

# CSIRO BELMONT UPDATE



**DECEMBER 2019**

## **CHRISTMAS CLOSURE**

The Belmont site will be closed from Friday 20 December 2019, reopening on Monday 13 January 2020. During the closure, Enviropacific Services (EPS) will be attending site every few days to check the operation of the filtration equipment.

During the closure period, all soil stockpiles will be covered, and water sprinklers will operate to minimise dust. There will be a stockpile of rocks from a haul road that will not be covered. There is no contamination within this material and as it is rock there will not be a dust issue from this pile.

Due to Christmas closure, CSIRO will not be answering phone enquiries from 24 December 2019 until 2 January 2020. However, during the CSIRO closure the Belmont Works email will be monitored. Should you have any concerns during the closure period please email us at [Belmontworks@csiro.au](mailto:Belmontworks@csiro.au)

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

Excavation of soils for processing to remove dry cleaning fluid (hydrocarbon) vapour has ceased for the time being. The large white odour containment tent has been removed from site as it is no longer required. Further testing of the soils at 8m and deeper is required to determine if further excavation is required. To conduct this testing, a drill rig is required, and this will be brought to site early January 2020. In addition, some horizontal tubes will be forced in to the walls of the excavation pit to trap vapour for sampling. The results of tests taken using the drill rig and the horizontal tubes will provide information to determine if any further excavation is required. We anticipate the results to be available by the end of January 2020. In the meantime, no further excavation work will be undertaken.

The material that has been removed from the excavation pit is stockpiled with filtration material running through the soil. The flexible filtration material is connected to manifolded pipes, that will be connected to extraction plant to draw the hydrocarbon vapour out of the soil. The stockpiles are running east to west approximately 20m away from the south boundary. They are approximately 2m high and 300m long. Extraction and filtering of the stockpiled materials to remove hydrocarbons from the soil will take approximately 16 weeks, during which time the environment will be monitored. We anticipate returning the soil to the excavation pit for compacting during April 2020.

## **ASBESTOS MATERIAL IN SOILS**

Unfortunately, there have been further unexpected finds of asbestos contamination in soil on site. The asbestos material we are finding is in the form of cement bonded material. The material is non-friable and therefore not air borne. It is in small pieces within the topsoil and fill material that may have been brought on to the site over previous years. Alternatively, the asbestos pieces could be the result of buried construction rubble from demolition and construction activities on the site decades ago. The material is from cement sheet, a product that was used to line external walls and roofs of houses, sheds and even for fences prior to the late 1990s. During the 1990s, the use of asbestos materials in construction was banned in Australia, including the use of cement bonded sheeting material.

Whilst our contractors Enviropacific Services (EPS) are established on site we will be utilising their services to dig test trenches for soil sampling within the asbestos zones. As soon as soils have been sampled the trenches will be filled in. The sampling will provide CSIRO will information that will allow us to determine approximate volumes of soils that will need to be removed from



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site. Asbestos contaminated soil removal will be undertaken after EPS have completed the soil vapour extraction project. In the meantime, as the asbestos is nonfriable, it is safe to leave the material in the ground.

CSIRO has a responsibility to remove all asbestos contaminated soil from the site to ensure the land is suitable for future use, in particular for residential development. CSIRO takes this responsibility very seriously and will continue to excavate any new findings of soil contamination until such time that the Environmental Auditor for the EPA is confident that we have achieved a clean site. All our site works are carried out in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Worksafe guidelines, including air, dust and noise monitoring during the removal works to confirm the work is conducted safely.

During the trenching and testing, you will likely see contractors wearing protective clothing. This is because they are in amongst contaminated soils. We will be continuously monitoring the air quality during the asbestos testing works to ensure there are no risks to the community.

## LOOKING FORWARD

Extraction and filtering of the stockpiled materials to remove hydrocarbons from the soil will take place over several months, 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 are covered to control 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, 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.

Programmed maintenance to the shade cloth, graffiti removal and slashing of grass (both the external and internal areas) will take place early January 2020.

## 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](mailto:Belmontworks@csiro.au). Note that over the Christmas shutdown (24.12.19 to 2.1.20) phones will not be answered. Please use only email over this period.



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