

104 Market Street Wollongong NSW 2500 Australia

CRINGILA PUBLIC SCHOOL MONTHLY SUBSURFACE GAS MONITORING REPORT – MAY 2019

> May 2019 J153825-02

NSW Department of Education
Cringila Public School

35 Sheffield Street Cringila NSW 2502

C107826:TO/RC

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# **Cringila PS Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report – May 2019**

# **NSW Department of Education**

## **Cringila Public School**

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings of the May 2019 monthly round of subsurface gas monitoring carried out at Cringila Public School, located at 35 Sheffield Street, Cringila NSW (refer **Figure 1** in **Appendix A** for site layout).

The works were undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The work forms part of an ongoing monitoring program prepared for the site in response to a Clean-Up Notice issued to the site (Notice No. 1557944, dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017). Works are undertaken in conjunction with weekly near-surface temperature monitoring and ambient air quality monitoring for the purpose of assessing subsurface gas risk associated with combusting coal fill processes identified within the north western hotspot area within the school grounds.

#### 2 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Daily meteorological data obtained from the Albion Park Weather (Wollongong Airport) (station 068241) was collected prior to and during the monitoring round to provide meteorological data and to assist in accounting for changes in gas concentrations between monitoring events.

The weather station is situated approximately 14km south of the site. **Table 1** below summarises the meteorological variation experienced in the vicinity of the site leading up to and during the monitoring event.

**Table 1: Weather Observations – Albion Park** (station 068241)

Temperature			Rainfall		Wind Pa	Barometric Pressure			
Date	9am 3pm		Kallilali	9am		<b>3</b> pı	m	9am	3pm
Date	°C	°C	mm	Direction Speed (km/hr)		Direction Speed (km/hr)		hPa	hPa
11/05/2019	16.9	19.2	0	WSW	31	SSE	17	1015.4	1018.3
12/05/2019	17.0	19.2	0.2	W	20	E	19	1027.0	1026.1
13/05/2019	15.6	21.3	0	NNW	Calm	NE	19	1029.6	1025.0
14/05/2019	19.5	19.7	0	SE	6	SE	20	1027.1	1026.2
15/05/2019	16.6	20.4	0	NE	Calm	NE	15	1030.7	1028.0
16/05/2019	16.3	20.9	0	WSW	2	E	13	1029.4	1025.7
17/05/2019	18.2	22.1	0	NW	Calm	ENE	17	1027.7	1024.9

The weather observations (as demonstrated in **Table 1** above) indicate the following:

- Temperatures during the week prior, and on the morning of monitoring were mild, and were observed to increase throughout the day;
- Little to no rainfall was observed during the week prior to the day of monitoring;
- High wind speeds (>10km/hr) were recorded consistently in the afternoons of the week prior to monitoring. Morning wind speeds were generally lower; and
- Barometric pressure was observed to fluctuate over the week prior to monitoring, peaking two (2) days prior to the day of monitoring.

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#### 3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Monitoring was carried out using a calibrated GA5000 Landfill Gas Meter (calibration certificates are provided in **Appendix B**).

#### 3.1 Subsurface Gas Wells

The monitoring ports of the GA5000 were fitted to the X-cap of each of the 9 (GG1 to GG9) subsurface monitoring wells. Subsurface gas and flow rate were recorded as well as concentrations of the following Hazardous Gases (refer to **Figure 2** of **Appendix A** for monitoring locations);

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) (%v/v): Maximum and stable concentrations;
- Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (%v/v): Maximum and stable concentrations;
- Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) (%v/v): Minimum and stable concentrations;
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) (ppm): Maximum concentration;
- Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) (ppm): Maximum concentration;
- Relative pressure (mbar);
- Atmospheric pressure (mbar);
- Balance (v/v%); and
- Flow rate (L/hr): stabilised concentration (within subsurface gas monitoring wells only).

