WM New Zealand

Managing Auckland's Residual Waste 2029 - 2036

Public Consultation Document

Consultation launch date: 17th March 2025

Redvale Landfill & Energy Park

Table of Contents

WM New Zealand

WM New Zealand (WM) is Aotearoa's leading materials recovery, recycling, and waste management provider, with over 2,000 team members across 70 locations.

WM takes a strategic view of waste needs for the country, carefully operating and planning recycling and landfill infrastructure, and other waste management initiatives, to help ensure New Zealand's waste is managed safely and sustainably.

WM collects near 1,000,000 tonnes of waste and recycles well over 250,000 tonnes every year. It is the largest composter in New Zealand, the largest waste-to-energy generator and has the largest heavy vehicle electric fleet in the country.

www.wm.nz

Tonkin + Taylor Group

Tonkin + Taylor Group is an employee-owned environmental and engineering consultancy and testing business with offices across New Zealand and Australia.

The company has a rich history of technical excellence spanning more than 60 years. Tonkin + Taylor has evolved from a small New Zealand-based company into an industry leading, employee-owned and operated multi-disciplinary group of consultants.

www.tonkintaylor.co.nz

Executive summary

About

This public consultation is seeking your input into the management of Auckland's residual waste into the future.

The challenge

Auckland faces an upcoming infrastructure challenge. Redvale Landfill & Energy Park, which currently manages approximately 50% of Auckland's waste, is due to stop landfilling waste in December 2028. The site will remain as an active waste consolidation, recycling and energy recovery facility into the future.

WM New Zealand is actively developing the Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL) as a permanent replacement to take the 600,000 tonnes annually that Redvale is landfilling. However, a significant timing gap exists. ARL, which is still progressing through the consenting process, isn't expected to be operational until the mid-2030s. This creates a critical 7-8 year period where Auckland needs reliable, sustainable solutions for managing its residual waste.

Options assessed for this consultation

Independent analysis by Tonkin + Taylor evaluated four options against key criteria including timing, consenting, economic impact, resilience, environmental effects, social impact, and emissions:

1. Rebalancing Existing Landfills: Utilising remaining capacity at existing facilities.
2. Identify a New Temporary Landfill: Developing a completely new landfill site within the Auckland region.
3. Alternative Technologies: Exploring waste processing technologies such as incineration or mechanical biological treatment.
4. Auckland Recovers More: Focusing primarily on waste minimisation and increased recovery rates.

Table of analysis

The technical ranking against the seven criteria	Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more
Timing – must be operational by 2029	🟢	🔴	🔴	🔴
Consenting – must have resource consent by 2028	🟢	🔴	🔴	🔴
Economic Impact – capital and long-term operational costs must be minimised	🟢	🔴	🔴	🔴
Resiliency – must maintain operation during disasters and be capable of handling disaster waste	🟢	🟢	🔴	🔴
Environmental – effects on air and water quality, and terrestrial ecology	🟡	🟡	🔴	🟡
Social / Community – must have acceptable local effects (odour, noise, dust, traffic, visual impact, health/wellbeing, behaviour change)	🟡	🟡	🔴	🟡
Emissions – total emissions for transporting, processing and disposal	🟡	🟡	🔴	🟡

Key: 🟢 Highest rated 🟡 Moderately rated 🔴 Lowest rated

Executive summary

Recommended approach

The independent technical assessment identifies **Option 1 "Rebalancing Existing Landfills"** as the most viable solution, scoring highest across most criteria. This highlighted advantages of leveraging existing infrastructure, reduced costs for our communities, known and manageable environmental impacts and can be operational within the timeframe. WM also recognises its responsibility to continue advancing waste minimisation efforts. This approach:

- Addresses our immediate infrastructure needs while fulfilling our commitment to be more circular.
- Maximises recovery capabilities while acknowledging the ongoing need for landfill capacity.
- Makes efficient use of existing infrastructure while supporting Auckland's long-term waste reduction.
- Provides certainty and resilience for waste management services during the transition period.
- Delivers environmental benefits through both increased recovery rates and optimised disposal.

Consultation process

Our aim is to secure extensive feedback on the options available as we transition to ARL to help us move to the next stage in our alternatives assessment.

The consultation allows the public and tangata whenua to comment on the data and feedback with their views on the preferred technical waste management option for the managing the interim period until a new landfill site opens.

To give everyone time to respond, this consultation opens on 17 March 2025 and closes on 11 May 2025. Community consultation sessions will be held across Auckland with submissions accepted online, via email, or by post.

