

ODOUR ABATEMENT TASKFORCE

Update on odour issues

Cleanaway New Chum site update

The department continues site inspections and meetings with Cleanaway to discuss and verify how they are addressing odour, reducing the water level in the affected cell and managing groundwater.

The volume of the water body is continuing to decline with minimal rain in recent months.

As of Monday 22 August, there was 5.2ML of water in the affected cell.

This series of images shows the decreasing water level in March, May and August of this year. All photos are taken by department staff from roughly the same vantage point at the northern end of the affected cell.



This photo from March, taken at the northern end of the cell, shows the water volume at its peak, at about 60ML.



Looking at the affected cell from the northern end in May, when the water level was about 26ML. This was prior to the second rain event.



This picture, taken by DES staff on Wednesday 17 August, shows the water level sitting at 6.1ML.

NOPA issued to Cleanaway

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has issued Cleanaway with a Notice of Proposed Amendment (NOPA) to its Environmental Authority (EA) in response to the generation and release of odours from the site.

A NOPA can result in changes to the EA that affect how an activity can be conducted on a site.

In the NOPA issued to Cleanaway, DES is proposing that cell 3B must not receive waste and that a rehabilitation and closure plan (RCP) be developed for the cell and for the plan to then be implemented.

The RCP must be designed to prevent groundwater and surface water coming in contact with waste and that the design results in a safe, stable and non-polluting land condition. The RCP must be developed by an appropriately qualified person and peer reviewed.

Cleanaway has until 6 September 2022 to make a submission to DES about the proposed amendment to its EA.

After properly considering the submission from Cleanaway, if DES is satisfied that an amendment is necessary or desirable, the amended EA will be published on the [Public Register Portal](#).

NOPAs are not currently available on the Public Register.

Air quality monitoring

Air quality monitoring indicates levels of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) continue to trend down.

In some instances, generally late in the day, they reach the nuisance level, which is reflected in odour complaints to the Pollution Hotline.

During recent weeks, the number of odour complaints have remained relatively low.

The H₂S air quality monitoring results can be viewed in two ways.

The first is the [live data website](#), which draws real-time data from the department's air monitoring stations in the Swanbank and surrounding suburbs.

The second way to view H₂S data is from the dedicated Cleanaway New Chum odour issues [air quality monitoring static page](#).

It includes (static) graphs and tables, key findings commentary and information about how to understand the data. It has been updated to include H₂S data from air monitoring sites in the local area up until 16 August.

Air monitoring is also being conducted by residents in the local area who have volunteered to be part of the community air quality canister program.

Residents take an air sample with the canister when odour is at its strongest. The canisters can measure up to 74 different compounds.

Results are sent to residents and published on the Cleanaway New Chum odour issues [air quality monitoring static page](#).

Results from a further two community air quality canisters are now available for Dawn Parade, Riverview and Cothill Road, Booval locations.

On Monday 15 August, residents who have participated in the program were sent a short survey asking about their experience with the program and their feedback about supporting resources.

Responses to the survey will inform ongoing air monitoring programs in the New Chum, Swanbank and surrounding areas, and other programs conducted across Queensland.

Stay up-to-date

The dedicated [Cleanaway New Chum odour issues](#) web page features updates 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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