

Section 1

Introduction

PREAMBLE

This section introduces the proposal by Bogan Shire Council to extend the existing Nyngan Waste and Resource Management Facility located approximately 5km north of Nyngan in Western NSW. The Proposal is to extend the landfilling operations approximately 190m to the northeast of the existing facility, thereby increasing the combined landfilling operational area to approximately 10.2ha and the life by approximately 16 years.

This section includes:

- *an outline of the scope and format of the document;*
- *details of the Applicant, Bogan Shire Council;*
- *relevant background to the Proposal;*
- *a discussion on the proposed approach towards environmental management and documentation; and*
- *identification of the personnel involved in the design, document preparation and specialist consultant investigations.*

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1.1 SCOPE

This *Environmental Impact Statement* has been prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Limited on behalf of Bogan Shire Council ('the Applicant') to support an application for development consent to extend the existing Nyngan Waste and Resource Management Facility ('the Proposal') located approximately 5km north of Nyngan in Western NSW (**Figure 1.1**).

The Proposal is to extend the landfilling operations approximately 190m to the northeast of the existing facility, thereby increasing the landfilling operational area to approximately 10.2ha and the life by approximately 16 years. The facility would continue to manage the following classes of waste.¹

- General solid waste (putrescible) – e.g. household and food waste, manure, animal waste, waste from sewage treatment plants, etc.;
- General solid waste (non-putrescible) including recyclable materials – e.g. glass, plastics, waste oil, rubber, paper/cardboard, garden and wood wastes, virgin excavated natural material; and
- Special waste – e.g. clinical, asbestos and waste tyres.

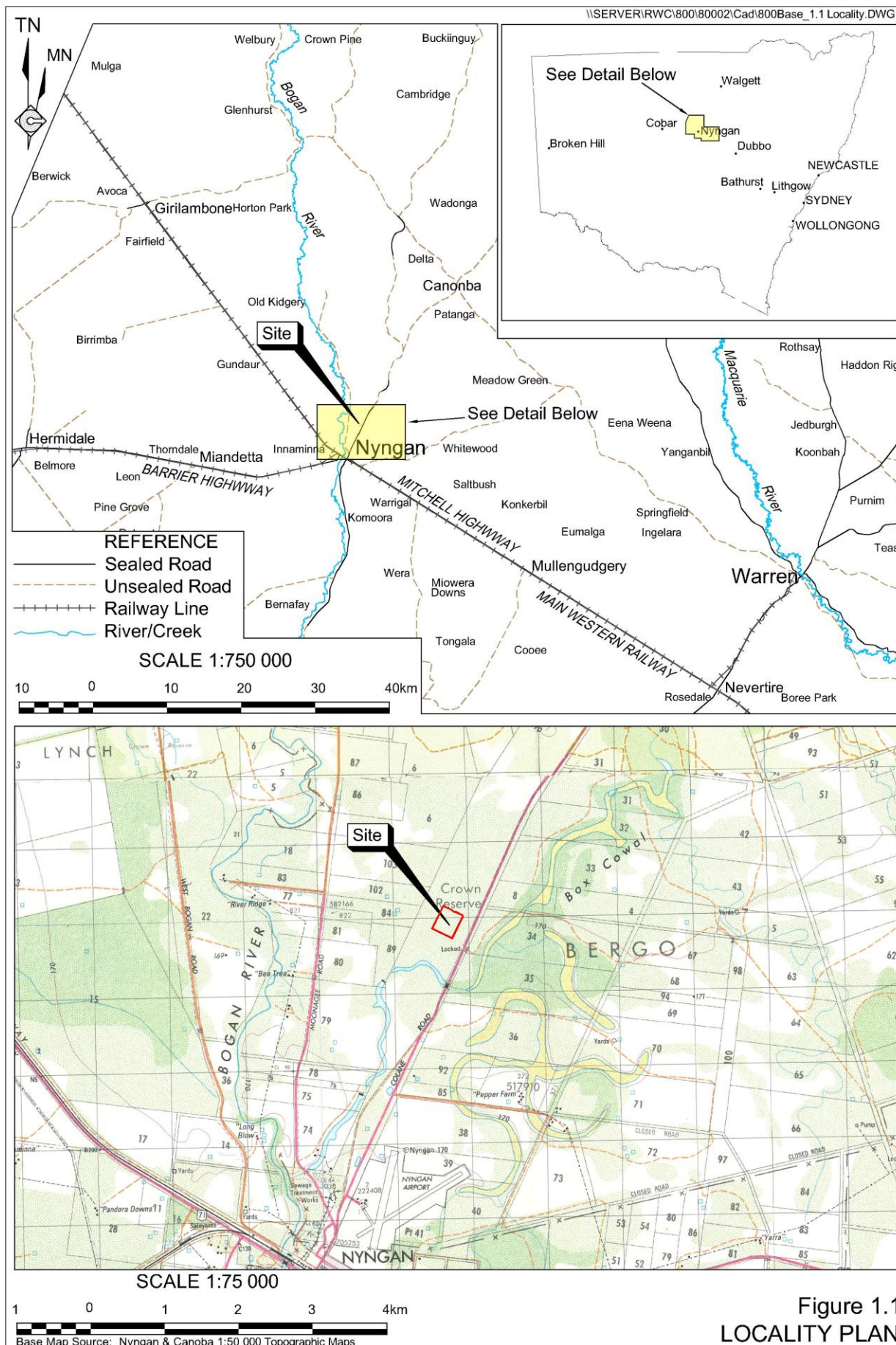
The Site is zoned RU1 under the *Bogan Local Environmental Plan 2011 (Bogan LEP)*. Development for the purpose of waste management facilities may be carried with consent under Clauses 120 and 121 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (SEPP Infrastructure)*. As a result, Development Consent under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* will be required.

In addition, the Proposal may be classified as “designated development” in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 3(1), Clause 32 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (EP&A Reg)* because the waste management facility would dispose of solid waste that comprises substance classified in the *Australian Dangerous Goods Code* (Commonwealth of Australia, 2007), and more than 200 tonnes per year of other waste material.

As a result and in accordance with the requirements of Clause 8(c), Schedule 4A of the EP&A Act, the Proposal is also classified as Regional Development, with the Joint Regional Planning Panel (Western) to be the determining authority. Bogan Shire Council will be required to assist the Panel through administration of the application and preparation of the relevant assessment report.

The Proposal may also be classified as “integrated development” under Section 91 of the EP&A Act because an Environment Protection Licence under Section 43(b), 48 and 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* would be required.

¹ Waste classification in accordance with *Waste Classification Guidelines, Part 1: Classifying Waste*, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, December 2009. A copy of the application for development consent is presented as **Appendix 1**.



This document:

- describes the Proposal;
- identifies key environmental issues that could be associated with the design and operation of the facility;
- describes the existing environment;
- provides information on the mitigation measures and management controls the Applicant would adopt to avoid or reduce potential impacts of the Proposal on the surrounding environment;
- assesses the impacts and presents the results in accordance with the requirements of Part 4 of the *EP&A Act* and *EIS Guideline: Landfilling* published by the Department of Planning in 1996; and
- describes residual impact(s) and outlines proposed monitoring to assess the ongoing performance of the Proposal.

1.2 THE APPLICANT

The Applicant for the Proposal is Bogan Shire Council. The Applicant provides services for approximately 3 000 residents and visitors within the Bogan Local Government Area (LGA). These services include roads, waste management, sporting and recreational facilities.

The Applicant operates the existing Nyngan Waste and Resource Manage Facility (existing facility) which is described in detail in Section 1.3.2. The day-to-day management of the facility is managed by Council.

1.3 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING OPERATIONS

1.3.1 Background Information

The existing waste facility was established immediately following the floods of April 1990 which inundated the previous waste facility. In light of the urgent need to establish a waste facility on land that was not flood-prone, the Applicant, with the concurrence of relevant government agencies at the time, identified and established the facility without all relevant approvals or licences. Since establishment, the Applicant has continued to operate the facility for the benefit of the local community. However, in recognition of the limited remaining capacity of the existing facility and the fact that continued operation of the facility without relevant approvals and licences would be viewed by the community as inappropriate, the Applicant has commenced preparation of this application for development consent.