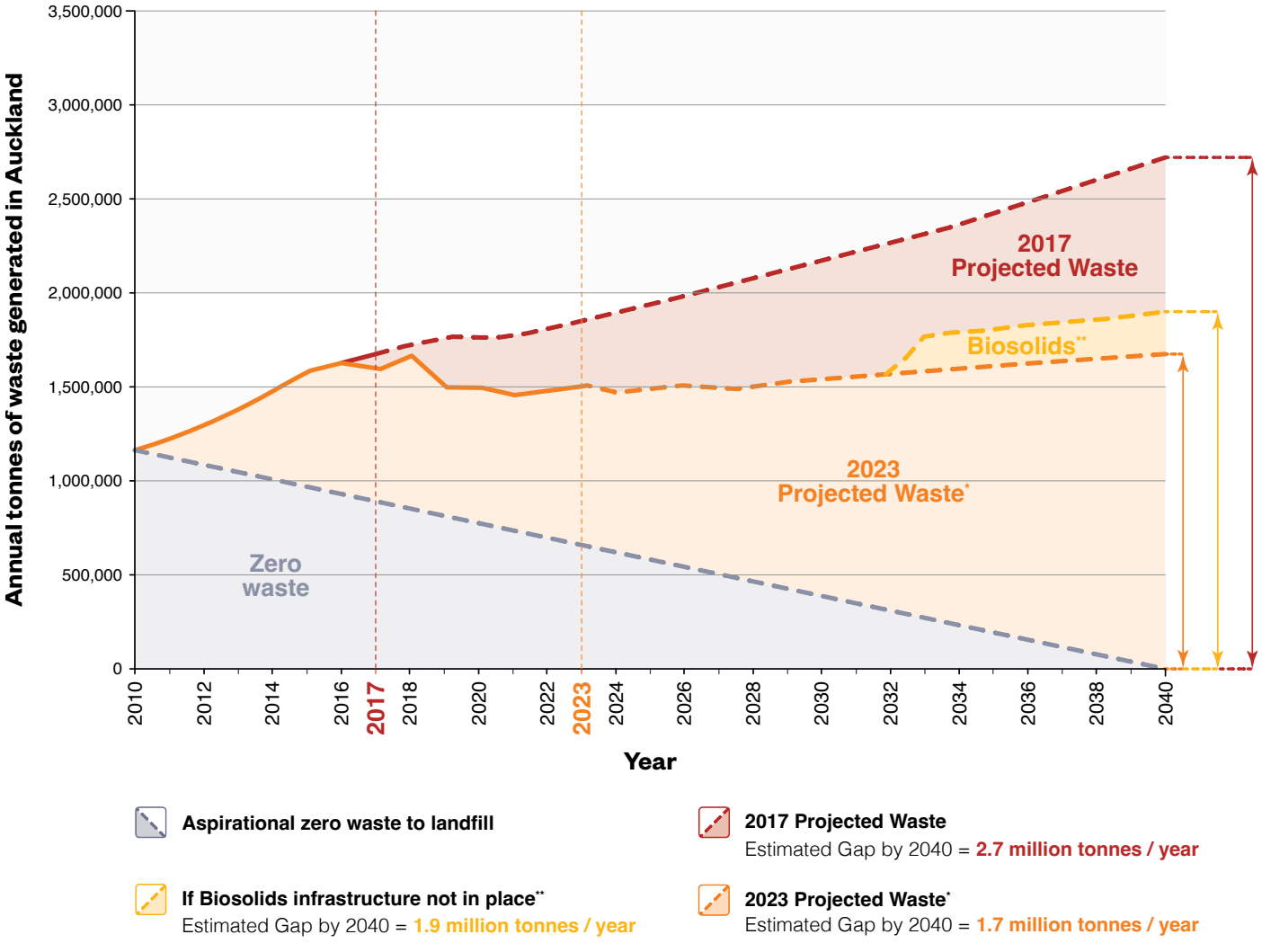
The challenge

Waste volumes are projected to continue

Auckland's waste generation continues to rise alongside population and business growth. Auckland has increased recycling and material recovery, however, Auckland Council's 2023 projection suggests waste disposal will be required through to 2040.

There remains a gap to Auckland Council's aspirational goal of zero waste to landfill by 2040. Ongoing focus is still required to reduce waste at its source, extend product lifespans and encourage reuse, repair and recycle.

Auckland Council's estimated and projected waste



Aspirational zero waste to landfill

2017 Projected Waste
Estimated Gap by 2040 = **2.7 million tonnes / year**

If Biosolids infrastructure not in place**
Estimated Gap by 2040 = **1.9 million tonnes / year**

2023 Projected Waste*
Estimated Gap by 2040 = **1.7 million tonnes / year**

Note: forecasts have improved significantly from 2017 to 2023. See more in the 2024 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.

*: 2023 projections are based on no further improvements in waste reduction.

**: Watercare, supported by Auckland Council, is working on options to re-use biosolids beneficially and keep out of landfill.

The challenge

Our immediate challenge – a solution for 4 million tonnes of waste (2029-2036)

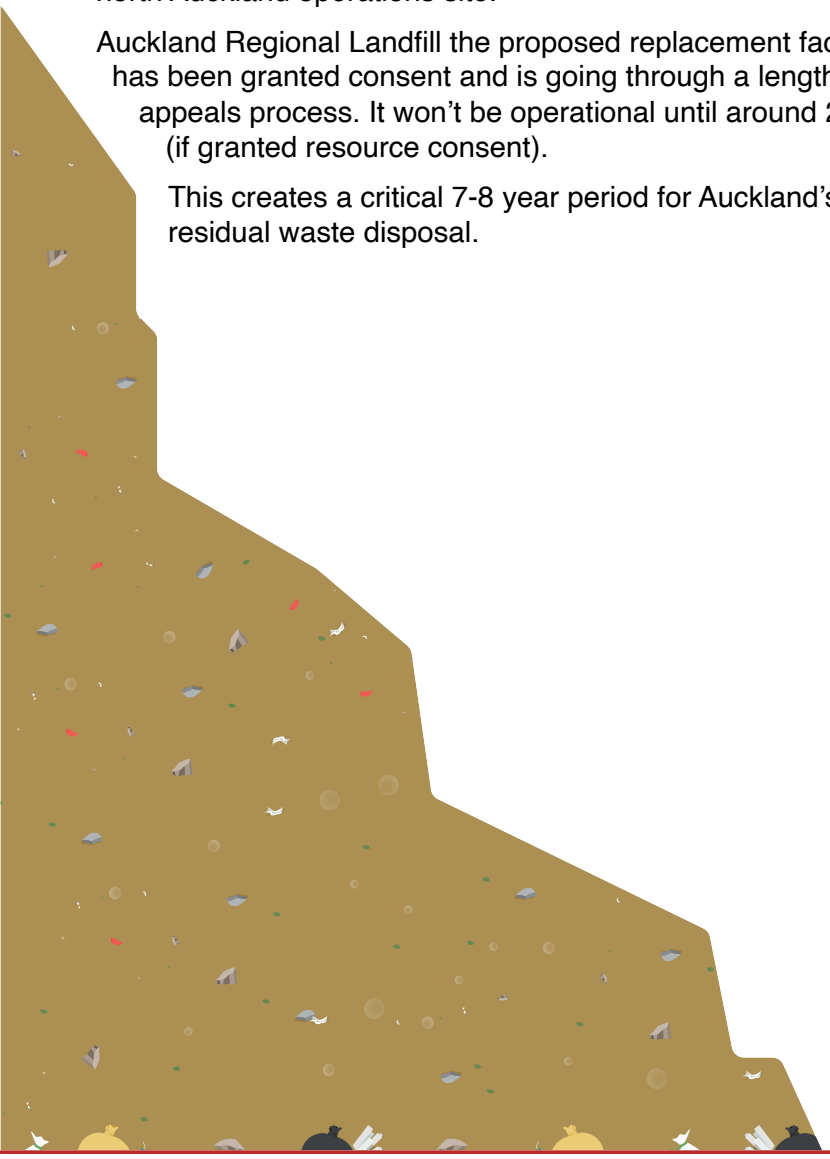
Nearly half of what Aucklanders throw away currently goes to Redvale. That's about 600,000 tonnes annually or roughly 300,000 utes that will need a new home from 2029.

Redvale Landfill & Energy Park which receives about 50% of Auckland's refuse is due to stop landfilling waste in December 2028.

The site will remain an active waste management facility long into the future, generating renewable energy, serving as a resource recovery and processing facility, as well as our key north Auckland operations site.

Auckland Regional Landfill the proposed replacement facility has been granted consent and is going through a lengthy appeals process. It won't be operational until around 2036 (if granted resource consent).

This creates a critical 7-8 year period for Auckland's residual waste disposal.



600,000 tonnes annually, equivalent to =

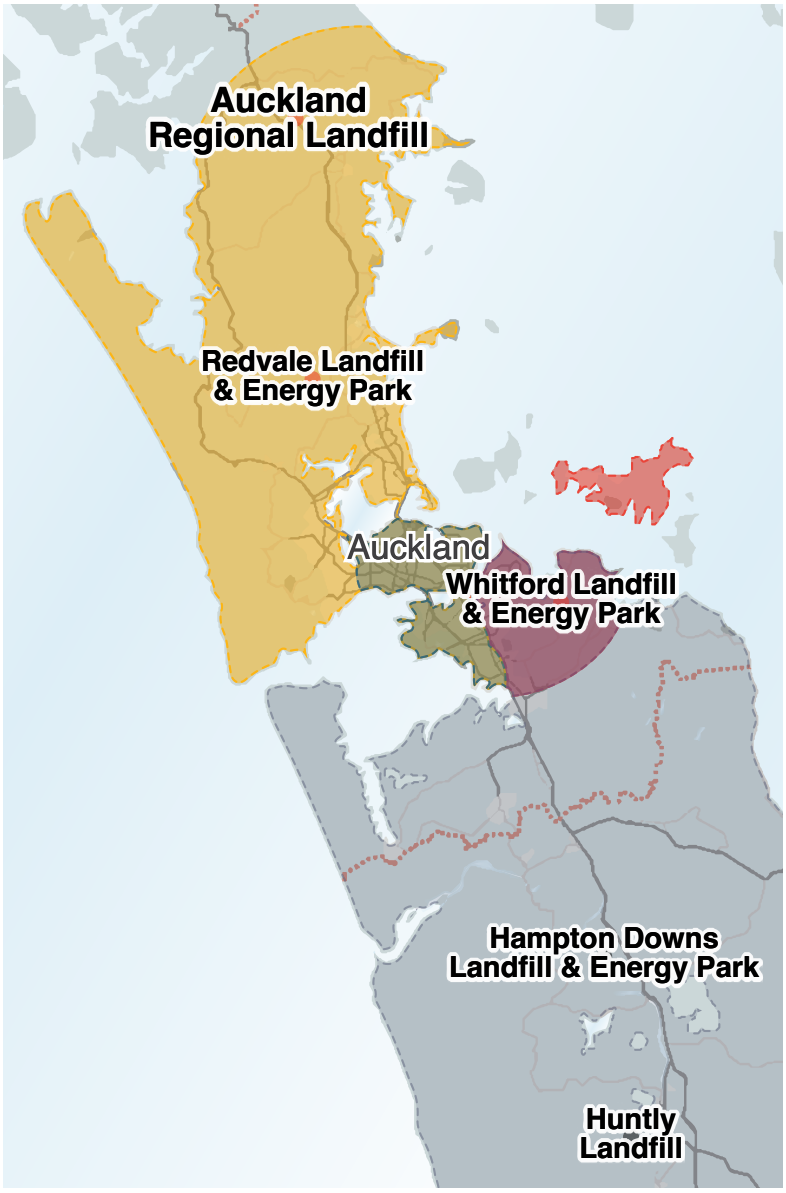
300,000
2 tonne utes

Why should you care?

Diverting Auckland's waste out of the region would impose significant costs on ratepayers and businesses. It would necessitate transporting waste over longer distances by truck, leading to increased congestion and higher greenhouse gas emissions, harming the environment.

Additionally, failing to address this challenge locally would make Auckland overly reliant on other regions, heightening the risk of disruptions in waste collection and disposal, and compromising the city's disaster recovery capabilities.

Rather than prematurely filling out-of-region landfills, which would lead to their early closure and/or require additional consents, Auckland needs a local solution to a critical issue.



- Redvale Landfill & Energy Park catchment area
- Whitford Landfill & Energy Park catchment area
- Hampton Downs Landfill & Energy and Huntly Landfill catchment area
- Redvale, Hampton Downs and Huntly overlapping catchment areas
- Whitford, Hampton Downs and Huntly overlapping catchment areas

Cultural perspectives

WM is committed to upholding the principle of kaitiakitanga by working in partnership with tangata whenua to manage waste responsibly, respect Papatūānuku, and contribute to a sustainable future for generations to come.

As we explore options for managing Auckland's residual waste future, we recognise that successful environmental outcomes cannot be achieved without also honouring the cultural values and responsibilities that tangata whenua hold towards the whenua, wai and hau.

Our approach to waste management goes beyond infrastructure and logistics – it requires meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua to develop solutions that align with Māori perspectives on sustainability, guardianship, and the interconnectedness of all living things.

To reflect these values, we are committed to embedding cultural considerations into our decision-making in a way that is informed by tangata whenua themselves.

As part of this process, we will work directly with tangata whenua to understand the cultural implications of each proposed option. While environmental, economic, and technical factors can be measured through traditional methods, cultural considerations must be defined by those with the deepest connection to Te Taiao.

Potential solutions 2029 - 2036

Independent technical analysis

As a first step in its alternative analysis, WM asked Tonkin + Taylor to independently formulate and assess options for an interim solution to safely dispose of Auckland's residual waste once Redvale ceases landfilling of waste in 2029. The solution sought is an interim solution that could provide residual disposal for near 50% of Auckland's waste until a long-term option is in place by 2036.

Tonkin + Taylor used seven technical criteria evaluating the feasibility and impact of each option, noting cultural considerations are an important criterion to be evaluated with tangata whenua directly.

The criteria were:

1. Timing - operational by 2029.
2. Consenting - able to be consented by 2028.
3. Economic Impact - commercial viability including transport costs, likely to be borne by customers and our community.
4. Resiliency - continued operation in a disaster and be able to take disaster waste.
5. Environmental - able to appropriately avoid, remedy or mitigate, offset or compensate adverse effects on air and water quality, and terrestrial ecology.
6. Social / Community - must be able to manage local effects (noise, dust, odour, traffic, visual impact, health/wellbeing, behaviour change).
7. Emissions - impacts on total net emissions for the period from transport, processing and disposal.

Following extensive technical analysis, the industry experts responded with four options.

These were:

1. **Rebalancing existing landfills.**
2. **Identify a new landfill site.**
3. **Use alternative technologies.**
4. **Focus on waste minimisation.**

Potential solutions 2029 - 2036

Option 1: Rebalancing Existing Landfills

Maintaining Auckland's current waste management system by adding consented capacity at existing Auckland facilities.

Option 2: Identify a New Temporary Landfill Site

Developing a new landfill at a new location within the Auckland region.

Option 3: Alternative Technologies

Exploring new waste processing technologies to dispose of waste.

Option 4: Auckland Recovers More

Focus on waste minimisation and recycling.

Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills

This option would maintain Auckland's current waste management system to utilise existing landfill sites that service the Auckland region.

This option considers and determines their remaining capacity and their ability to accommodate additional waste. The identified sites are Redvale Landfill; Whitford Landfill; Hampton Downs Landfill in the Waikato and to a lesser extent Northland Regional Landfill (Puwera).

While some of these landfills have remaining capacity beyond December 2028, all would need suitable resource consents to accommodate the additional waste that currently goes into Redvale Landfill until 2036.

This could involve temporarily increasing annual disposal volumes (such as at Hampton Downs) or expanding landfill airspace (Redvale, Whitford, and Puwera).

Even though this option is only a temporary option through 2029 - 2036, any of these options would still require a consenting process.

Key considerations

- Using existing landfill sites, avoids the need to establish new waste facilities.
- Supplement existing large capital investments, with similar ongoing operational costs.
- Existing landfills have a proven track record of resilience and can continue operating during disruptions.
- Suitable resource consents would be required for all landfill sites to maintain operations between 2029 - 2036.
- Understanding cultural impacts on tangata whenua of this increased consented disposal capacity between 2029 - 2036.
- Managing how re-balancing landfill capacity could affect air and water quality, as well as local ecosystems.
- Understanding community impacts such as traffic, noise, dust, odour, and visual effects arising from the increased consented disposal capacity between 2029 - 2036.

Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill

An option exists to construct an entirely new landfill to meet Auckland's waste management needs between 2029 - 2036.

Like existing landfills, a newly developed site would provide long-term resiliency and be capable of operating during natural disasters or disruptions.

