

## Warrens Hill Landfill: Hinchinbrook Council to investigate \$3m failed remediation work

An issue at the Hinchinbrook Shire Council rubbish dump could end up costing taxpayers millions of dollars. Read the details.



**Cameron Bates** Photojournalist



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Not amused: Hinchinbrook Mayor Ramon Jayo says the shire council are investigating how a \$3 million remediation program at the Warrens Hill Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre has failed. Picture: Cameron Bates

A slump at the Hinchinbrook Shire Council rubbish dump could end up costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

Mayor Ramon Jayo said on Monday that the council had launched an investigation into how costly \$3m remediation works at the oldest part of Warrens Hill Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre had failed.

“At the moment I am desperately trying to get staff to come up with a solution as to how we are going to fix it,” he said.

“We’ve been told that it’s going to cost another \$3m to actually fix the problem that has occurred.

“As a small community with a limited rate base, we just can’t afford that sort of expenditure, to waste that sort of expenditure on a job that has failed.”

The slippage is evident all along the top of the project with a larger localised slump half-way down the steep embankment.

The council have been engaged in a capping program at the dump for the past two years.

Cr Jayo said once waste piles had reached their used-by date, they were compacted and covered with a bituminous geomembrane (BGM) liner to stop water penetration and potential leaching.

He said the liner was then covered with an additional layer of clay and planted with grass, “to assist with the rehabilitation of the area, and assist with any erosion.”



The costly works at the oldest part of the dump, pictured, have slumped at the top of the capping program. Picture: Cameron Bates

Cr Jayo said the project involving the capping of the dump's oldest cell had begun slipping just before Christmas.

He said the project was thoroughly designed and engineered to meet the stringent government regulations.

"It's an engineered design solution, the construction was undertaken in-house by council staff with the assistance of local contractors for the purpose of keeping all the work local," he said.

"It was done under engineered supervision to the plans ... councillors were advised by the CEO that the quality assurance throughout the whole stage of the process has been meticulously followed."

The mayor reiterated that the council was investigating "why it has failed and how it has failed so that we can address how we are going to fix it and how we are going to pay for it".

"We are looking desperately at why this has failed because we followed – meticulously – the engineering designs," he said.

"It's been tested at every step of the way to ensure that it is being done properly and yet we have this failure –I want to know why it has failed."