1.3.2 Existing Waste Facility Components

The existing waste facility comprises the following components.

- One active landfill cell (**Plate 1.1**) and two filled and capped cells (**Plate 1.2**).
- An equipment shed (**Plate 1.3**).
- A waste oil receival area (**Plate 1.4**).
- A 1.8m high perimeter fence with lockable gate.

1.3.3 Existing Waste Facility Description

Landfilling activities within the existing facility have been confined to three adjacent cells as indicated in **Figure 1.2**. Each landfill cell is approximately 100m long by 70m wide and 5m deep. The easternmost two cells have been completed and capped, while the westernmost cell is currently active.

Each cell was excavated using a bulldozer, front-end loader or excavator to a depth of between 5m and 6m below surface. Soil material was stockpiled adjacent to the excavated cell. There has been no separation of topsoil, subsoil and underlying clay and the resulting stockpile varies between 2m and 3m high. The remaining extracted material is stockpiled within the facility and is used during compaction operations and final capping of the cell.

Waste to be landfilled within the active cell is delivered directly from a garbage truck, trade waste trucks or by the public to the active cell. A front-end loader or bulldozer is used to push waste materials into the appropriate area of the cell and the deposited material is compacted using a roller compactor. Previously stockpiled clay material is used to cover waste material during and following compaction operations.

Once each cell or section of each cell is complete, approximately 600mm of previously stockpiled clay material is used to cap the cell.

Access to the facility is via an unsealed site access road and the site is currently unmanned and accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

1.3.4 Waste Materials Accepted

The existing facility accepts wastes generated within the township of Bogan LGA, including residential, commercial and industrial waste. Classes of waste accepted include the following.

- General waste including domestic, commercial and industrial putrescible and non-putrescible wastes.
- Waste oils.
- Dead animals.
- Household items including refrigerators, stoves and microwave ovens, etc.
- Green waste.



Plate 1.1: Active landfill cell
(Ref: E800A/022)