#### 3.2 Service Pits

Service pits were assessed by inserting the GA5000 nozzle into the pits with the sampling tube inserted at least 30 cm below the cover grate for a minimum of 30 seconds. The locations of service pits monitored (P1 to P12) are presented in **Figure 2** of **Appendix A**.

#### 4 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

#### 4.1 Criteria for Ground Gases

Criteria for ground gases in gas monitoring wells is selected based on the threshold levels presented in *Solid Waste Landfills Guideline* (NSW EPA 2016) and presented below in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Threshold Levels for Hazardous Gases										
Analyte	Threshold level reference	Unit	Threshold Level	Comments						
CH <sub>4</sub>	NSW EPA 2016 <sup>(1)</sup>	% (volume/volume)	1.0	The threshold level for further investigation						
CO <sub>2</sub>	11317 2177 2010	75 (Volume)	1.5	and corrective action						

#### Note:

When the above-mentioned levels are exceeded, further characterisation of the obtained values through the calculation of Gas Screening Values (GSV) will be required. Both on-site and off-site risk associated with subsurface landfill gas is further characterised through the calculation of the GSV. Using both the total concentration and flow rate, the level of risk associated with any identified subsurface gas concentrations at

The threshold levels for further investigation and corrective action are detection of methane at concentrations above 1% (volume/volume) carbon dioxide at concentrations of 1.5% (volume/volume) above established natural background levels.



each of these locations can be assessed. The method of deriving a GSV and associated landfill gas risk has been adopted by the calculations below specified in the Modified Wilson and Card classification *Guidelines* for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases (NSW EPA 2012). GSV refer to the concentrations of  $CH_4$  or  $CO_2$  gas measured in a monitoring well multiplied by the measured borehole flow rate.

**Table 3** below presents a summary of the Modified Wilson and Card classification used to calculate GSV and Characteristic Situation (CS) as well as the risk classification in accordance with the Guideline.

Table 3: GSV and CS and Characterising Landfill Gas Risk (NSW EPA 2012)										
Gas Screening Value Threshold (L/hr)	Characteristic Gas Situation	Risk Classification	Additional Factors							
<0.07	1	Very low risk	Typically, $\text{CH}_4$ <1% v/v and/or $\text{CO}_2$ <5% v/v, otherwise consider increase to Situation $2^1$							
<0.7	2	Low risk	Borehole flow rate not to exceed 70L/hr otherwise consider increase to Situation 3							
<3.5	3	Moderate risk	-							
<15	4	Moderate to high risk	Consider need for Level 3 risk assessment							
<70	5	High risk	Loyal 2 risk assassment required							
>70	6	Very high risk	Level 3 risk assessment required							

Applicable Gas criteria for service pits is presented below in Table 4.

Table 4: Threshold Levels for Service Pits										
Analyte	Threshold level Unit		Threshold Level	Comments						
CH <sub>4</sub>	NSW EPA 2016 <sup>(1)</sup>	% (volume/volume)	1.0	The threshold level for further investigation						
CO <sub>2</sub>	N3W EPA 2010 (-)	% (volume) volume)	1.5	and corrective action						
CO <sub>2</sub>	Safe Work Australia HSIS <sup>(2)</sup>	ppm	TWA <sup>(3)</sup> : 5000 STEL <sup>(4)</sup> : 30,000	Work Place Exposure Standards						
H <sub>2</sub> S	Safe Work Australia HSIS <sup>(2)</sup>	nnm		- Only applicable to service pits to assess risks for utility workers						
со	Safe Work Australia HSIS <sup>(2)</sup>	ppm	TWA: 30	- Not applicable for ground gas						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This was discussed in the scope of the Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment (Greencap 2018), as indoor monitoring at School Building is regularly undertaken and results obtained so far did not indicate any gas intrusion, GSV values obtained during this monitoring program that are less than 0.07 will be considered as Very Low Risk.



### **5 MONITORING RESULTS**

#### 5.1 Subsurface Gas Well Monitoring

A summary of the subsurface gas well results is presented below in **Table 5:** Subsurface Gas Results.

CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were detected in exceedance of the adopted NSW EPA (2016) threshold in wells GG3, GG4, GG5, GG6, GG7 and GG9.

Measured flow rates recorded in all subsurface monitoring wells was 0.0L/hr.

Detections of CO and  $H_2S$  recorded during the May 2019 monitoring round were all below the adopted threshold levels.

 $O_2$  concentrations ranged between 4.7%v/v (GG4) and 20.4%v/v (GG1).

#### 5.2 Characteristic Gas Situation

GSVs calculated for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in each of the monitored wells indicated a Characteristic Gas Situation of CS1 "Very Low Risk" according to the Modified Wilson and Card classification method presented in **Table 3**.



**Table 5: Subsurface Gas Results** 

			Relative	Stable	Met	hane	Gas	Carbon	Dioxide	Gas		Carbon	Hydrogen		Barometric
Well ID	Monitoring Date	Time	Pressure (mb)	Flow Rate (L/hr)	Peak (%v/v)	Stable (%v/v)	Screening Value	Peak (%v/v)	Stable (%v/v)	Screening Value	Oxygen (%v/v)	Monoxide (ppm)	Sulfide (ppm)	Balance (%)	Pressure (mBar)
GG1	17/05/2019	11:10	-0.26	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.1	0.1	0.00	20.4	0	0	79.5	1022
GG2	17/05/2019	11:00	-0.31	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.6	0.6	0.00	20.3	0	0	79.1	1022
GG3	17/05/2019	9:20	-0.76	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.00	5.4	5.4	0.00	12.7	0	0	81.8	1021
GG4	17/05/2019	9:15	-0.85	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.00	10.2	10.2	0.00	4.7	0	0	85	1020
GG5	17/05/2019	9:30	-0.50	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	7.6	7.6	0.00	4.8	0	1	87.6	1021
GG6	17/05/2019	9:45	-1.29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	3.0	3.0	0.00	15.2	0	0	81.7	1021
GG7	17/05/2019	9:55	-0.40	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	2.9	2.9	0.00	15.5	0	0	81.7	1021
GG8	17/05/2019	10:15	-8.90	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.00	0.9	0.8	0.00	9.8	0	0	88.9	1021
GG9	17/05/2019	10:25	-0.38	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	12.0	12.0	0.00	7.1	0	0	80.9	1021

#### **Hazardous Ground Gas Guideline Criteria**

Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 1 (NSW EPA (2012), Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases)

Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 2 (NSW EPA (2012), Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases)

Denotes Characteristic Gas Situation of 3 (NSW EPA (2012), Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Sites Impacted by Hazardous Ground Gases)

Elevated above the 1% volume criteria for CH<sub>4</sub> and 1.5% for CO<sub>2</sub> presented in the NSW EPA *Solid Waste Landfill Guidelines (2016)* 

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#### 5.3 Service Pits

A total of 12 service pits were monitored in the field for potential accumulated or venting gases. Gas readings were taken from within the service pits, as well as above the service pits (approximately 1m directly above). A summary of gas results from within and above service pits is presented in **Table 6** below.

No detectable concentrations of CH<sub>4</sub> were identified in any of the accessible service pits across the school. Low concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> were detected within Service Pits P3, P5, P6, P7 & P12; however, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration recorded in these pits is below the threshold levels specified in the NSW EPA (2016) Guideline. Concentrations of CO and H<sub>2</sub>S were not detected in service pits during the May 2019 monitoring round - these detections remain below the Workplace Exposure Standard (Safe Work Australia, 2013).

Due to operational and access constraints, service pits P2 and P9 were not accessible during the May 2019 monitoring round.

