



AIDE MEMOIRE

Information on Auckland Regional Landfill consenting progress

Date:	1 May 2026	Priority:	Urgent
Security classification:	IN-CONFIDENCE	Tracking number:	26-BRF-01137

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Infrastructure

Action for Minister's Office staff

Acknowledge receipt of this advice to fareferrals@mfe.govt.nz and advice@mfe.govt.nz

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Stephanie Frame	Acting General Manager	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Max Gander-Cooper	Author	s 9(2)(a)	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Noted

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ Needs change

☐ Withdrawn

☐ Seen

☐ See Minister's Notes

Minister's Comments

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this aide-memoire is to provide you with an update of the consenting status of the proposed Auckland Regional Landfill in Dome Valley, Auckland and its expected commencement date.



Stephanie Frame
Acting General Manager - Investment Strategy and Operations
Partnerships, Investments and Enablement
Ministry for the Environment

1 / 5 / 2026

Analysis

Background

1. On 24 April 2026 you agreed to refer the Redvale Landfill Expansion project from Waste Management New Zealand (WMNZ) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act), in part because it was considered necessary for the Redvale landfill to continue to operate after 2028, due to uncertainty regarding the timing of when the replacement Auckland Regional Landfill (ARL) at Dome Valley could become operational.
2. You have requested advice on the current status of the consents for the ARL under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), including the status of any appeals.
3. The current resource consents for the Redvale Landfill require it to cease accepting waste in 2028. Our expected timeline for the earliest ARL could commence receiving waste would be 2031 or 2032, which may be longer if additional appeals are filed.

Auckland Regional Landfill at Dome Valley

Consenting history

4. WMNZ sought two approvals under the RMA to enable the ARL. A resource consent application with for a new landfill in Dome Valley was lodged in May 2019 and a private plan change request to establish a landfill precinct over the site was submitted in July 2019.
5. A hearing for the resource consent application occurred from November 2020 to January 2021, and approval was granted in June 2021. Eight appeals against that decision were filed with the Environment Court, from:
 - a. Manuhiri Kaitiaki Charitable Trust
 - b. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
 - c. Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust
 - d. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Environs Holdings Limited
 - e. Director General of Conservation (DoC)
 - f. Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated
 - g. Fight the Tip: Tiaki Te Whenua Incorporated
 - h. The New Zealand Refining Company Limited.
6. The plan change application was declined by Auckland Council in September 2021.
7. The Environment Court issued an interim decision on the resource consent application in December 2023 which did not decline nor grant the landfill consent application, but stated:
 - a. [932] The Court concludes that a modified application, conditions and Management Plans could meet the purpose of the Act, and the relevant matters under s 104. We would need to see amendments to the proposal, conditions and management plans sufficient to satisfy us that the consent can be granted.

8. Two appeals were filed against the Environment Court's interim decision (by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua (Ngāti Whātua) and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest and Bird). In December 2024 the High Court dismissed these appeals.
9. In March 2025 Forest and Bird applied for leave to appeal the High Court's decision, and in March 2026 leave was granted (in part) to appeal the High Court's decision to the Court of Appeal. No information is publicly available to demonstrate an appeal has yet been filed, but an appeal may have been filed and not yet made public.

Process from here

10. The Environment Court will wait until any Court of Appeals process is resolved before completing its final merits decision in accordance with the appellate guidance. It is possible the Environment Court may allow limited further evidence or reconvene on specific issues only. The Environment Court will issue a final decision, granting, declining or granting with conditions. There is no fixed deadline for the Environment Court to make its final decision any possible timeframes are speculative. It could be 3 to 6 months from the appeal decision if the record is largely complete or it could be 6 to 12 months (or potentially longer) if additional evidence or hearings are required. An appeal to the High Court on questions of law remains available under s 299 RMA.
11. Noting that any discussion of timeframes is speculative, even if an appeal were not lodged with the Court of Appeal, and the applicant provides sufficient information to satisfy the Environment Court, WMNZ may obtain final approval within the next 12 months.
12. WMNZ estimate that the ARL will be able to start receiving waste approximately five years after obtaining approvals, due to the necessary works required to establish the landfill. Based on our assumptions, even if an appeal is not filed at the Court of Appeals, the ARL could be ready to replace the Redvale Landfill by approximately 2031 or 2032.
13. The current resource consents for the Redvale Landfill require it to cease accepting waste in 2028. Our expected timeline for the ARL would leave north Auckland with a landfill capacity shortfall for four years without an extension to the Redvale Landfill.
14. We note that the timeframe from lodgement to initial approval for the ARL was approximately two years prior to appeals. While WMNZ could seek approvals to extend the Redvale Landfill under the RMA, a similar timeframe may apply, and given the community interest there may be a risk of appeals if an approval were granted.
15. These observations also assume that there are no alternative viable landfill options in Auckland, for example operated by other commercial players in the waste management market. Additionally, the potential development of new cleanfill or demolition waste facilities in the region may have the effect of reducing waste into Redvale Landfill. This has the potential to extend its ability to take more domestic waste up until December 2028, but this will not affect its consented operating period.

s 9(2)(h)

s 9(2)(h)

Next steps

21. WMNZ are now able to lodge a substantive application for the Redvale Landfill Expansion project with the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration by an expert panel. A panel will seek comments from the Minister for the Environment, Auckland Council, adjacent landowners, and the Rodney Local Board (at your direction). A panel can also invite comments from any other parties it considers relevant, which may include you as the Minister for Infrastructure.
22. You have no further decision-making role in relation to the Redvale Landfill Expansion project or the ARL.

¹ [2004] 3 NZLR 173 (CA)