

## VICTORIA

Elisa De Wit

### Victorian Environmental Assessment Council – Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation.

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change is proposing a new investigation be conducted by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council on crown land in Metropolitan Melbourne. The investigation will focus on areas of land not currently used for a specific use, and identify opportunities for this land to benefit Melbourne's liveability.

The draft terms of reference for the investigation have been released and will create obligations for Councils under the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* to prepare a report on the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown Land within their Council boundaries. Final reports must be submitted by May 2010. Further information can be found at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

### EPAs 'Urban Design Water Guide'

EPA Victoria has issued a new Urban Design Water Guide which will assist developers and Council Staff in planning, designing and maintaining new stormwater treatment projects.

The new guide is to be used as a manual and describes methods used in Australia and overseas for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) specifically those elements of WSUD which pertain to stormwater treatment. WSUD elements are seen as important in stormwater treatment as they can help harvest, treat and store stormwater which creates the benefits of reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff and saving drinking water. See: [http://epanote2.epa.vic.gov.au/EPA/Publications.NSF/2f1c2625731746aa4a256ce90001cbb5/5975aa55a1517bb6ca2573760014dc42/\\$FILE/1226.pdf](http://epanote2.epa.vic.gov.au/EPA/Publications.NSF/2f1c2625731746aa4a256ce90001cbb5/5975aa55a1517bb6ca2573760014dc42/$FILE/1226.pdf)

### Draft Melbourne Waste Strategy Revealed:

The draft Melbourne Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan was published on 2 April and is now open for public consultation until 19 May 2008. The Strategic Plan aims to achieve the goals set in the Towards Zero Waste Strategy, including an overall target of 65% recovery of municipal solid waste (MSW).

The Strategic Plan is guided by three main objectives:

- To generate less waste;
- To increase the amount of materials for recycling and reprocessing;
- To reduce damage to our environment caused by waste.

The Strategic Plan is divided into three parts and is supported by a modelling report and a life cycle assessment of waste strategy options.

Part 1: The Metropolitan Plan. Part 1 provides the underlying strategy for the management of all solid waste in the Melbourne Metro Area. Most MSW is that discarded by households and a large percentage of that is food or garden organics; as a result the strategic plan focuses on MSW and the organics component in particular, including new infrastructure to further recover and reprocess materials in metropolitan Melbourne. The Plan recognises that to realise this goal, 7 new waste processing facilities could be built in Melbourne, to shift from waste management to resource gains so that potential waste streams can be a commodity in their own right. To achieve this, Councils will need to combine volumes of waste to provide enough volumes for the development of new recovery facilities.

Part 2: The Municipal Solid Waste Infrastructure Schedule. Part 2 describes existing MSW infrastructure and provides an assessment of what will be required to

recover more waste in the future. The assessment revealed that:

Melbourne has an adequate number of transfer stations and materials recovery facilities (MRF) however improvements will be needed for MRFs in particular as sorting technologies continue to develop;

In order to achieve a reduction in garden and food organics going to landfill, an extension of the current three bin collection system and significant development of processing facilities would be required.

#### Part 3: The Metropolitan Landfill Schedule

Part 3 presents a review of landfills and covers a 10 year period from 2008 to 2017. The overarching aim is to minimise the development and use of landfills. Melbourne is divided into two catchments with the north-west catchments having significantly more capacity than the catchments in the south-east.

To read the full documents go to <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2408-metropolitan-waste-and-resource-recovery-strategic-plan.asp>

#### **EPA Victoria HazWaste Fund**

The HazWaste Fund is an initiative of the EPA and Victorian State Government that invests the monies gained from landfill levies (increased in 2007) back into industries. The fund is specifically designed to support sectors generating hazardous waste. The policy behind the Fund is a desire to achieve the government's commitment to eliminate high-hazard waste disposal by 2020. EPA Victoria has released a fact sheet for businesses interested in applying for a grant under the EPA's HazWaste Fund. All businesses generating hazardous waste are eligible to apply but they will be required to show that they are undertaking activities that 'go beyond the minimum compliance requirement of an EREP'. Some of the identified activities that may be eligible include an advanced literature review of hazardous waste reduction options; detailed sampling and analysis of hazardous waste streams; trials of new equipment or processes; external waste or process-specific expertise; or life-cycle costing of waste streams. To find out more visit [www.epa.vic.gov.au/erep](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/erep)

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

*Nicholas Brunton*

### **Contaminated land management amendment bill 2007**

The *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLMA)* was introduced in 1997 to regulate sites in NSW impacted by historical contamination.

The CLMA established a regime for determining responsibility for remediating contaminated sites, and a process for cleaning up those sites under the supervision of the EPA.

The EPA commenced a review of the CLMA in October 2003. This culminated in the drafting of the *Contaminated Land Management Amendment Bill 2007 (the Bill)* which is expected to be tabled in the April or May 2008 sitting of Parliament.

The most significant differences between the CLMA and the Bill are summarised below:

#### Removal of Significant Risk of Harm Test

Many of the public submissions received by the EPA following the release of a discussion paper on the CLMA noted that the term "significant risk of harm" was overly emotive and created unnecessarily adverse public perceptions. Once the Bill is passed, sites will be referred to as "regulated sites" instead of "significant risk of harm sites". However, the test for determining whether a site warrants regulation under the Bill is almost identical to the test under the CLMA.

#### Stages of Regulation

Under the CLMA, land is first declared to be an "investigation area", and then an investigation order is issued or a voluntary investigation agreement entered into. The