

ENVIRONMENT

Question on Notice

Question 1

Nicholas McGOWAN: Thank you. My question is for the Chief Executive for the EPA. I have asked the question about this previously, so I am sure you are aware of it. The Heatherdale Road waste transfer facility, operated by a company called Recycal – I have asked previously about what has been stored there. It was subject to an incident back in April 2021, from memory. I am just wondering whether you can provide an update in terms of any measures or any involvement by EPA at that site. I know, in particular, locals in my area have had a long-held concern for the area and for that particular site, and I am including of course the Heatherdale Community Action Group in that as well.

Lee MIEZIS: The site is well known to EPA. We have been, obviously, actively regulating to make sure of compliance with our environmental protection laws over time, and we have also been engaging fairly closely with that local community.

Nicholas McGOWAN: Is it presently compliant? I suppose that is my concern, because the last response I had indicated to me that perhaps they were not compliant – that the EPA were working with them. Would that be a fair summary?

Lee MIEZIS: I would have to confirm. I will have to take on notice whether or not all of the active notices have been complied with or the due date is still at a point in the future.

Nicholas McGOWAN: I would be most appreciative if you could do that – provide both the notices but also the dates they are required to comply. That would at least give my community some sense of certainty going forward.

Answer:

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) continues to regulate the Recycal Pty Ltd (Recycal) facility to ensure the company complies with the *Environment Protection Act 2017*. EPA has conducted 19 compliance inspections at the site since 1 July 2021, the most recent being 2 May 2023.

There are currently no active remedial notices issued to the company. Four remedial notices have been satisfactorily complied with since February:

1. Improvement Notice (IMPN – 00002062) requiring the company to cease accepting and remove Lead Acid Batteries from the site. The compliance due date was 13 May 2022.
2. Improvement Notice (IMPN – 00002130), requiring the company to implement storms water controls. The compliance due date was 13 May 2022.
3. Improvement Notice (IMPN – 00001604), requiring the company to improve storage of E-waste and fire suppression controls. The compliance due date was 29 July 2022.
4. Notice to Investigate (NTI-00002912), requiring the company to investigate contamination in stormwater. The compliance due date was 6 January 2023.

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EPA issued the company with an Information Gathering Notice (IGN-00004601) which required the provision of information on the volumes of e-waste processed by the site by 29 May 2023. The EPA is currently reviewing the company's response.

Since 2021, EPA has also issued Recycal with three penalty infringements, totalling \$22,976, for failing to properly store and manage combustible waste and failing to provide reports in a timely manner.