

CSIRO BELMONT UPDATE



OCTOBER 2019

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The removal of cement bonded asbestos contaminated soil, as described in our September 2019 Belmont Community Update has been completed. All works were carried out in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Worksafe guidelines. All air and dust monitoring undertaken during the removal works confirmed the work was conducted safely.

On Monday 30 September 2019, Enviropacific Services (EPS) commenced the excavation for the removal of dry-cleaning fluid (hydrocarbons) from soil through vapour extraction (aeration). The excavation area to remove the dry-cleaning fluid contamination is approximately 30m x 30m to a depth of approximately 11m on the eastern end of the site approximately 40m away from the South fence line (near to the Princes Highway). The actual extent of contamination is smaller than this, however a larger excavation will be dug with benching down to a depth of approximately 9m to ensure the pit walls are stable.

EPS are excavating soil from the pit area and processing this soil in the large white tent to break the clay in to smaller clumps to enable the release of hydrocarbons. The broken-up clay will be stockpiled with filtration material running through the soil, connecting to manifolded pipes, extracting and filtering the hydrocarbons from the soil. During the processing of soils within the tent, there may be occasional mild odours carried by the wind. The dispersed odour is not harmful. To ensure exposure limits are in accordance with Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants, EPS will be undertaking regular monitoring each day at the site boundary for odours and contaminants, and will spray odour suppressant if odours are detected at the boundary.

The stockpile construction process will take approximately 8 weeks and the tent will be deconstructed following construction of stockpiles. The stockpiles will be placed running east to west approximately 20 m away from the south boundary and they will be approximately 2m high and 300m long.

LOOKING FORWARD

Extraction and filtering to remove hydrocarbons from the soil will then take place over approximately 16 weeks, during which time the environment will be monitored. To minimise disruption to neighbours, the extraction system will be surrounded by noise reduction material, such as hay bales.

Stockpiled materials around the site will be covered to control any water ingress, loss of soil and dust being windblown. When the hydrocarbon level has been reduced to a satisfactory level, the material will be replaced into the excavation hole and compacted. The project team anticipates that the works to be completed by end of April 2020.

KEEPING YOU SAFE

CSIRO is committed to keeping its staff, contractors and the local community safe during the site remediation projects. To this end, CSIRO has engaged Jacobs, environmental consultants to oversee the work. EPS will conduct noise, air and dust monitoring daily in representative areas to ensure that levels are in line with Victorian legislation.

WORKING HOURS

To minimise disruption to the local community, soil excavation, stockpile construction and maintenance work will be undertaken between 7am and 5pm Monday to Friday. The works will be overseen by environmental consultants, Jacobs. Weekend work is not anticipated.

OTHER INFORMATION

CSIRO will continue to maintain the grounds and verge by ensuring the grass is regularly cut and boundary trees are kept in good order. The fence around the property preventing unauthorised access to site will remain until the completion of the works. Graffiti will be removed/painted over on a monthly schedule.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

CSIRO will provide further community updates during the work. These updates will be issued every couple of months and will be updated on our community website <https://wp.csiro.au/belmontworks/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on 1300 363 400 (9am-5pm Monday - Friday), or email us at:

Belmontworks@csiro.au



Equipment inside the "tent"



Formation of stockpiles with ventilation



For more information about the project please contact the project team between 9am and 5pm on 1300 363 400, email Belmontworks@csiro.au or visit the website <https://wp.csiro.au/belmontworks/>