**Table 6: Service Pit Gas Results** 

	Service Pit	CH <sub>4</sub> (%v/v)	CO <sub>2</sub> (%v/v)	O <sub>2</sub> (%v/v)	CO (ppm)	H₂S (ppm)
P1	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.1	0.0	0.0
PI	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
P2	(1m above pit)			Inaccessible		
PZ	(within pit)			Inaccessible		
P3	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.1	20.4	0.0	0.0
F3	(within pit)	0.0	0.1	20.4	0.0	0.0
P4	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.1	0.0	0.0
P4	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
P5	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.1	21.0	0.0	0.0
F3	(within pit)	0.0	0.1	21.1	0.0	0.0
P6	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.1	20.4	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.1	20.3	0.0	0.0
P7	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.1	20.3	0.0	0.0
F 7	(within pit)	0.0	0.1	20.0	0.0	0.0
P8	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.2	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.1	0.0	0.0
P9	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.4	0.0	0.0
F 3	(within pit)			Inaccessible		
P10	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.4	0.0	0.0
P10	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.4	0.0	0.0
P11	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	20.2	0.0	0.0
LII	(within pit)	0.0	0.0	20.3	0.0	0.0
P12	(1m above pit)	0.0	0.0	21.3	0.0	0.0
	(within pit)	0.0	0.1	21.2	0	0

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#### **6 MONTHLY SITE INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

During the monthly subsurface gas monitoring round, a monthly site inspection checklist is also compiled. Refer to the Monthly Site Inspection Checklist for the month of May 2019 for details.

#### 7 FINDINGS

The main findings of this subsurface gas monitoring round can be summarised as follows:

- All monitoring wells had a GSV of 1 (Very Low Risk). Therefore, detections of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> are not considered to pose a risk to site users or nearby receptors.
- Results have indicated that gas emissions from service pits were below relevant criteria and indicative of background concentrations.

#### 8 CONCLUSIONS

Results of this monitoring round indicate the site is Very Low Risk. No unacceptable risk to human health and/or environment was identified during the May 2019 monitoring round.

