

# Assessment Procedure for Contaminated Sites



The environment Protection Agency (EPA) has the duty to ensure that potentially contaminated sites are investigated, managed and, necessary, remediated to allow for a more beneficial use. Depending on the low level and nature of contamination, there may be a potential risk to human health and safety, and/or to the environment.

Relevant development authorities (including the City of Mitcham) must be satisfied that land which is a subject to re-zoning or change of use which may be potentially contaminated has been thoroughly investigated and remediated if a more sensitive use is proposed eg industrial to residential.

In accordance with EPA requirements, the City of Mitcham requires where the site proposed for development is subject to re-zoning or changes of use and may be potentially contaminated that applicants compile a site history to determine the possibility of soil and founded water contamination. An environmental consultant should be engaged to undertake a preliminary site assessment. A list of environmental consultants qualified to undertake a preliminary site assessment can be found in the Yellow page under "Environmental Consultants".

If, based on the recommendations of the preliminary site assessment report, the site requires further remediation Council will require the applicant to engage the services of an environmental auditor to review the environmental consultant's assessment and prepare a site audit report. The report must be submitted to the EPA (for record purposes) and to the relevant development authority (usually the City of Mitcham).

The site audit report should indicate the types of future site uses which would not be affected by the contamination, including any conditions on the site. Please contact the EPA for a list of accredited environmental auditors qualified to prepare a site audit report.

With the increasing public awareness of the potential effects that contaminated sites may have upon human health, safety and the environment, more sites are being identified for contamination assessment and subsequent management.

For further information contact:  
Environment Protection Agency,  
Contaminated Site Program 8204 2000  
Department of Human Services,  
Environmental Health Branch  
Hazardous Substances Section 8226 7107  
Department of Administrative and Information Services Workplaces Services 8303 0400

**The above information is advisory and a guide only to give you a general understanding of the key points associated with the approval system. It is recommended that you seek professional advice or contact the City of Mitcham regarding any specific enquiries or further assistance concerning the use and development of land. Being properly prepared can save you time and money in the long run.**

January 2019