

BRODERICK RD RECYCLING SITE FAQS

SITE MANAGEMENT	
QUESTION	ANSWER
What is in the waste stockpile?	<p>According to a recent Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) hearing, the site contains an estimated 350,000m³ of material.</p> <p>The material mainly consists of construction and demolition waste, with a small amount of tyres, plastics and household waste.</p>
Is there asbestos in the stockpile?	<p>Under the VCAT orders, the site owner was required to conduct a sampling program to inform a fire management plan and rehabilitation plan for the site.</p> <p>That sampling detected low levels of asbestos that did not exceed exposure standards.</p>
IS there a current risk of airborne pollutants?	<p>While the site is stable the EPA advise there is no detected risk of airborne pollutants.</p> <p>During excavations and removal of the items there may be some dust unsettled. As part of the rehabilitation plan, site owners are required have WorkSafe plans in place during any excavation works, which includes notifying adjacent residents and businesses of potential dust impacts.</p>
Why was the operation allowed to continue for so long?	<p>The City of Greater Geelong issued a temporary permit for a small recycling facility at this site in 2013.</p> <p>The operator consistently breached planning permit conditions and the City has battled for the past five years to have the facility brought into compliance or cease operating.</p> <p>In 2016 the City applied to have the planning permit cancelled completely, however VCAT ordered the a permanent planning permit be issued.</p> <p>VCAT enforcement orders were issued for planning permit compliance, however the operator continued to breach the orders. Court action has been taken on a number of occasions, as outlined below.</p>
Where can I read the VCAT ruling ordering a permanent permit for this site?	<p>You can see the full details of VCAT's 2016 order for the City of Greater Geelong to issue a permanent planning permit here:</p> <p>http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2016/1207.html</p> <p>http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2016/1486.html</p>

<p>Is the business operator of C&D facing any consequences?</p>	<p>As well as enforcement action at VCAT, criminal charges have been brought against the site operator C & D Recycling and its director, David McAuliffe, by the City of Greater Geelong on a number of occasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2015, Mr McAuliffe was found guilty of breaching an enforcement order issued by VCAT in January 2015. • In November 2016, Mr McAuliffe was found guilty of breaching the temporary planning permit. • Further charges against Mr McAuliffe are scheduled for hearing on 14 and 15 November 2018, relating to charges of breaching an interim enforcement order issued by VCAT in December 2017. The City will be seeking maximum penalties. <p>C & D Recycling is now insolvent and Mr McAuliffe is no longer involved with operations on the site. The land owners, TASCO, now have the responsibility of rehabilitating the site.</p>
<p>When and how will the waste be removed?</p>	<p>A rehabilitation plan is currently being developed by the site owners TASCO to ensure that the waste is removed from the site as efficiently as possible.</p> <p>Sampling of the stockpiles was undertaken in August, to enable planning for how the piles can be dismantled and removed. For example, large amounts of recycled timber on site will be able to be sold or repurposed.</p> <p>A variety of solutions and innovations are being investigated for the removal and recycling of the excessive waste on this site.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for cleaning up the site?</p>	<p>Site owners TASCO are required to develop and implement the rehabilitation plan for the Broderick Road site. A concept plan has been developed and the City is working to clarify requirements and enforce this plan.</p>
<p>Will the site be completely cleared?</p>	<p>As per the VCAT order issued in 2016, the site has a permanent permit to operate as a recycling facility.</p> <p>The site owners are required to clean and sort the site until it complies with the planning permit conditions. These conditions include maximum stockpile heights and types of materials allowed onsite.</p> <p>No additional materials are permitted to be brought onto the site for recycling until the City is satisfied that there is full compliance with the existing planning permit.</p>
<p>What's the hold up?</p>	<p>The size of the site and variety of materials make the removal process a significant undertaking requiring careful planning to ensure all the waste is disposed or distributed responsibly. This will take at least 12 months to complete.</p> <p>While the City has limited statutory powers, we have taken all possible action to prevent the site getting to its current state and to enforce timely rehabilitation.</p>

FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

Question	Answer
<p>What is the site owner required to do to prevent a fire?</p>	<p>According to VCAT requirements, the site owners must implement a Fire Management Plan which includes the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel with basic fire training on site 24 hours, which will discourage arson and minimise risk of an undetected combustion. • The stockpiles are being regularly tested for increased temperatures. • Earth moving, firefighting equipment and heavy equipment will be on site at the ready to separate piles if high temperatures are detected. • Large, easy to remove items (such as tyres) around the outside of the site will be removed in the lead up to the fire season. • Access roads are being constructed by TASC0 as part of the fire management plan to make it easier for emergency vehicles to get to the site if a fire were to begin. • Arrangements are in place to ensure the CFA has access to sufficient water if a fire was to occur.
<p>What plans are in place if a fire does start?</p>	<p>The CFA has developed a number of response plans to mitigate the risk where possible. These plans include actions on initial response and the potential for an escalating fire, and involve a number of aspects, including aviation response, air monitoring, water supply and public information.</p> <p>A major exercise involving multiple agencies and organisations has been undertaken which tested the work that we have done in developing a consequence assessment.</p> <p>The CFA, EPA and the City of Greater Geelong are continuing to work alongside other agencies to further enhance our response plans, particularly leading into a long, dry summer.</p> <p>There is a highly collaborative approach between the agencies to do all that is possible to reduce the likelihood of fire and limit the impact to the community.</p>
<p>How long do you estimate a fire on this site would burn for?</p>	<p>It is unlikely the whole site will burn.</p> <p>The CFA have comprehensive suppression strategies to ensure that a fire event can be restricted to a localised area within the site, which will limit the length of time it burns.</p> <p>However, this depends on a number of variable factors including time of reporting, weather conditions and where the fire begins in the pile.</p>

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND PLANNING

Question	Answer
<p>Will we have to evacuate if there is a fire?</p>	<p>The CFA will be monitoring the site closely and providing regular updates to the community on fire risk in the event of a fire.</p> <p>In collaboration with the CFA incident controller, Victoria Police is the responsible agency to manage and conduct any evacuation.</p> <p>Any decision to evacuate will be dependent upon information provided by the EPA as to air quality at any particular time and forecast air quality.</p> <p>Local residents may also be ordered to shelter indoors and refrain from outdoor activity. You may be required to shut your windows and doors to keep the smoke outside, among other measures.</p> <p>We also encourage residents to stay up to date with weather conditions and regularly check for fire warning updates during the fire season.</p> <p>Warnings and updates regarding fires around Victoria are broadcast on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC local radio • VicEmergency Twitter (@vicemergency) / Facebook (facebook.com/vicemergency) • CFA Twitter (@CFA_Updates) / Facebook (facebook.com/cfavic). <p>Other ways to stay informed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226) • www.emergency.vic.gov.au • The VicEmergency App.
<p>Where will we be evacuated to?</p>	<p>Under the direction of Victoria Police, Council will open a relief and recovery centre.</p> <p>The location of the centre will be determined in consultation with CFA and Police in a safe location away from the impacted area, and in the event of an evacuation this is where community members will be directed to go.</p> <p>Council has many sites identified that are suitable for this purpose as part of our standard emergency management procedures. These sites are not promoted, other than during an emergency, so that community members are provided with the correct information at the time they need</p>
<p>Will roads be closed?</p>	<p>In the event of an incident, Victoria Police will be responsible for any traffic management plans and evacuations.</p> <p>While local roads directly around the site may be impacted, Vline and VicRoads have advised it is unlikely that railway lines and highways will be closed in the event of a fire. Traffic management measures may be implemented if visibility is impacted by smoke. The decision on whether or not to close roads and transport services will be weighed up carefully and only acted upon if deemed unavoidable to protect the health and safety of the community.</p>