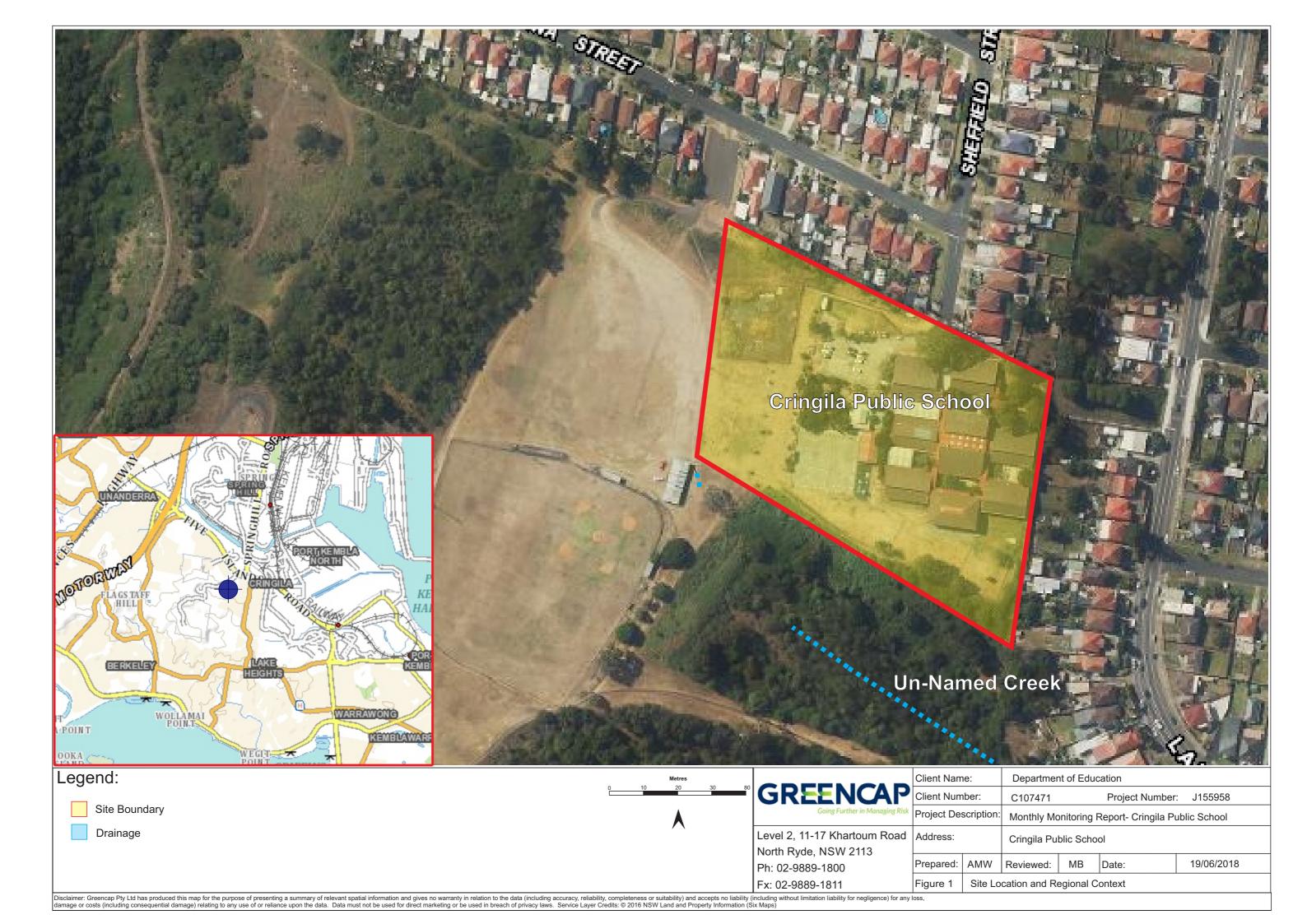


# Cringila PS Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report - May 2019

**NSW** Department of Education

**Cringila Public School** 

**Appendix A: Figures** 





Prepared: AMW Reviewed:

Ph: 02-9889-1800

Date:

Groundwater Well, Gas Well and Service Pit Locations Figure G Fx: 02-9889-1811

Service Pit Location



# Cringila PS Monthly Subsurface Gas Monitoring Report – May 2019

**NSW Department of Education** 

**Cringila Public School** 

**Appendix B: Calibration Certificate** 

## **Gas Calibration Certificate**

Instrument

**GA5000** 

Serial No.

G505859

Sensors

CH4, CO2, O2, CO, H2S



# Air-Met Scientific Pty Ltd 1300 137 067

Item	Test	Pass	Comments
Battery	Charge Condition	<b>✓</b>	
-	Fuses	1	
	Capacity	1	
	Recharge OK?	✓	
Switch/keypad	Operation	<b>✓</b>	
Display	Intensity	✓	
	Operation (segments)	<b>✓</b>	
Grill Filter	Condition	<b>✓</b>	
	Seal	✓	
Pump	Operation	1	8
	Filter	1	
	Flow	<b>✓</b>	
	Valves, Diaphragm	1	
PCB	Condition	1	
Connectors	Condition	✓	
Sensor	O2	<b>✓</b>	
	CH4	<b>✓</b>	
	CO2	1	
	CO	<b>✓</b>	
	H2S	✓	
Alarms	Beeper	✓	
	Settings	✓	
Software	Version		
Datalogger	Operation		
Download	Operation		
Other tests:	-		

## Certificate of Calibration

This is to certify that the above instrument has been calibrated to the following specifications:

Diffusion mode	Aspirated mode				
Sensor	Serial no	Calibration gas and concentration	Certified	Gas bottle No	Instrument Reading
O2		20.9% Vol O2		Fresh Air	20.9% O2
CH4		60% CH4	NATA	SY244	59.8% CH4
CO2		40% CO2	NATA	SY244	39.9% CO2
CO		95ppm CO	NATA	SY174	95ppm CO
H2S		25ppm H2S	NATA	SY174	25ppm H2S
	(4)				

Calibrated by:

Sen Philip

Calibration date:

15/05/2019

Next calibration due:

11/11/2019