

FITZROY GASWORKS REMEDIATION

CONTAMINANTS, HEALTH AND SAFETY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The former Fitzroy Gasworks site has a long industrial history and requires remediation. To ensure the land is clean and safe for future uses, the State Government has appointed specialist contractor Enviropacific to clean up the site.

Enviropacific is delivering the safe, efficient and effective removal of contamination from the site and working to limit disruptions to surrounding residents and businesses. Remediation works are currently being undertaken and are expected to last until mid-2021.

Key contaminants on site are associated with the former production of town gas, including coal tar, hydrocarbons, Benzo(a)pyrene, metals, naphthalene and benzene.

WHERE ARE THE CONTAMINANTS ON SITE?

Soil investigations have identified contamination in fill, natural clay and the underlying rock on site. Investigations have determined the southern portion of the site is more contaminated than the northern portion, due to the historical activities undertaken on site.

Tar pits have been found across the site. These pits have contributed to contamination found within the groundwater. The largest concentration of contaminants is associated with three former gas holders, located in the south of the site alongside Alexandra Parade.

HOW DANGEROUS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS IS THE CONTAMINATION?

Direct prolonged exposure to any contamination, either through skin contact and/or inhalation can be harmful to human health.

Management of exposure levels to both the community and Enviropacific personnel are being monitored throughout the remedial works. Enviropacific has demonstrated experience in safely delivering complex remediation projects, including former gasworks sites that require the implementation of stringent environmental controls.

WHAT MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE WORKS ARE BEING SAFELY UNDERTAKEN?

If a person is not exposed to contamination, there is no risk to their health.

The remediation works are being undertaken to ensure the community and workers are not affected by the contamination. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared to manage remedial works on site.

White marquees, known as Odour Control Enclosures (OCEs), are currently being used on site during remediation works. The OCEs cover the areas of the site where contaminated soil is being excavated, stockpiled and loaded into trucks. The OCEs operate under negative pressure, with the air inside removed and treated through the Emission Control System (ECS). The OCEs and ECSs are designed to reduce the potential of harmful emissions from the works to the surrounding atmosphere. Monitoring is being conducted at the site perimeter to measure noise, dust and odour.

Once excavated, all materials are placed into trucks and sealed to ensure no emissions from the trucks can occur during transport. The materials are taken to SOLVE, Enviropacific’s Victorian Environment Protection Authority (VEPA) licenced waste treatment facility in Altona.

HOW IS ENVIROPACIFIC DEALING WITH ASBESTOS FOUND ON SITE?

During investigations, cement bonded asbestos was found within the underlying fill material at four locations across the site. The encountered asbestos will be removed using best practice in accordance with Worksafe Victoria requirements and a site-specific Asbestos Removal Control Plan (ARCP).

HOW TO USE THESE DOCUMENTS

This FAQ provides information on site activities and impacts. For more project information see:

- General Fact Sheet - December 2019
- Activities and Impacts (FAQ) - December 2019

For up to date information and project updates, please refer to our website
www.enviropacific.com.au/projects/former-fitzroy-gasworks-remediation/

Register to receive updates: www.development.vic.gov.au/projects/fitzroy

Contact the project team via email: fitzroygasworks@enviropacific.com.au or phone: **1800 560 822**.

We will respond to you within 24 hours (weekdays only).

Please note that the community information centre has been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. When restrictions are lifted our community information centre will be open every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 3-6pm.