



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Victoria

Hearing Date: 10 August 2021

Questions taken on notice

Directed to: Mr Lee Miezis, Professor Mark Taylor, Dr Martine Dennekamp and Dr Paul Torre,
Environmental Protection Authority

1. Dr Cumming Page no. 17

Question asked.

Will the EPA actually look at leaky houses as it comes to air quality, seeing that there are current programs around leaky houses being hot and cold and reducing energy bills? But could the EPA actually look at leaky houses and what the EPA could actually do around leaky houses to help air quality?

Response:

Building and building standards, including house 'leakiness' is ultimately regulated by the Victorian Building Authority.

Although EPA does not have a regulatory role in this area, it is an air pollution issue. This has led EPA to undertake some research in this space collaborating with RMIT and the Australian Catholic University to evaluate the leakiness of Australian homes. This includes identifying areas for improvement to help reduce the ingress of smoke and improve energy performance. All homes evaluated in the study are located in regions where the air is often polluted by smoke from controlled burns, wood heaters, and fireplaces. This will help EPA provide appropriate advice in relation to reducing infiltration of outdoor smoke indoors. The findings of this research will be available shortly.

2. Mrs McArthur Page no. 17

Question asked.

It goes particularly to the particulate matter generation that is currently occurring in the Maddingley tip in Bacchus Marsh, and this project defies the EPA regulations on a continual basis. So can the EPA confirm that there will be no extra pollutants going into that depository, for instance, from the West Gate Tunnel Project?

Response:



The EPA has approved an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the receipt of tunnel boring machine spoil from the West Gate Tunnel Project at the Western Soil Treatment Pty Ltd.

EPA is satisfied that the approved EMP together with the Environment Protection (Management of Tunnel Boring Machine Spoil) Regulations 2020 adequately protect human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

The EPA is not responsible for the ultimate decision on where tunnel boring machine spoil will be taken.

3. Ms Bath Page no. 13

Question asked. (Directed to Dr Paul Torre)

One very quick question. I understand that the expert came in slightly late to the scheme of planning, but if there is any information that the expert provided, it would be great for the committee to be able to see that.

Response:

The Technical Expert review by Global Lead Technologies for the proposed Chunxing Corporation Pty Ltd used lead acid battery (ULAB) recycling plant in Hazelwood North is attached. This is available, along with the other relevant Works Approval documentation, on the Engage Victoria website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/epa-works-approvals/ulab>



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