In analysing this option, consideration must be given to the fact that building a new landfill involves more than just the landfill itself - it requires supporting infrastructure, environmental assessments, and regulatory approvals.

Finding a suitable site, obtaining resource consent, and completing construction is a complex and time-consuming process, often taking many years.

Landfills are typically long-term investments, designed to operate for several decades. This long lifespan helps distribute the costs over the lifetime of the landfill. If a landfill were only required for a short period (such as 8 years - 2029 - 2036), the investment required may be hard to justify.

Key considerations

- Landfills provide long-term resiliency and are capable of operating during natural disasters or disruptions.
- Identifying, designing, consenting, and constructing a landfill and its supporting infrastructure is a complex, multi-year process.
- WM is not aware of any suitable sites currently available and obtaining resource consent and building new infrastructure is unlikely within the required timeframe.
- May have unknown cultural impacts on tangata whenua. Requires significant capital investment. If only needed for 2029 - 2036, the commercial case would be uneconomic.
- Would have local community effects, such as traffic, noise, and odour, which would need to be addressed.

Option 3 - Alternative Technologies

An option exists to utilise emerging waste processing technologies. The primary alternative technologies include conventional incineration, advanced thermal treatment, mechanical biological treatment and mechanical heat treatment.

- **Conventional incineration:** Burns waste and recovers energy but generates ash (20-30% of waste volume) that requires hazardous waste disposal.
- **Advanced Thermal Treatment (Gasification):** Converts some waste streams into energy in low-oxygen environments.
- **Mechanical Biological Treatment:** Combines sorting and biological processes, only suitable for specific waste streams.
- **Mechanical Heat Treatment:** Uses steam and pressure to process waste, requires extensive sorting.

Many of these options conflict with New Zealand's waste minimisation policies.

Instead of promoting waste minimisation, they often rely on large waste quantities and burnable materials to remain operationally feasible. They also produce emissions from burning things like plastics that go against New Zealand's global climate commitments.

Moreover, these technologies do not accept all waste streams currently disposed of at Redvale Landfill, for example, concrete, contaminated soils and asbestos-containing materials. These processing technologies also produce by-products or reject materials that still require alternative treatment or disposal at a landfill.

Finally, consideration should be given to each technology. Conventional incineration increases greenhouse gas emissions and is proven to discourage waste reduction. Advanced thermal treatment is a high-cost option with unproven feasibility in New Zealand. Mechanical biological treatment is currently only used for specific waste streams such as organic waste and mechanical heat treatment is not yet available in New Zealand. Mechanical heat treatment requires significant capital investment and infrastructure development, and its effectiveness at scale remains to be comprehensively demonstrated in the New Zealand context.

Key considerations

- Developing, consenting, and constructing an operational facility by 2029 is unlikely.
- None of these technologies have been consented in New Zealand to the scale required, this uncertainty may extend the consent timeframes.
- These technologies require significant investment and are not yet commercially viable in New Zealand.
- The required capital investment effectively precludes the use of this technology as a bridging solution (i.e. for a period between 2029 - 2036).
- Known environmental issues include emissions, by-products, and residual waste disposal.
- Alternative waste processing technologies are not well understood and may face strong resistance from communities.

Option 4 - Auckland Recovers More

WM currently processes a range of recyclable materials across Auckland, including garden waste, cardboard, timber, and tyres. This option requires the rebuild and expansion of material recovery facilities to process the large volume of waste that currently goes to Redvale. This option also requires macro shifts in product design and manufacturing, consumer behaviour, policy and regulations at local and national levels.

How recycling works

Successful recycling markets depend on three essential components working together: collection, sorting and sales.

1. Collection is the first crucial step. A network of transport solutions and convenient drop-off locations gets materials to processing sites. This requires planning and infrastructure to ensure materials arrive in the best condition.
2. The sorting process transforms mixed materials into resource streams. Materials are separated into specific groups, often requiring careful disassembly – a task that needs skilled hands and attention to detail. The process includes washing, shredding, and specialised treatment to transform materials into forms that manufacturers can use in their production lines.
3. The final step is connecting recyclable materials with buyers. They compare the cost of recycled materials against new (virgin) materials or imported products. Buyers choose the most cost-effective option that meets their quality standards.
4. Recycling facilities work to deliver competitive, high-quality materials.

Recycling concerns

Contamination is a significant challenge in the industry. Even small amounts of incorrect materials can ruin entire batches and damage equipment. For example, mixing plant-based plastic (PLA) with PET plastic can render the batch unusable.

Making recycling economically viable presents another challenge. Recycling infrastructure requires significant investment in facilities, equipment, and skilled workers. Processing costs can be higher than importing new materials.

Supply and demand balance is the third major challenge. Processing facilities receive a constant flow of materials that need processing and movement. While materials can be stored temporarily, they can't be held indefinitely. Without strong markets and reliable buyers, recyclable materials may end up stockpiled and recyclers face the difficult decision to send materials to landfill.

Key considerations

- Some expansion of Auckland's recycling facilities may be able to be achieved by 2029. Unlikely that the required number of facilities would secure consent in time.
- Not all materials can be economically or technically recycled, leaving a residual waste disposal requirement which still requires final disposal. This amount is estimated to be greater than current disposal limits of sites excluding Redvale, making this non-viable.
- Likely alignment with tangata whenua values.
- Large-scale investment is needed.
- Markets for selling recycled materials may not develop quickly enough.
- Recovery facilities around Auckland would provide resiliency compared to a single site.
- Contamination would affect the quality of the recycled product.
- While existing facilities have managed environmental effects, large-scale expansion may introduce new challenges.
- Recovery and recycling is socially supportive. However, the large-scale expansion would require substantial behaviour change.

Analysis of options

Timing – must be operational by 2029

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Existing landfills meet the 2029 deadline.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Unlikely to find a suitable location and develop an operational site by 2029.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Very unlikely to establish a viable alternative technology and have it operational by 2029.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Expanding some recycling facilities could be achieved in time, but large volumes of residual waste would still require landfill disposal. Markets for recycled products are unlikely to develop by 2029.	

Consenting – must have resource consent by 2028

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Reconsent required and achievable by 2028.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Very unlikely to secure consent by 2028.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Very unlikely to secure consent by 2028.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Unlikely that the required number of processing facilities would secure consent in time. Some waste streams can't be recovered and still require disposal.	

Economic Impact – total costs and price paid by community minimised

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Utilising existing landfills has lower economic impacts.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Developing a new landfill requires significant capital investment.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Alternative technologies require high capital and operational investment.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Large-scale investment would be needed to expand infrastructure and markets for recycled products may not develop in time. Some waste streams can't be recovered and still require disposal.	

Key: Highest rated Moderately rated Lowest rated

Resiliency – must maintain operation during disasters and be capable of handling disaster waste

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Existing landfills and supporting networks have a strong track record of operating during disruptions and taking disaster waste.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	A new landfill would be designed to function like existing sites and should be able to operate during disruptions and take disaster waste.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Alternative technology facilities and networks may not be resilient to disruptions.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Recycling facilities cannot adequately process or dispose of waste generated by natural disasters.	