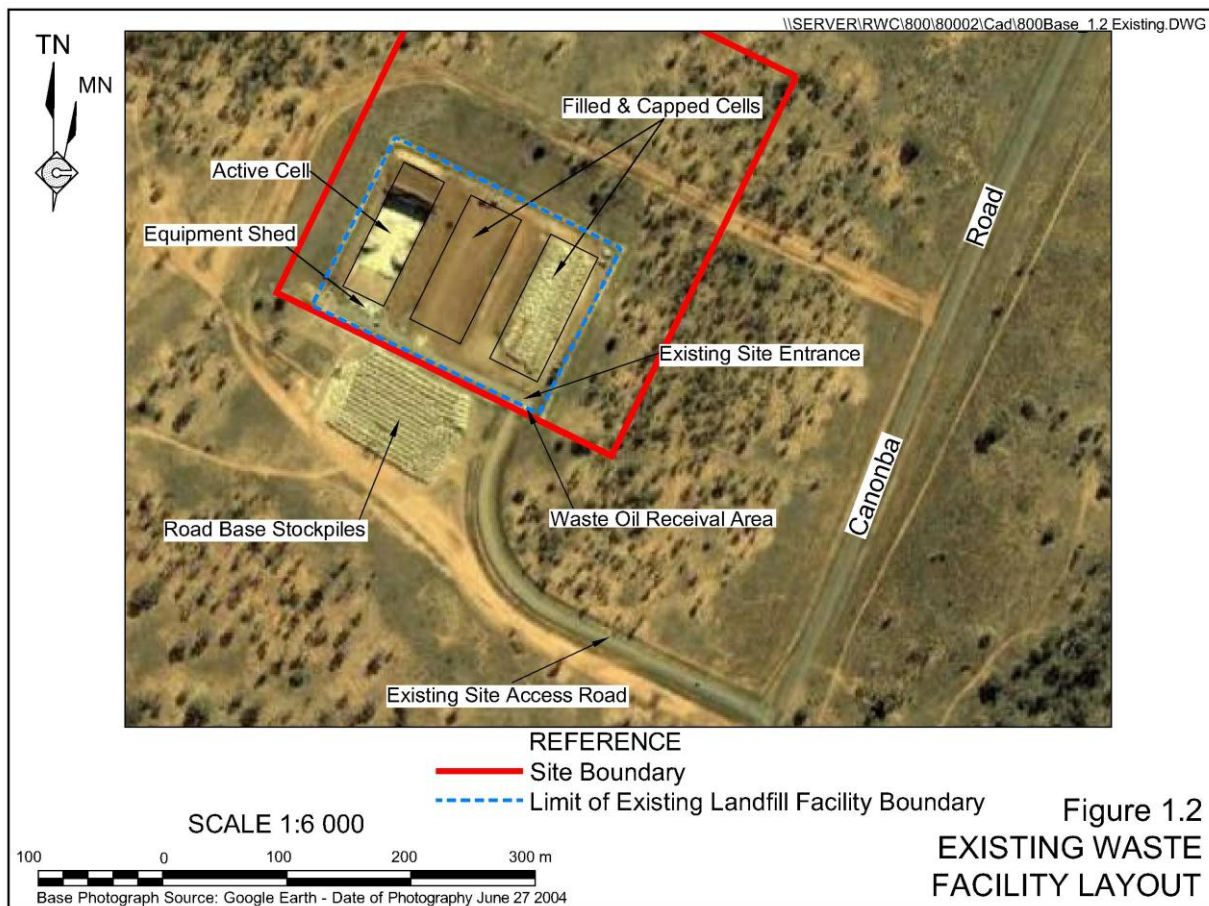
Plate 1.2: Filled and capped landfill cell
(Ref: E800A/019)



Plate 1.3: Existing equipment shed
(Ref: E800A/017)

Plate 1.4: Waste oil receival area
(Ref: E800A/028)





- Used tyres.
- Industrial waste (excluding heavy machinery).
- Special waste (clinical, asbestos-contaminated and other contaminated wastes).
- Scrap metal and vehicles.

It is noted that there are currently no kerbside recycling facilities within the Bogan Shire and as a result of the existing facility being unmanned, there is limited control over the classes of waste accepted.

1.3.6 Sources of Waste Materials

Almost all waste generated within Bogan LGA is disposed of within the existing waste facility. It is noted that the facility is not a manned facility and that material is delivered by Council-operated vehicles, contractors engaged by both the Applicant and the community and the general public. Typically, however, material is derived from the following sources.

- Domestic waste collected as part of Council's kerbside collection service.
- Trade waste and inert building and demolition waste from skip bins and trucks.
- Industrial and demolition waste delivered to the facility by designated operators.

- Clinical waste from Nyngan Hospital and medical centres delivered to the facility via authorised contractors.
- Waste oil delivered to the facility by local businesses and the public.
- Waste generated on Council properties, land and common areas that are managed by Council.

1.3.7 Quantities of Waste Materials

Quantities of waste delivered to the existing facility from Councils kerbside collection service between March 2011 and April 2012 totalled approximately 867t. Additional waste is delivered to the facility by the public and businesses within the Bogan LGA. As the site is not manned, the quantities of non-kerbside waste are not recorded.

The kerbside collection service within the Bogan LGA also collected 105t of recyclables between September 2011 and May 2012. This was delivered to a Gilgandra sorting yard.

1.4 THE NEED FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Applicant estimates that the existing waste management facility has sufficient capacity for continued operations until March 2013. At the end of that period the Applicant will require new landfill cells to be constructed and become operational.

Extending the landfill operations would allow the Applicant to continue to manage waste material within the Bogan LGA in a socially-responsible manner.

