

|  |
| --- |
| Data Quality Statement |
|  |

## Summary information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Data asset name: | Victorian Landfill Register |
| Date: | 25 June 2018 |
| Data asset owner: | EPA Victoria, (Data custodian - Manager Field Specialists Unit) |
| Description of data asset: | The Victorian Landfill Register (VLR) was an EPA initiative to share information and data to help Victorians to make decisions about their health and the environment.Historically, landfilling has been the primary way of managing waste. Prior to EPA’s existence in the 1970’s, the Department of Health was responsible for documenting and managing landfill sites. The register is a publicly available dataset that aims to pull together records of known and confirmed landfill across the state, current and former. Attributes of these landfills, including type and volume of waste accepted, and the year of closure are included where available. |
| Legislation and authority: | The information was collected as part of EPA’s functions under the Environment Protection Act 1970 and more recently the Environment Protection Act 2017.  |
| **Scope and coverage:** | The VLR identifies the location and known attributes for landfills, both operating and closed, across the state of Victoria. It is intended to support appropriate investigations, assessments, and decision in relation to developments near a landfill. It brings together information from:* EPA landfill licences and post closure pollution abatement notices
* Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans
* Historic landfill records held by EPA, Victorian Department of Health, and Councils.

Records were assessed for confidence, those considered low confidence and not corroborated by other information sources were excluded. |
| **Reference period:** | The data was compiled between January 2015 and June 2018. Since June 2018, the data has been updated on an ad hoc basis when EPA has verified that a change is required. This is described further under the Timeliness/Currency section.  It includes historic records of landfills established from 1950 up to landfills that are currently operating.  |
| **Frequency and timing:** | Data is updated as required following review of proposed amendments to the data set. |
| **Formats available:** | The data is provided in CSV and file geodatabase format.Data shared by EPA to Victoria Unearthed will also be available for download via DataVic.  |
| **Other notes:** | Given the purpose of this register is to identify as many landfills as possible to inform land use decisions and to prompt further investigations, the data was not intended to be based on high confidence or detailed background searches. This was particularly necessary because the source records were often of very poor quality.  |

## Data quality description

### Accuracy

There is moderate accuracy for the VLR data. The highest quality data comes from EPA records of permissions and notices. Location, geospatial area, and landfill attributes are less accurate for non-statutory and historic records. For example, older records may only have a description of the location or a basic free drawn diagram of the location relative to roads. Accuracy of waste types accepted is low prior to the year 2000 when EPA began improving landfill waste acceptance with best practice guidance. Records for older landfills (1950-1980) were not supervised and deposits of waste that were inconsistent with the record.

Amendments to the register can be requested by external parties such as consultants and landowners to provide further evidence for assessment.

### Completeness

Records for older landfills (1950-1980) and landfills that were exempt from a permission may not have waste type information. Historic records often do not include any information to create a geospatial polygon. Some very old records do not include a valid address but a location description.

The landfill register relies on continual improvement through information provided by the public, landowners, and contaminated land consultants.

### Representative

The data set includes all data that has a moderate to high level of confidence or verified low confidence data. Older landfills typically have lower confidence and are more challenging to verify.

### Timeliness/Currency

This data is not expected to change rapidly over time. As a record of where landfills are and have been there are limited circumstances where this data will change. We have received some notification of proposed changes to correct the register or make it more complete. Notification may come from EPA staff, councils, environmental consultants, landowners, or the public. We consider the source, any documented records, and seek verification if required. Assessments and verification to change the register normally take between 2 and 6 weeks.

### Collection

This data is transcribed from other records for inclusion in the Victorian Landfill Register. Records that are EPA statutory documents and published waste and resource recovery implementation plans were assigned high confidence. Council records were deemed to be moderate confidence. Non-statutory EPA records (e.g., file notes and compiled landfill lists) were assessed as low confidence and need to be verified by a regional EPA Authorised Officer or council intelligence. A list of landfills was provided to local councils and the waste and resource recovery groups (WRRGs) for comment and assessment. The WRRGs were also required to complete regional plans that included closed landfills, at this stage the lists can be cross referenced and updated. The next state-wide plan is due in 2023.

### Consistency

We have maintained a consistent approach to capturing data. However, the level of geospatial information and data attributes are of various types, have difference formats, or use inconsistent terms. This is a result of drawing information from records with different sources and from different points in history.

### Fit for purpose

The data is suitable for its intended purpose: to identify the location of landfills and enable further investigations to inform land developments and planning decisions.

## Disclaimer

This data asset is provided “as is”, without warranty to the suitability of the data for unspecified use. The burden of assessment of fitness of the data lies completely upon the user.

Any information contained in the Victorian Landfill Register (VLR) is intended to be used only as a guide and should not be relied upon as being either complete or accurate. EPA does not verify the accuracy of all information contained in the VLR. Anyone with an interest in a particular piece of land, location, site, or property should make his or her own enquiries with relevant authorities.

EPA does not accept any responsibility for any claims, loss or damage of any kind whatsoever arising out of any person’s reliance on any information that is either:

* contained in or omitted from the VLR, or
* arises out of the inclusion or exclusion of any land, location, site, or property on the VLR.

## For further information

For further information regarding this data quality statement please contact Manager, Field Specialists Unit.

## Document control

## Version history

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Date | Comments |
| 0.1 | 23/11/2022 | Prepared at conclusion of the Victoria Unearthed Data Harmonisation Project. |
| 0.2 | 28/11/2022 | Revision |
| 1.0 | 26/06/2023 | Data Custodian approval |