Environmental - effects on air and water quality, and terrestrial ecology

Option	Details	
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Existing landfills have known environmental effects.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Developing a new landfill may have environmental effects, though these would be managed once operational.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Alternative technologies have known environmental risks that, at present, cannot be effectively prevented or managed.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Current recovery facilities have known environmental effects. Large-scale expansion may introduce new effects that need careful planning. Not all waste streams can be recovered, so landfill capacity would still be needed.	

Social / Community – must have acceptable community effects (odour, noise, dust, traffic, visual impact, health/wellbeing, behaviour change)

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Modern, engineered landfills manage local effects, though some impact remains.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	A new landfill could cause localised impacts, with ongoing operations still affecting the surrounding community.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Alternative technologies are not well understood or accepted by the community, with strong opposition expected.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Material recovery supports Auckland's circular economy, but large-scale expansion may face local concerns.	

Emissions - total emissions for transporting, processing and disposal

Option	Details	Evaluation
Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Modern engineered landfills with good gas capture have lower emissions, potential increase with transport emissions.	
Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site	Modern engineered landfills with good gas capture have lower emissions, potential increase with transport emissions.	
Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Increase in emissions from processing waste and potential transport emissions depending on location.	
Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more	Increase in emissions from collection and haulage of waste to facilities and buyers of materials, which may require international shipping.	

Comparing the options

Criteria	Option 1 - Rebalancing Existing Landfills	Option 2 - Identify a New Landfill Site
Timing – must be operational by 2029	Existing landfills meet the 2029 deadline.	Unlikely to find a suitable location and develop an operational site by 2029.
Consenting – must have resource consent by 2028	Reconsent required and achievable by 2028.	Very unlikely to secure consent by 2028.
Economic Impact – total costs and price paid by community minimised	Utilising existing landfills has lower economic impacts.	Developing a new landfill requires significant capital investment.
Resiliency – must maintain operation during disasters and be capable of handling disaster waste	Existing landfills and supporting networks have a strong track record of operating during disruptions and taking disaster waste.	A new landfill would be designed to function like existing sites and should be able to operate during disruptions and take disaster waste.
Environmental – effects on air and water quality, and terrestrial ecology	Existing landfills have known environmental effects.	Developing a new landfill may have environmental effects, though these would be managed once operational.
Social / Community – must have acceptable local effects (odour, noise, dust, traffic, visual impact, health/ wellbeing, behaviour change)	Modern, engineered landfills manage local effects, though some impact remains.	A new landfill could cause localised impacts, with ongoing operations still affecting the surrounding community.
Emissions – total emissions for transporting, processing and disposal	Modern engineered landfills with good gas capture have lower emissions, potential increase with transport emissions.	Modern engineered landfills with good gas capture have lower emissions, potential increase with transport emissions.

Key: Highest rated Moderately rated Lowest rated

Comparing the options

Criteria	Option 3 - Alternative Technologies	Option 4 - Auckland Recovers more
Timing – must be operational by 2029	Very unlikely to establish a viable alternative technology and have it operational by 2029.	Expanding some recycling facilities could be achieved in time, but large volumes of residual waste would still require landfill disposal. Markets for recycled products are unlikely to develop by 2029.
Consenting – must have resource consent by 2028	Very unlikely to secure consent by 2028.	Unlikely that the required number of processing facilities would secure consent in time. Some waste streams can't be recovered and still require disposal.
Economic Impact – capital and long-term operational costs must be minimised	Alternative technologies require high capital and operational investment.	Large-scale investment would be needed to expand infrastructure and markets for recycled products may not develop in time. Some waste streams can't be recovered and still require disposal.
Resiliency – must maintain operation during disasters and be capable of handling disaster waste	Alternative technology facilities and networks may not be resilient to disruptions.	Recycling facilities cannot adequately process or dispose of waste generated by natural disasters.
Environmental – effects on air and water quality, and terrestrial ecology	Alternative technologies have known environmental risks that, at present, cannot be effectively prevented or managed.	Current recovery facilities have known environmental effects. Large-scale expansion may introduce new effects that need careful planning. Not all waste streams can be recovered, so landfill capacity would still be needed.
Social / Community – must have acceptable local effects (odour, noise, dust, traffic, visual impact, health/ wellbeing, behaviour change)	Alternative technologies are not well understood or accepted by the community, with strong opposition expected.	Material recovery supports Auckland's circular economy, but large-scale expansion may face local concerns.
Emissions – total emissions for transporting, processing and disposal	Increase in emissions from processing waste and potential transport emissions depending on location.	Increase in emissions from collection and haulage of waste to facilities and buyers of materials, which may require international shipping.

Leading option

A combined approach - recover more while rebalancing existing landfills

The independent technical assessment identifies **Option 1 "Rebalancing Existing Landfills"** as the most viable solution. However, WM New Zealand recognises its responsibility towards waste minimisation. Therefore, subject to the outcome of community feedback, tangata whenua consultation, and finalising the alternatives assessment, a combined approach utilising elements from both **Option 1 "Rebalancing Existing Landfills"** and "**Option 4 "Auckland Recovers More"** represents the most responsible and sustainable interim solution.

This two-pronged strategy addresses both immediate practical needs and longer-term sustainability goals, balancing pragmatism with environmental responsibility.

Maximising recovery while ensuring disposal capacity

The combined approach prioritises Auckland's continued focus on waste reduction and recovery capabilities while acknowledging the ongoing need for landfill disposal. By continuing to support Aucklanders' efforts to reduce waste and exploring opportunities to enhance recycling infrastructure, we can progressively reduce the volume of residual waste requiring landfill disposal.

Simultaneously, rebalancing disposal across existing landfills provides the necessary disposal infrastructure for materials that cannot yet be recycled or recovered, ensuring essential waste management services continue uninterrupted as we transition to ARL.

Time

WM already champions waste reduction initiatives and is exploring opportunities for expanded recycling facilities by 2029 however, we recognise that not all materials can be economically or technically recycled in the short term. A significant proportion of residual waste will still require landfill disposal during the transition period.

The time required to identify a completely new landfill site or implement alternative technologies makes these options less feasible within the required timeframe. By contrast, maintaining our focus on waste reduction while utilising and rebalancing existing landfill disposal represents the most time-efficient approach.

Cost and investment

This combined approach offers economic advantages by continuing Auckland's existing waste reduction focus while making the most of landfill infrastructure already in place. Rather than the substantial capital outlay required for entirely new landfills or technology, we can continue to support waste reduction initiatives while relying on existing landfill infrastructure.

Environmental and social benefits

This integrated approach delivers environmental benefits through a focus on increased recovery rates while providing a pragmatic solution for residual waste. It aligns with Auckland's zero waste aspirations and sustainability goals while acknowledging the practical realities of our current waste management systems.

By both enhancing recovery infrastructure and optimising existing disposal facilities, we create a more resilient waste management system that can better withstand disruptions while progressively reducing our environmental footprint.

How to share your views

Guiding the decision-making process

Your feedback is essential in guiding our decision-making process. It will ensure we capture the needs and concerns of the wider community and land on informed outcomes.

This consultation will shape the future of waste management in Auckland and we want to make sure your views are heard before we move forward.

You can comment on any aspect of the analysis.

