The Wave
Stages 1 and 2 (Rail)

Contaminated land

November 2026

Some parts of The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) project area contain existing contamination associated with historical landfill, fuel storage, service station and railway activities and imported fill. This contamination needs to be managed when construction disturbs soil or groundwater.

What did the Draft Public Environment Report (PER) find?

The Draft Public Environment Report (PER) found that existing contamination presents construction risks that can be managed through further investigations, established treatment methods, controlled handling of materials and monitoring.

Areas requiring specific management include the former Duck Holes Creek Landfill, Beerwah Service Station, land near the proposed southern tunnel portal and parts of the North Coast Line corridor. Investigations identified buried waste, petroleum contamination, low-level Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and occasional asbestos-containing material in some locations.

How impacts will be managed

Investigating and planning before work

Management measures will be tailored to conditions at each location. These include:

- testing soil, groundwater and surface-water before and during relevant works
- implementing a Contaminated Land Management Plan, supported by site-specific plans for the former Duck Holes Creek Landfill and Beerwah Service Station
- following procedures to assess and manage unexpected contamination if conditions differ from investigation findings.

Managing soil, water and materials

Construction measures will limit exposure to contamination and reduce the risk of contaminants spreading beyond work areas. These include:

- minimising excavation and the lowering of groundwater levels where practicable
- keeping contaminated material separate from clean material and using approved treatment, testing, reuse or disposal methods
- controlling dust, runoff, leachate and spills, including bunded chemical storage and appropriately located refuelling areas
- monitoring groundwater, surface water, leachate and landfill gas where required
- stabilising and rehabilitating disturbed areas.

What happens next

Further investigations during detailed design and construction planning will confirm conditions and treatment needs at individual locations. Management plans, monitoring and reporting requirements will be finalised before relevant works begin.

Find out more

Read The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) Draft PER for the detailed findings and proposed environmental management measures.