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Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Stephenson Avenue Extension Phase 2 – Removal of stockpile waste materials - FAQ

Why do we need a stockpile site?

Most major infrastructure projects require stockpile locations to store and process materials used on the project.

Where are the project's stockpile sites?

Stockpiles are located on the east and west side of the Freeway. On the east side of the Freeway, stockpiles are located immediately adjacent to the Freeway and near the northern PTA carpark. On the western side of the Freeway, stockpiles are located throughout the project area.

Do we have approvals to use this site?

Yes, we received approvals from the City of Stirling to use the site. The City's mulch site is also nearby.

Did we know that the site was an ex-landfill site?

Yes, the project is aware that sections of the project are being delivered on the former Hertha Road landfill site.

What testing did we do prior to starting works?

Prior to the commencement of works, the S2ME Alliance undertook an extensive sampling program to identify Potential Contamination of Concern (PCOC) associated with the landfill material.

This was completed by specialist consultants who conducted investigations of material from the landfill material, in line with the guidelines set out by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Australian Standards.

Samples were analysed at independent, National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratories, and included testing for hydrocarbons, heavy metals and pesticides and asbestos.

All samples analysed returned negative results for concentrations of Potential Contaminants of Concern (PCOC), above the nominated DWER health and environmental assessment levels.

What were the results from the testing of stockpiles?

Following concerns raised by residents and the initial results of testing of the stockpiles undertaken by DWER in winter 2024, Main Roads undertook an extensive testing program of all stockpiles on site for hydrocarbons, heavy metals, pesticides and asbestos. The testing was undertaken in accordance with a Sampling and Quality Plan that was approved by the Contaminated Sites Auditor.

Results differed between the stockpiles. Most of the stockpiles contained asbestos in bound (inert) form. Some of the stockpiles also contained elevated levels of other pollutants. However, some of the stockpiles contained no contaminants and may be reused on site.

How does the project manage waste material?

All waste that leaves the site is removed by licenced and approved waste management contractors in accordance with the requirements of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.

Project waste is tracked and audited to ensure it is handled in accordance with appropriate licencing requirements, in addition to detailed site assessments conducted before and during construction.

When hazardous material such as asbestos is identified, the project follows the requirements of the Work, Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022, as well as the requirements of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 and the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Complex management practices are in place to ensure community and worker safety.

How will the project manage the removal of waste material from the stockpile site?

The S2ME Alliance will begin removing stockpiled materials from the project site from late October 2024.

A Contaminated Sites Auditor has been engaged to oversee the management of contaminated material. The Contaminated Sites Auditor, Main Roads and S2ME are working closely with DWER to ensure the safe removal and disposal of waste material from the project site. A Stockpile Removal Management Plan detailing the controls required to effectively manage the removal of materials from the Project has been endorsed by the Contaminated Sites Auditor.

The Stockpile Removal Management Plan includes appropriate safety and risk management measures to be followed to protect the community and workforce during the movement and disposal of the stockpile material, including:

- Regular application of water or dust suppression polymer on the material
- Ongoing washing of tyres / wheels
- Ensuring loads are covered prior to truck movement on local roads
- Road sweepers will be on standby should material be tracked onto the local road network
- Ongoing monitoring of dust and airborne asbestos fibres

When will the material be removed from site?

Removal of the materials will occur Monday to Saturday from 7am to 7pm in accordance with a City of Stirling-approved Noise and Vibration Management Plan. Nearby residents may notice an increase in trucks accessing local roads. It is anticipated there will be approximately 20 – 30 truck movements per day.

What are the impacts to the community?

The Stockpile Removal Management Plan was developed to minimise any impacts to the community. Precautionary mitigation measures continue to be implemented across the project site including air quality monitoring and dust suppression. As such the risk to the community is currently considered to be low.

What are the project's dust management practices on the stockpile site?

This includes, but is not limited to, the use of water carts, soil binding materials, street sweepers, and modification of works where required.

During windier periods, the number of water cart movements is increased and targeted at open work fronts or areas of concern. In addition, Polymer Soil binder is applied to stockpiles and trafficable areas, with trucks washed prior to exiting the stockpile site.

Activities that are likely to generate dust, such as loading and unloading trucks, will have additional application of water and binding agents as required.

There will be continual monitoring of air quality at the project site.