Redbank, Bundamba and Riverview.

A total of 39 canisters have been delivered to sites in the local area. Results will continue to be published as residents decide when to activate their canister and take an air reading.

There are no significant changes to the key findings. Results to date have not identified the presence of air pollutants that could impact human health. Some results show pollutants at levels that cause nuisance with most spikes recorded in the late evening or early morning.

How you can get involved with community air monitoring

Air quality monitoring in the community is an important part of the department's regulatory response to the odour issues at the Cleanaway New Chum site. Read the [FAQs](#) to find out more about the data.

If you live locally and would like to participate in the air quality monitoring, contact the Pollution Hotline on 1300 130 372 for more information. It's easy—simply make a phone call and a canister will be delivered to your door. There is no cost to residents to participate in the program.

Stay up-to-date

The dedicated [Cleanaway New Chum odour issues](#) web page features updates from Monday to Friday and previous editions of this newsletter. It also includes [frequently asked questions](#), the links to [air quality monitoring results](#) and [live hydrogen sulfide air data](#).

If someone you know is interested in receiving regular email updates, you can forward them this email and they can subscribe to the [OAT Update newsletter](#).

Report odour

While we are working to address the current situation, we encourage all community members to continue to report odour issues to assist us with our ongoing response efforts.

Phone: 1300 130 372 (option 3) or [report online](#).



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