



Factsheets for Estimates 2019/2020

Contaminated land

This is part of a series of fact sheets prepared for the Environment Committee's 2019/20 Estimates examination of Vote Environment.

The Ministry's involvement with contaminated land

Legislation and guidance

The Ministry administers the National Environment Standard on Contaminants in Soil, a nationally consistent set of planning controls and soil contaminant values. The Standard ensures that contaminated land is appropriately identified and assessed before it is developed, and where necessary remediated to make it safe for human use.

There are at least 20,000 sites in New Zealand on council registers that have been used for hazardous activities or industries that may cause contamination.

The Ministry has developed the Contaminated Land Management Guidelines to enable contaminated land to be assessed and managed consistently throughout the country. Some of these guidelines are currently under review, following consultation, to ensure that councils have the most current and relevant material to assist them.

Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) provides annual contestable funding (\$2.63 million) to local authorities for the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites that pose a risk to human health and the environment.

The Ministry maintains the CSRF priority list to assist with funding decisions. The CSRF priority list identifies the top 10 sites posing a significant risk to health and the environment, which are also eligible for CSRF funding. The list is updated on a bi-annual basis.

During the 2018/19 financial year, funding was awarded from the CSRF to the following five projects:

Regional council	Site	Phase	Funding
Canterbury	Electroplaters, Timaru	Remedial Planning	\$212,000

Southland	Landfill investigation Bluff	Investigation	\$50,000
Canterbury	Landfill Christchurch	Remediation	\$1,015,350
Bay of Plenty	Kopeopeo Canal Whakatane	Remediation	\$1,034,882
Wellington	Gasworks Wellington	Investigation	\$66,618
TOTAL			\$2,378,850

Fox landfill

- On 26 and 27 March 2019, a significant rain event in the Fox River catchment caused the Fox River to erode an unknown volume of the closed Fox Landfill, discharging its contents along 21 km of riverbed and banks downstream, and along 51 km of coastline.
- The Ministry has committed to provide financial support of \$100,000 to support the rubbish and river clean-up from the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund to Westland District Council (WDC), as part of a broader Government funding package of \$400,000 to help recovery.
- Under the Resource Management Act 1991, management of landfills is the responsibility of councils. The Fox River landfill is a council landfill on council owned land
- WDC, with assistance from central government agencies (Maritime New Zealand and the Department of Conservation (DOC)), has coordinated the removal of landfill contents along the river and beaches. This exercise has involved the removal of waste materials, predominantly plastic, deposited on the riverbed and beaches.
- DOC has informed the Ministry that the coastal clean-up is now complete and the focus is now on the Fox River.

CSRF priority list

Currently the top 10 priority sites are:

- North Street, Timaru – former electroplating works
- Kopeopeo Canal, Whakatane due to historic dioxin run off from the sawmill
- Waikanae Stream, Gisborne due to a number of industrial and landfill sites in the catchment area
- Ocean Beach Landfill, Bluff due to contamination from landfill
- Onehunga Aquifer, Onehunga due to fertiliser contamination
- Miramar (Wellington) Gasworks due to contamination arising from historic gasworks
- Rotowaro Carbonisation plant in the Waikato following abandonment of the site

- Te Mome Stream, Lower Hutt due to contamination from a lead battery recycling plant
- Control Mine base, Rangitoto Island due to asbestos contamination following inappropriate demolition of buildings
- Premier Pine in Masterton due to contamination from timber treatment.

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