
16 April 2009

WORKS COMMENCE FOR \$6 MILLION CLEAN-UP OF FORMER SPOTSWOOD RAILWAY DEPOT

The VicTrack \$6 million project to clean up contaminated land at the former Spotswood Railway Depot commenced this week, VicTrack Chief Executive, Mr Bob McDonald said today.

Staff from an environmental remediation contractor have been mobilising on-site and have begun the first stage of the project to decontaminate soil and groundwater.

“VicTrack is investing millions of dollars to clean up the legacy of past industrial use of the former Spotswood Railway Depot,” Mr McDonald said today.

“Spotswood residents will notice activity on-site to demolish old buildings and clear the site, in the first stage of VicTrack’s environmental clean-up project.

“As well as the vital environmental clean-up works, residents will appreciate the makeover of the ‘gateway’ to Spotswood and Hobsons Bay.

“VicTrack is working with the EPA, environmental experts and a leading remediation company to clean the site to a standard that is safe for the community and for the site’s future,” he said.

The first stage of works follows recent approval from the Environment Protection Authority, Victoria (EPA) for the technical aspects of the soil remediation and containment processes.

“VicTrack proactively identified the contamination of soil and groundwater on-site and we are pleased to have the EPA’s approval to commence our multi-million dollar clean-up project,” Mr McDonald said.

The Independent Chair of the Spotswood Community Liaison Group, Mr Ken McNamara welcomed the start of works, on behalf of local residents, and said the works would be conducted under an EPA-approved plan drafted in consultation with the community.

“The community will welcome the start of the environmental clean-up of the former Spotswood Railway Depot,” Mr McNamara said today.

“The plan to clean-up the site outlines clean-up targets and dust suppression measures, water treatment and traffic management.

“The community have been consulted on the plan and will look forward to its implementation,” he said.

Environmental Clean-up Project Background

An experienced environmental remediation contractor *EnviroPacific* are contracted to undertake the clean-up of the site under the direction and supervision of *Golder Associates*, the EPA and the EPA appointed Auditor for the site.

The clean-up works will remediate contamination of soils of arsenic, copper, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (contaminants from herbicides and coal products from steam engines) and assist in clean-up of arsenic in groundwater.

Most of the contaminated soil will be treated, contained and sealed in a best-practice, modern concrete platform that supports the EPA's waste management policies. A small, limited amount of contaminated soils will be disposed off-site at an EPA licensed landfill facility.

A plan for the site clean-up, called an 'Environment Improvement Plan', was developed by the environmental consultants *Golder Associates* in consultation with VicTrack, and presented to the community.

A rail freight terminal will be built by Sadleir's Transport on part of the site following completion of the clean-up project.

The clean-up will take between 12 -15 months depending on works progress.

Community Liaison Group Meeting

As part of the ongoing community engagement and information a regular bi-monthly meeting of the Community Liaison Group will be held in May 2009:

6.30 - 8.30pm Wednesday 6 May 2009.

Multi-purpose Room, Spotswood Primary School, Melbourne Rd, Spotswood.

More information

Residents can call our Free Call Info number 1800 808 455 or email on Spotswood@victrack.com.au should you have any queries about the site clean-up.

Project information and fact sheets can be viewed at Vic Track's website www.victrack.com.au

For further information, please contact:

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