



INFORMATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORTS

August 2007

VICTORIA'S AUDIT SYSTEM

An environmental audit system has operated in Victoria since 1989. The *Environment Protection Act 1970* (the Act) provides for the appointment by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria) of environmental auditors and the conduct of independent, high quality and rigorous environmental audits.

An environmental audit is an assessment of the condition of the environment, or the nature and extent of harm (or risk of harm) posed by an industrial process or activity, waste, substance or noise. Environmental audit reports are prepared by EPA-appointed environmental auditors who are highly qualified and skilled individuals.

Under the Act, the function of an environmental auditor is to conduct environmental audits and prepare environmental audit reports. Where an environmental audit is conducted to determine the condition of a site or its suitability for certain uses, an environmental auditor may issue either a certificate or statement of environmental audit.

A certificate indicates that the auditor is of the opinion that the site is suitable for any beneficial use defined in the Act, whilst a statement indicates that there is some restriction on the use of the site.

Any individual or organisation may engage appointed environmental auditors, who generally operate within the environmental consulting sector, to undertake environmental audits. The EPA administers the environmental audit system and ensures its ongoing integrity by assessing auditor applications and ensuring audits are independent and conducted with regard to guidelines issued by EPA.

AUDIT FILES STRUCTURE

Environmental audit reports are stored digitally by EPA in three parts: the audit report (part A), report appendices (part B) and, where applicable, the certificate or statement of environmental audit and an executive summary (part C). A report may be in colour and black-and-white formats. Generally, only black-and-white documents are text searchable.

Report executive summaries, findings and recommendations should be read and relied upon only in the context of the document as a whole, including any appendices and, where applicable, any certificate or statement of environmental audit.

AUDIT REPORT CURRENCY

Audit reports are based on the conditions encountered and information reviewed at the time of preparation and do not represent any changes that may have occurred since the date of completion. As it is not possible for an audit to present all data that could be of interest to all readers, consideration should be made to any appendices or referenced documentation for further information.

When information regarding the condition of a site changes from that at the time an audit report is issued, or where an administrative or computation error is identified, environmental audit reports, certificates and statements may be withdrawn or amended by an environmental auditor. Users are advised to check [EPA's website](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) to ensure the currency of the audit document.

PDF SEARCHABILITY AND PRINTING

EPA Victoria can only certify the accuracy and correctness of the audit report and appendices as presented in the hardcopy format. EPA is not responsible for any issues that arise due to problems with PDF files or printing.

Except where PDF normal format is specified, PDF files are scanned and optical character recognised by machine only. Accordingly, while the images are consistent with the scanned original, the searchable hidden text may contain uncorrected recognition errors that can reduce search reliability. Therefore, keyword searches undertaken within the document may not retrieve all references to the queried text.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Victoria's environmental audit system, visit EPA's website or contact EPA's Environmental Audit Unit.

Web: www.epa.vic.gov.au/envaudit

Email: environmental.audit@epa.vic.gov.au



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Appendix A

Statement of Environmental Audit

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1970

STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

I, James Mantle of Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia Pty Limited, a person appointed by the Environment Protection Authority ("the Authority") under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* ("the Act") as an environmental auditor for the purposes of the Act, having:

- 1 Been requested by City of Greater Geelong to issue a certificate of environmental audit in relation to the site located at 17 Isabella Street, West Geelong, Certificate of Title Volume 6536 Folio 101 ("the site"), owned by the City of Greater Geelong;
- 2 Had regard to, among other things:
 - (i) Guidelines issued by the Authority for the purposes of Part IXD of the Act;
 - (ii) The beneficial uses that may be made of the site; and
 - (iii) Relevant State environment protection policies/ industrial waste management policies, namely, State Environment Protection Policy (Prevention and Management of Contamination of Land), State Environment Protection Policy (Groundwaters of Victoria), State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria), and Industrial Waste Management Policy (Prescribed Industrial Waste).

In making a total assessment of the nature and extent of any harm or detriment caused to, or the risk of any possible harm or detriment which may be caused to, any beneficial use made of the site by any industrial processes or activity, waste or substance (including any chemical substance), and completed an environmental audit report in accordance with Section 53X of the Act, a copy of which has been sent to the Authority and the relevant planning and responsible authority.

I HEREBY STATE that I am of the opinion that:

The site is suitable for the beneficial uses associated with residential landuse, recreation/ open space, commercial and industrial.

Subject to the following conditions attached thereto:

- Where potentially sensitive plants are to be grown, horticultural advice should be sought regarding the suitability of the plants to be grown in soils which contain elevated concentrations of heavy metals (nickel and manganese) detected at the site, alternatively, plants should be grown in at least 0.5m of clean fill.

The condition of the site is detrimental or potentially detrimental to any (one or more) beneficial uses of the site. Accordingly, I have not issued a Certificate of Environmental Audit for the site in its current condition, the reasons for which are presented in the environmental audit report. The terms and conditions that need to be complied with before a Certificate of Environmental Audit may be issued are as set out as follows:

- Removal of heavy metal impacted fill material across the site.

Other related information:

- All soils should be managed in accordance with EPA guidelines.

This Statement forms part of environmental audit report, Statutory Environmental Audit Report, 17 Isabella Street, West Geelong, Parsons Brinckerhoff M03198, 16 June 2003. Further details regarding the condition of the site may be found in the environmental audit report.

Dated:

16 June 2003

Signed:



Dr James Mantle
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITOR