

Date: 11 July 2024

Purpose of this document.

Description. Further information on Carey's Gully, Southern Landfill Stage 4.

## WCC Southern Landfill Designation – Background Information

- 1. The Carey's Gully Southern Landfill parcel comprises approximately 350 hectares of land, a steep gully between the eastern and western boundaries.
- 2. The site has been designated for sanitary purposes since the mid-1970s. The first stage (Stage 1) of five proposed stages opened in 1976. In 1980, a private Construction and Demolition site opened to the west of Stage 1.
- 3. By June 2026, Stage 3 of the Southern landfill will have reached capacity. Stage 4 was designed to be filled upwards of the remaining gully, so gully catchment water could be redirected around the footprint of the landfill, to join Carey's Gully Stream beneath the landfill footprint.
- 4. A tunnel of approximately 900 meters in length, transports catchment water from above Stage 3 to below the Stage 1 footprint area. Following the completion of Stage 4, as originally proposed, the tunnel would become redundant. It would then be connected to the landfill's trade waste system. This connection would mean that, should the tunnel deteriorate over time, or a seismic event occur, contaminated water would be directed to trade waste system for treatment.
- 5. Council withdrew the Stage 4 consent application, identifying an alternative area over the top of the existing Stage 2 area. This area is referred to as the Southern Landfill Extension Piggyback Option (SLEPO). SLEPO will have a capacity of

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- approximately 20 years at the current incoming waste volumes. A 35-year consent was granted in March 2024.
- 6. While Council does not currently plan to extend the landfill beyond SLEPO, at this stage there is no clear option after its completion. A 2022 options analysis identified continuing to landfill the Carey's Gully Southern Landfill was preferable to incineration or exporting waste to another landfill. Currently Council is unable to confirm Wellington's future Wellington's disposal requirements. Note that the SLEPO consent did not impose a condition for a reduction, or redesignation, of the current designation.
- 7. Council also consider a number of other issues related to running a landfill including:
  - Public Health and safety with a reduction of the buffer zone between an operational area and public open space.
  - Resilience; having available options post the end of the new consent, or in the event of a natural disaster.
  - Reduction in landfill operations buffer zone, which could significantly compromise consent conditions relating to noise, dust, odour etc, beyond the "boundary".
  - Site security
  - Lack of alternative sites identified in the region, and the likelihood that any identified in future would be unconsentable.

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