

## Application for Asbestos Disposal at Melbourne Regional Landfill

The Melbourne Regional Landfill (MRL) is located at 1100-1152 Christies Road, Ravenhall, within a Special Use Zone. The landfill has operated since 1999, Cleanaway has owned the site since 2015.

MRL receives approximately one million tonnes annually of putrescible and solid inert waste, comprising household and commercial waste and construction waste. The landfill can only accept waste as defined in its EPA Licence.

The landfill is a highly engineered and intensely regulated operation providing an essential community service that safely manages household and business waste that cannot be recycled.

### Q1. What is Cleanaway proposing?

Cleanaway is seeking approval from the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to amend its licence to permit the receipt and disposal of asbestos waste within engineered landfill cells only at the Melbourne Regional Landfill.

### Q2. What is the approval process?

Our application to the EPA for a license amendment requires a detailed asbestos management plan to ensure our compliance procedures for managing asbestos waste will be robust and safe for our staff, local community, and the environment.

### Q3. Why is Cleanaway amending its licence?

Our application will support Sustainability Victoria's report "*Asbestos Disposal Management Plan*" released in February 2021 which identifies that asbestos disposal facilities within Victoria are limited.

Currently, there are twenty-seven landfills licensed to receive domestic and/or commercial asbestos in Victoria. Of these, twenty-two are regional and five are located in metropolitan areas and are approaching full capacity in coming years.

Cleanaway is the leader in waste management and has the expertise to receive and handle asbestos waste. We have the largest waste collection network in Victoria and can provide a solution for this identified need.

### Q4. How will the asbestos be transported to the landfill?

The main truck routes to the Melbourne Regional Landfill are the Western Freeway, Christies Rd, Ballarat Rd and Hopkins Rd. The highest concentration of waste trucks is along Christies Rd which is the main access to the landfill site.

Transportation and disposal of asbestos is regulated by the EPA. Only licensed asbestos removalists holding a Waste Transport Certificate can transport asbestos in permitted vehicles with a Waste Transport Permit to a licensed landfill for disposal.

#### **Q5. How will the asbestos be managed at the landfill?**

The following stages outline our asbestos management plan:

##### Pre-approval

Each customer will need to submit the required documentation to our environmental team for assessment and approval before a single load is allowed onto site.

##### Post-Approval

Once a 'job' has been approved a unique Job Code will be issued to the customer which will be referenced at the weighbridge.

Upon arrival the weighbridge attendee will inspect the load to ensure that the wrapping has not been damaged during transport. The weighbridge attendee will notify our asbestos handling operator that a load has been approved and will proceed to the disposal point.

The disposal area will be within an EPA approved landfill cell that will have a dedicated asbestos disposal section. When the approved load arrives, the truck will offload the wrapped load at the nominated disposal point. The deposited waste will then be covered with 300mm of cover soil.

#### **Q6. How will you mitigate any environmental and safety impacts?**

The following controls will be in place to minimise environmental and safety impacts:

- The asbestos disposal area will be operated by competent and trained asbestos handling operators who will ensure works are undertaken in line with the management plan.
- Cleanaway will reject any unapproved asbestos waste loads that arrive at the weighbridge.
- Adequate cover will be stockpiled near the disposal area to ensure incoming loads are covered by 300mm of cover soil.
- GPS coordinates of the loads will be recorded and added to our register.
- A full watercart will be parked near the disposal area for required dust suppression.
- Asbestos waste will only be disposed of within an EPA approved lined landfill cell.
- We will conduct monthly air monitoring around the perimeter of the asbestos disposal area.
- The disposal area will be bunded to ensure that any captured stormwater will dissipate into the underlying leachate collection system.

### Q7. How will Cleanaway keep the community updated?

Cleanaway is genuinely interested in engaging with the community and provides a range of services as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping you informed and supporting our local community:

- Visit our website to view our dedicated information page about the operations of the Melbourne Regional Landfill: <https://www.cleanaway.com.au/melbourne-regional-landfill-mrl/>
- Join us at one of our **Community Information Webinars** to find out more and to ask us questions.
  - Thursday 18 November – 2pm to 3pm and 7pm to 8pm
  - Friday 19 November – 11am to 12pm
  - Thursday 1 December – 12pm to 1pm
  - Friday 2 December – 12pm to 1pm

Please register your attendance using the contact details below.

- Our **24-hour community hotline 1800 213 753** is available to give us feedback on any matters of concern about our operations.
- **Community Information Centre** at the Melbourne Regional Landfill is available to peruse information. To arrange a visit please see contact details below.
- **Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group (MRLCRG)**. Cleanaway hosts quarterly meetings with residents and representatives from the EPA, Brimbank and Melton Councils. You can view the Minutes and presentations on our website <https://www.cleanaway.com.au/melbourne-regional-landfill-mrl/> - if you are interested in joining our MRLCRG please see contact details below.
- Cleanaway has provided over \$300,000 of **sponsorships and community grants** to diverse community groups across Melton and Brimbank, supporting projects that enhance sustainability, connectivity, waste reduction and sports participation in the community. It's our way of helping to make a sustainable future possible.

For further information, please contact our **Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager Olga Ghiri** on 0478 316 237 or email [olga.ghiri@cleanaway.com.au](mailto:olga.ghiri@cleanaway.com.au).