
CLOSED LANDFILLS POLICY 2003

Introduction

There are thirty-two known closed landfill sites within Wellington City, of which Wellington City Council owns twenty-five. The Council has a number of roles in relation to these closed landfills:

- as a landowner;
- as a regulator under the RMA and other relevant legislation;
- as an information provider under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987;
- as a utility operator – water, drainage;
- as an investor in environmental outcomes – e.g. water quality, riparian management.

Wellington City Council needs to manage the risks to the environment, to the community and to individuals of the potential adverse effects of Closed landfills.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) places on Council a general duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment, including people and communities arising from an activity carried out by or on behalf of Council. However, the legislative framework, which governs roles and responsibilities of both local government and owners for contaminated sites, is unclear. The Ministry for the Environment has issued a number of discussion documents on those roles and responsibilities but to date no legislation has been proposed and no policy position has been reached.

This document sets out a framework for the management of Wellington City Council's Closed landfills.

It is divided into four parts:

