

Community Information

COMMUNITY UPDATE ON FILLING OF LAND AT SANCTUARY LAKES – EPA INVESTIGATIONS

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EPA is aware of allegations by Mr Tony Pleming about soil transfer from the Chilean Club of Victoria site at 99 Palmers Road Truganina to Sanctuary Lakes. EPA is undertaking an investigation into the allegation. The investigation to date has revealed the following.

During the development of the Sanctuary Lakes site some soil was obtained from a portion of the 99 Palmers Road site – a large site being developed by the Chilean Club of Victoria as sporting grounds. EPA has reviewed testing results for soils transferred to Sanctuary Lakes which show this soil is clean and well within the relevant Health Investigation Levels (protective of human health) and Ecological Investigation Levels (protective of plant and animal life).

The clean soil removed from the Palmers Road site is not associated with the waste dumped on a separate area of the same site. This waste was predominantly construction and demolition waste comprising soil, bricks, timber and concrete and is the subject of an EPA Pollution Abatement Notice.

EPA can find no evidence of any contaminated soils or waste from 99 Palmers Rd being used as fill at Sanctuary Lakes.

The recent allegations were made by a Mr Tony Pleming who was convicted in the Magistrates Court in 1998 for illegal landfilling activities at 99 Palmers

Road Truganina. He unsuccessfully appealed the Magistrate's decision in both the County and Supreme Courts. As part of this court process Mr Pleming was ordered to pay EPA compensation and costs – which exceed \$100,000 and remain outstanding.

As part of EPA's statutory environmental audit process, an audit took place in January 2003 on land at 283–331 Point Cook Road, Point Cook, part of the Sanctuary Lakes development. The audit stated the site was suitable for residential use subject to certain conditions, which related to management of residual salt left from prior activities at the site. The audit required sufficient clean fill to be deposited to enable salty areas to be reused for residential purposes. There is no evidence to suggest that the requirements of the audit have not been undertaken.

For further information regarding this matter please contact:

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