Some important questions include:

- Have all possible options for managing Auckland's waste been considered in this consultation?
- Are there any waste management solutions or technologies that should be explored further?
- Are the considerations (timing, consenting, cost, resiliency, environmental and social/community, emissions and cultural perspectives) sufficient when considering all options? Are there others that should be included?
- From the options presented, do you agree with the identification of the leading solution for managing waste in the Auckland region? If not, which option is better, and why?

How to share your views

Have your say

You can share your feedback with us in a number of ways.

Online submission form

Visit our consultation webpage at www.wm.nz/consultation and complete a submission form.

Email

Send us your feedback to submissions@wm.nz

Post

Submissions can be posted to:
ARL transition consultation
Private Bay 14919
Panmure
Auckland 1741

Community consultation meetings

WM will be holding a series of community meetings, including with tangata whenua, where you can ask questions and learn more about the waste management options, direct from the WM team. Please see the dates and locations listed below. All are welcome.

WM New Zealand Auckland HQ

318 East Tāmaki Road

Tuesday, 25 March 2025
5.30pm – 6.30pm

Dairy Flat Community Hall

Corner of Postman Road and SH17, Dairy Flat.

Thursday, 27 March 2025
6pm – 7pm

Glenfield Community Centre

Corner of Bentley Avenue and Glenfield Road (next to Glenfield library).

Thursday, 27 March 2025
6pm – 7pm

Hub West

27 Corban Avenue, Henderson

Tuesday, 1 April 2025
6pm – 7pm

There will also be online consultation sessions. Visit www.wm.nz/consultation for times and dates.

Speak to your submission

When making a submission you will have the opportunity to choose to talk to your submission at a later date. If you choose this option the WM team will be in touch to arrange a time for you to present your views in person or virtually. This is an opportunity to provide additional context, ask questions, or elaborate on your feedback.

Stay informed

After the consultation closes, WM will review all submissions and consider your feedback throughout the decision-making process. A summary of consultation findings and our decision on how to proceed will be shared via our website and social media.

We value tangata whenua and community's participation in this important consultation on Auckland's waste-management future. Your feedback will help us make the right decision.

WM looks forward to hearing from you.

How to share your views

Consultation timeline and locations you can hear about the challenge

Public consultation and submissions open

Monday 17 March 2025
9am

Consultation with iwi: ongoing

South & East Auckland Community Consultation Session

Tuesday, 25 March 2025
5.30pm – 6.30pm

WM New Zealand Auckland HQ, 318 East Tāmaki Road

North Auckland Community Consultation Session

Thursday, 27 March 2025
6pm – 7pm

Glenfield Community Centre, Corner of Bentley Avenue and, Glenfield Road (next to Glenfield library).

Dairy Flat Community Consultation Session

Thursday, 27 March 2025
6pm – 7pm

Dairy Flat Community Hall, Corner of Postman Road and SH17, Dairy Flat.

West Auckland Community Consultation Session

Tuesday, 1 April 2025
6pm – 7pm

Hub West, 27 Corban Avenue, Henderson

Online Community Consultation Session

Wednesday, 2 April 2025
11am – 12pm

View www.wm.nz/consultation for online meeting link

Online Community Consultation Session

Wednesday, 9 April 2025
4pm – 5pm

View www.wm.nz/consultation for online meeting link

Public consultation and submissions close

Sunday, 11 May 2025
5pm

Hearing of oral submissions

Friday, 16 May 2025

10am – 12pm

WM New Zealand reviews all submissions

12 – 30 May 2025

Findings released

Monday, 2 June 2025

Next stage of evaluation

June 2025

Consultation with iwi: ongoing

Why can't we send waste offshore?

Exporting waste to other countries is not a viable option. Many countries, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, have implemented strict bans or limitations on waste imports due to environmental and ethical concerns. Also, shipping waste overseas creates significant greenhouse gas emissions, making it an unsustainable and costly practice.

Why can't we burn the waste?

Incineration, or waste-to-energy technology, is not widely established in New Zealand and comes with significant challenges. Burning waste, such as plastics can release harmful emissions if not carefully managed, and the facilities require substantial investment and time to design, consent, and construct. Also, this method often conflicts with New Zealand's commitment to reducing emissions and minimising waste.

Why can't we just recycle all of our waste?

While recycling is critical to reducing landfill waste, it cannot handle all waste streams. Many materials, such as contaminated soils, asbestos, and some plastics, are not recyclable and must be disposed of in landfills. Improving recycling rates remains a priority for Auckland and NZ, but it is not a complete solution to Auckland's current waste management needs.

Why can't all the waste go to other landfills like Hampton Downs?

Hampton Downs Landfill has capacity, but redirecting all of Auckland's waste there would significantly shorten its lifespan and create new challenges including the necessity to vary the consent to accept more waste. Increased waste volumes could strain the local infrastructure, impact nearby communities, and lead to higher trucking costs, congestion and emissions due to the longer travel distances. Spreading Auckland's waste disposal across multiple sites reduces these risks.

Why can't we simply stop producing so much waste?

Reducing waste generation is a shared responsibility that requires significant individual and systemic changes, including better product design, increased recycling efforts, and stronger waste reduction policies. While long-term strategies aim to reduce waste, Auckland still needs immediate solutions to manage current waste volumes sustainably between 2029 and 2036.

Useful resources

Auckland's Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) 2024

www.akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan-2024-2030

Auckland's Journey Towards Zero Waste

www.wastenothing.co.nz/

About WM New Zealand

www.wm.nz/about/

About Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL)

www.wm.nz/my-region/auckland/auckland-regional-landfill/

Aotearoa New Zealand Waste Strategy

By 2050, Aotearoa New Zealand is a low-emissions, low-waste society built upon a circular economy.

www.environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/waste/aotearoa-new-zealand-waste-strategy/

Auckland's Waste Assessment 2023

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/topic-based-plans-strategies/environmental-plans-strategies/docswastemanagementplan/waste-assessment-2023.pdf