<p>Will surrounding businesses have to close?</p>	<p>It depends on the severity of the fire and proximity to the site of the fire.</p> <p>We recommend all businesses, regardless of size look not only at their emergency evacuation plan but also at their business continuity plan which will ensure that personnel and assets are protected and able to function in the event of a disaster.</p> <p>We encourage people to look at what business operations can still be carried out off-site (i.e. from home or another location), and strongly recommend the continuity plan includes making sure they can remotely access business essentials such as invoices, orders, important documents, customer details, passwords, banking etc.</p> <p>Business Victoria has a free Business Continuity Plan template on its website – www.business.vic.gov.au</p>
<p>How are businesses going to be supported?</p>	<p>CFA Community Safety Officers deliver tailor made courses to businesses and employees in evacuation systems and emergency management. Read more or book a Community Safety Officer visit here.</p> <p>Each businesses response and requirements will differ according to the type of operation, as well as the severity and location of any fire. Emergency agencies will be communicating with businesses impacted by the fire to ensure businesses disruption is kept to a minimum and employee health is protected at all times.</p> <p>Business Victoria has a free Business Continuity Plan template on its website – www.business.vic.gov.au</p>
<p>Exactly how toxic will the smoke be from this site?</p>	<p>As there is a range of material at the site the exact nature of the smoke will not be known until air monitoring equipment is deployed.</p> <p>Some hazardous materials, such as tyres, are on site however all effort is being taken to contain this material to reduce the likelihood of it igniting.</p>
<p>What is in smoke from a landfill fire?</p>	<p>Smoke from a landfill fire contains different substances depending on the type of waste that is burning. Smoke from a landfill fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can reduce air quality around the site and in the neighbouring areas • contains fine particles, water vapour, gases such as methane, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide and other substances • should be avoided as much as possible as the health effects from breathing in the smoke are not fully known in the early stages of a fire.

EPA HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

Question	Answer
<p>How can smoke affect my health?</p>	<p>How smoke affects your health depends on the type of waste that is burning, your age, whether you have an existing medical condition, how active you are in smoky conditions and how long you are exposed to the smoke.</p> <p>People with a heart or lung condition, including asthma, children (up to 14 years), pregnant women and people over 65 years of age are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke. If you have a heart or lung condition, take your medication as prescribed.</p> <p>Asthmatics should follow their personal asthma action plan and keep reliever medication on hand.</p> <p>If you or anyone in your care experiences symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 or seek medical advice. Call 000 if anyone is having difficulty breathing or is experiencing wheezing or tightness in the chest.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the health of my pets. What should I do?</p>	<p>During smoky conditions, and if practical to do so, bring pets indoors with you. If you have any concerns about the health of your pets, consult your local vet.</p>
<p>What should I do around the home?</p>	<p>After the fire is controlled or out, open doors and windows to sunlight and fresh air, and air soft furnishings in the sunshine.</p> <p>Wipe down indoor surfaces with water. Wash any visible surface film with soap and water.</p> <p>If clothes were on the clothesline during smoky conditions, rewash them. If smoke is still present, dry clothes indoors or in a dryer.</p>
<p>What can I do to protect my health from smoke during a landfill fire?</p>	<p>If you do not need to be in the area, stay away from a landfill fire. If you live or work close to the fire, avoid the smoke as much as possible by staying indoors until the fire is controlled or out. Keep windows and doors closed. Reduce physical activity, and if you have an existing heart or lung condition rest as much as possible.</p> <p>If it is hot and you operate an air-conditioner, switch it to 'recirculate' or 'reuse air'. This limits the amount of smoke particles coming inside. If your home is uncomfortable, and it is safe to do so, consider taking a break away from the smoke.</p> <p>Visit an area not affected by the smoke or visit a local air-conditioned building such as a library, community centre or shopping centre. If it is safe to do so, check on elderly neighbours or other people who you think might need extra help.</p>

<p>What about wearing a face mask?</p>	<p>It is better to stay inside away from the smoke, unless you cannot avoid working outside.</p> <p>Ordinary paper dust masks, handkerchiefs or bandannas do not protect you from fine smoke particles or gases.</p> <p>Special face masks (P2 masks) provide better protection from breathing in fine smoke particles. Before deciding to use a P2 mask, note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anyone with an existing heart or lung condition should seek medical advice before using one • they can be hot and uncomfortable to wear and make it harder to breathe normally • they do not provide a close seal if someone has a beard • they are not designed for a child's face • they do not protect you from gases such as carbon monoxide.
<p>Can I drink water from my rainwater tank?</p>	<p>Drink reticulated water. If you have a rainwater tank and the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not use it for drinking, bathing or for pets.</p> <p>Contact the Environmental Health Officer at the City on 5272 5272, or the Department of Health and Human Services for more information.</p>
<p>Will water run-off impact the nearby wetlands?</p>	<p>EPA has been working with City of Greater Geelong and Barwon Water to develop plans to minimise the impact of fire water runoff on all downstream environmental assets, especially Limburners Lagoon.</p> <p>If a fire occurs at the site, EPA will undertake environmental monitoring to assess the level and extent of impact, and provide advice to the City, Barwon Water and DELWP on practical actions to minimise environmental harm.</p>