



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes

RECEIVED
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Cr Kathy Majdlik
Mayor
City of Melton
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Ref: MIN082524


Dear Mayor

CLEANAWAY RAVENHALL SITE – ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2020 requesting a review be undertaken of the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) approval of the Environment Management Plan (EMP) for Cleanaway's Ravenhall site.

Since your correspondence, you may be aware following the EPA's decision to rescind its approval of the EMP for Maddingley Brown Coal (MBC), the EPA has determined Cleanaway and Hi Quality's EMPs will also be rescinded. These decisions were based on administrative considerations and does not change the EPA's views around the level of environmental risk associated with each application.

All three sites will need to submit new applications to receive tunnel boring machine (TBM) spoil, including updated EMPs. Before the EPA can approve an EMP, the EPA must be satisfied the EMP, which will be tailored to the specific receiving facility, adequately protects human health and the environment from pollution and waste. As such, the EPA must be satisfied that the site will appropriately receive and manage the spoil, control risks and protect soil, groundwater, surface water and air quality, as demonstrated in its EMP. The Regulations also require the operator of the facility, for which there is an approved EMP, to comply with strict design and operating specifications that address the unique characteristics of TBM spoil and any site-specific conditions of relevance to managing TBM spoil.

In reviewing the applications to receive spoil, which include the EMP, the EPA will continue to have regard to the latest authoritative advice regarding management of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including the Australian Government Expert Health Panel for PFAS. The EPA's assessments consider relevant threshold limits for exposure such as in drinking water, recreational water, residential soil, open space soil and ecological exposure levels.

The EPA's approval of an EMP does not constitute the final decision on where TBM spoil will be sent. For the West Gate Tunnel Project spoil, this will be determined by CPB John Holland through the tender process. Facilities will also require other environmental and planning approvals.

The EPA will continue to monitor the disposal of TBM spoil and use its powers to ensure a receiving site meets rigorous environmental standards to keep Victorians safe.

If you would like more information about this matter, please call Eve Graham, Director, Environment Protection of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 0439 713 668 or email eve.graham@delwp.vic.gov.au.



Thank you once again for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely



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