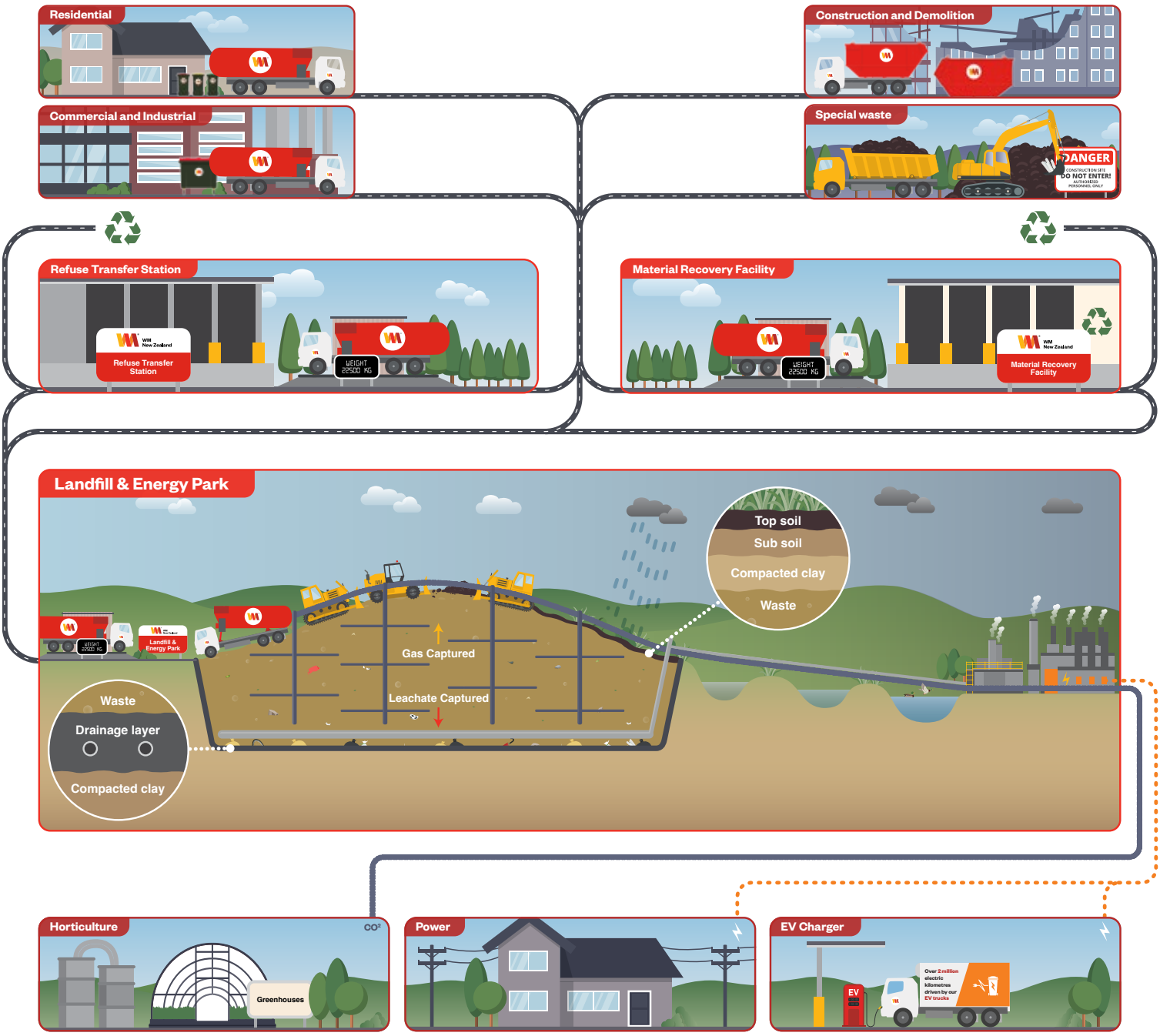
Where does your waste go?

To help you better understand Auckland's residual waste challenge, included are facts about the waste we produce - where it goes, projected volumes and the landfill network currently supporting the region.

The waste management process

Waste is collected from businesses, houses and construction sites. It travels to processing facilities for composting, anaerobic digestion, recycling or landfill disposal. Recycling can travel to local and off shore manufacturers for reuse.

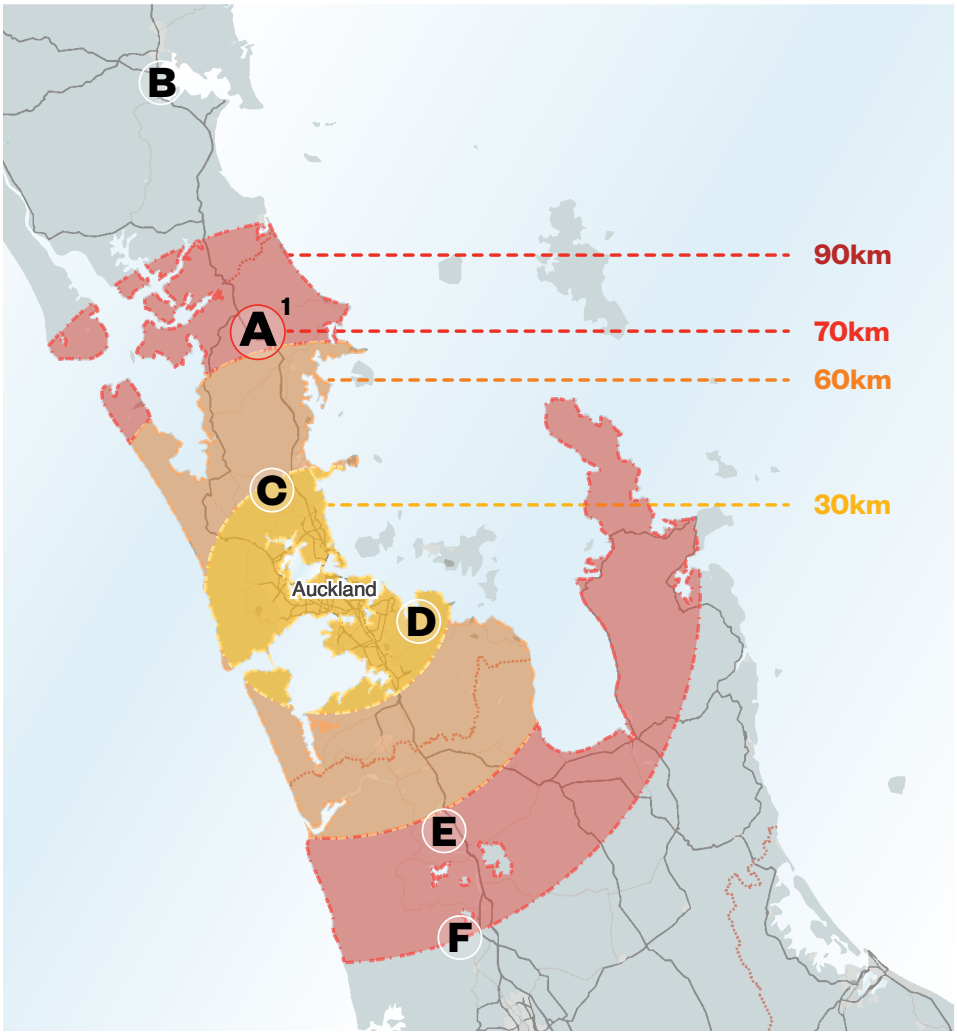
In landfills, organics decompose, creating leachate and gas. We treat the leachate and convert the gas into electricity that powers homes, businesses and our EV truck fleet. We also channel carbon and heat to greenhouses, ensuring we recover as much energy as possible.



Auckland's regional landfill network

Each year, Auckland sends more than 1.5 million tonnes of rubbish to landfill, and that number is going to rise as our city grows.

The Auckland region currently relies on five operating landfill facilities for waste disposal – Redvale Landfill & Energy Park, Whitford Landfill & Energy Park, Hampton Downs Landfill & Energy Park and Huntly Landfill in the Waikato and, to a lesser extent, Northland Regional Landfill near Whangārei.