1.5 DOCUMENT FORMAT

The *Environmental Impact Statement* has been structured to address the specific environmental assessment requirements nominated by the Director-General of the Department of Planning (the Director-General's requirements – **Appendix 2**). The *Environmental Impact Statement* has been compiled in a single volume which includes eight sections of text, including a reference section and glossary, and a set of appendices.

The format of the *Environmental Impact Statement* has been structured as follows.

Section 1: introduces the Proposal, the Applicant and relevant background information about the Proposal. Information on the approvals process is also provided together with information on the proposed ongoing documentation, responsibilities for environmental management and management of investigations for the *Environmental Impact Statement*.

Section 2: provides a description of the Proposal commencing with a description of the existing facility, waste sources and classification, site layout and establishment, recycling and re-processing activities, and employment and infrastructure. Information on rehabilitation is also included.

- Section 3:** provides a summary of the consultation undertaken with the local community and relevant government agencies, identifies relevant State legislative and statutory requirements, summarises and prioritises key environmental aspects and issues for assessment and provides an environmental risk analysis of these issues prior to the implementation of mitigation measures.
- Section 4:** presents a description of the existing environment, proposed management and mitigation measures, and assesses the potential impacts and maintenance /monitoring requirements for the key issues identified in Section 3.
- Section 5:** evaluates and justifies the Proposal in terms of biophysical, economic and social considerations, and the goals and guidelines of Ecologically Sustainable Development. A conclusion regarding the overall assessment of the Proposal completes this section.
- Section 6:** presents a Reference list for the various source documents referred to for information and data used during the preparation of the *Environmental Impact Statement*.
- Section 7:** presents a Glossary of Technical Terms, Acronyms, Symbols and Units explaining the technical terms, acronyms, symbols and units used throughout the *Environmental Impact Statement*.
- Appendices:** present the following additional information.
- i) A copy of the Applicant's Application for development consent.
 - ii) The Director-General's Requirements and Coverage of Government Agency Requirements.
 - iii) A summary of how the Environmental Guidelines: Solid Waste Landfills Benchmark Techniques have been addressed by the Proposal.
 - iv) Geotechnical Investigations.
 - v) Groundwater Assessments.
 - vi) Ecological Assessment.
 - vii) Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.

The *Environmental Impact Statement* has been prepared with the input of three specialist consultancies. Their assessments have been included as appendices, and the contents of the four stand-alone reports are summarised into the appropriate section(s) of the *Environmental Impact Statement*.

1.6 MANAGEMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS

This document was prepared by Ms Christy Hill (BEnvMan, Grad Dip Design of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas), Senior Environmental Consultant with R.W. Corkery & Co Pty. Limited and Mr Mitchell Bland (B.Sc. (Hons), M Econ Geol, LLB (Hons)), Principal Environmental Consultant with the same Company.

Professional staff of the Applicant assisted with the preparation of this document including, but not limited to:

- Mr Dean Woods (B.Env.Sc (land & water), Grad.Cert.Bus) – Environmental Health and Building Inspector;
Mr Woods has provided descriptions of the existing and proposed facility and has provided technical advice and input relating to the waste management and processing methods.
- Mr Tim Riley (Grad. Cert. Public Sector Management, Assoc. Dip. Health and Building).

Mr Riley has provided high level advice in relation to the existing and proposed facility.

Finally, the following consultancy firms were commissioned by the Applicant to prepare nominated specialist consultant studies for the Proposal.

- Terrestrial Ecology- OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management.
 - Phillip Cameron (BSc, Ass Dip App Sci, Member NSWCA).
 - Heidi Kolkert (B. A., BSc (Hons)).
- Geotechnical Investigations - Macquarie Geotech.
 - Karl Addison (BSc (Hons) Environmental Management).
 - Jason P Lewis (B.E. (Civil) MIE Aust CP Eng).
- Groundwater Monitoring – The Impax Group.
 - Brendan Allen (B.Sc.).
- Aboriginal Heritage- OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management.
 - Nick Harrop (B.A. (Hons)).
 - Jodie Benton (PhD. University of Sydney).

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