



## Media Release

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### **Soil and ground water testing at the Collingwood Depot site**

Yarra City Council recently engaged the services of an environmental science company, HLA Envirosiences, to undertake investigation into soil, groundwater and potential surface water contamination at the Collingwood Depot site (corner of Roseneath Street and Gray Streets, Clifton Hill) in response to EPA legislation.

Yarra City Council CEO, Justin Hanney, said it was an organisational policy to take a proactive and open approach to issues in relation to soil contamination.

“In September 2002, in consultation with the community and in accordance with EPA guidelines, the City of Yarra formally adopted a soil contamination policy and conducted a municipal-wide audit of potentially sensitive sites,” he said.

“This resulted in Council carrying out remediation works on 39 sites.

“Our soil contamination policy was the first of its kind in the State and is used as a model for other councils in Victoria.

“Council still follows this policy today when identifying and treating contaminated sites in Yarra. This is the case with the Collingwood Depot site.

“There are many old industrial sites across inner Melbourne that have some level of contamination,” he said.

“Council has made a commitment to take a proactive and open approach to issues relating to soil contamination and, in accordance with the policy, has successfully treated many council-owned sites across the municipality.

“Preliminary results indicate there are contaminants at the Depot site under the surface in the soil and in the ground water.

“Council has been advised by HLA that the contaminants on this site are stable and do not, in their current state pose any health or safety risk, but further testing is needed to understand the extent of the contamination.

“Although this is the case Council believes it is important to move forward on this issue because of the proximity of the site to Merri Creek.”

The main contaminant on the site is due to fuel leakage from a number of underground tanks. There is both free floating fuel contamination located on the groundwater around the tanks and traces of fuel in the soil below the surface.

Analysis of the surface water samples taken from Merri Creek did not detect the presence of fuels associated with the contaminated groundwater.

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Mr Hanney said Council had acted quickly to implement a contamination action plan and reconvened the Soil Contamination Committee on receiving initial test results from HLA.

“In addition to this Council has written to near-by residents and placed signage on the site,” he said.

“We have not received any feedback from near-by residents at this stage.

“Council has engaged HLA to conduct further testing on the site during February including installing groundwater monitoring wells.

“Residents will notice activity around the site, particularly from Roseneath Street and near the creek, with drilling of small bore holes taking place.

“Once we have results from HLA we will hold a community information session in April for residents and local businesses.

“Protection of the community, natural environment and Merri Creek are paramount for Council and we are committed to keeping everyone informed throughout the process,” he said.

Council has informed the EPA, Merri Creek Management Committee, and Melbourne Water of the situation, and is closely working with all of these organisations to ensure procedures and treatments are carried out in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

Any residents wanting further information can contact Council on 9205 5555.

Ends

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