A **Auckland Regional Landfill**[1]
Run by WM New Zealand

B **Northland Regional Landfill**
Run by Northland Waste

- 50% Whangārei District Council owned
- 50% Northland Waste owned
- 2038 Consent expiry
- General waste

C **Redvale Landfill & Energy Park**
Run by WM New Zealand

- 100% WM New Zealand owned
- 2028 Consent expiry
- General waste and construction waste

D **Whitford Landfill & Energy Park**
Run by WM New Zealand

- 50% Auckland Council owned
- 50% WM New Zealand owned
- 2041 Consent expiry
- General waste and construction waste

E **Hampton Downs Landfill & Energy Park**
Run by EnviroNZ

- 100% EnviroNZ owned
- 2030 Consent expiry
- General waste and construction waste

F **Huntly Landfill**
Run by Green Gorilla

- 100% Kalista owned
- 2036 Consent expiry
- Construction waste only

1: Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL) is proposed as a future facility in Wayby Valley, Auckland.

Limited lifespan

Long term, these landfills have a limited lifespan and will not accommodate Auckland's waste management needs into the future.

For Auckland to keep functioning sustainably as a city, a new modern landfill is needed – one that is safe for people, communities and the environment.

Where does your waste go?

A long-term solution for Auckland's waste

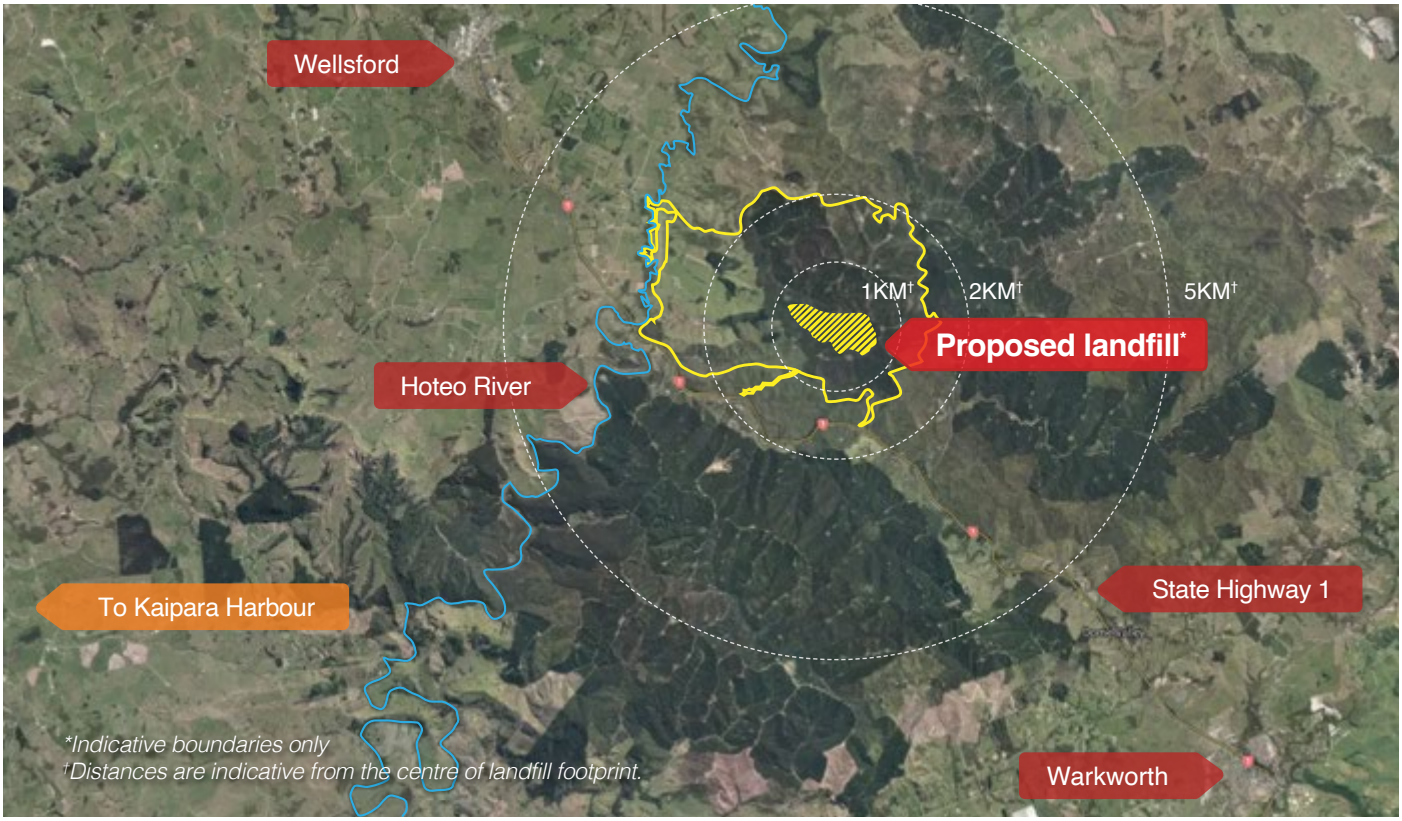
WM ran an extensive process to locate a new site for Auckland's next regional landfill, assessing more than 75 different areas for cultural considerations, minimising disruption for local residents, transport links and environmental impact.

After a lengthy process spanning more than 10 years, WM identified a site at Wayby Valley, approximately 70km from Auckland's central business district, as the best available location for the new Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL).

If resource consents are ultimately granted by the Environment Court, WM will develop 1,000 hectares at Wayby Valley, of which only 60 hectares will be used for landfill. The remainder will be developed into housing for Ngāti Manuhiri, regenerated into wetlands, planted with native trees and areas will be open to the public for walking and cycling.

After completion of landfilling and a long period of aftercare, the entire landholding will be transferred to Ngāti Manuhiri. WM is working in partnership with Ngāti Manuhiri as kaitiaki (guardians) and will continue to work with other tangata whenua who have strong interests in the Hōteo Awa (river) and the Kaipara Moana (harbour).

Site location



Key site information

- 1000 hectares of WM New Zealand land, landfill footprint of 60 hectares, 0.64 hectares of operating area on any working day
- 3.5km stream distance from the Hoteo River
- 35km stream distance from the Kaipara Harbour
- 5km from Dome Valley
- 29km of riparian planting
- 121 hectares of new native trees
- 900 hectares of pest control on WM New Zealand and DOC land

Submission form
Auckland's Waste Management Future

WM New Zealand

Contact details

First name:

Last name:

Name of organisation (if applicable):

Email:

Address (optional):

Phone number (optional):

Hearing of submissions

Would you like to talk to your feedback and submission at a WM hearing? By selecting the option to talk to your submission, you agree to be contacted by the WM team to arrange a time to present your views.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, please specify:

- ◯ In-person
- ◯ Virtually

Do you require a sign language interpreter:

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Preferred option

Please tick below to show your preferred option:

- ◯ Option 1: **Rebalancing Existing Landfills**
- ◯ Option 2: **Identify a New Landfill**
- ◯ Option 3: **Alternative Technologies**
- ◯ Option 4: **Auckland Recovers More (Waste Minimisation)**

Please explain why you prefer this option:

Additional comments, is there anything else you would add?

Consent to use feedback:

By submitting this form, you consent to your feedback being used as part of WM's public consultation process. Your personal details will remain confidential.

You can send your submission via post, email or through our online submission form here: www.wm.nz/consultation


WM New Zealand
Let’s take care of it
wm.nz
0800 10 10 10
Redvale Landfill & Energy Park