

Former Sunshine Landfills



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



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**This replaces publication 1837 issued March 2020*

Community information

For residents of Denton Avenue, Toora Court and Karen Place, St Albans

What's EPA's role?

We're regulating Brimbank City Council to make sure they understand, communicate and manage the risks with all those affected.

EPA will continue to regulate Council's management of the issue so that community safety continues to be the highest priority.

What have testing results found?

Independent tests have reported that risks to public health and safety are low and that, with appropriate management, the site is safe for residents and the community.

These tests compared vapour and landfill gas against health guidelines. EPA is requiring further testing to confirm the independent findings.

What health issues do landfill gases cause?

Both gas and vapours can be released as rubbish from former landfills decomposes – but in this case the risks to public health and safety are low and expected to get lower over time.

At the low concentrations we're seeing at the former Sunshine Landfills site, landfill gases like methane do not affect public health.

What standards are used to assess test results?

The health levels used for the assessment of gases at the site were the:

- Australian Government's National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Amendment Measure 2013, and
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Screening Levels (for benzyl chloride), as of November 2019.

These are rigorous standards used by health authorities to determine if landfill gases pose risks to public health. They can be found on Australian and United States Government websites. EPA can also supply copies to community members.

[More information on the back of this page]

Contact details

EPA: **1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)**
or contact@epa.vic.gov.au

EPA's website: www.epa.vic.gov.au

Brimbank City Council: **(03) 9249 4000**

If you need interpreter assistance or want this document translated please call **131 450** and advise your preferred language.



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What is EPA requiring Council to do?

EPA is requiring Council to continue to measure for landfill gas and vapour on and around the former landfills, including at nearby residential properties. This will happen on an ongoing basis.

We will regulate Council so that community safety remains the highest priority. Other actions we may take to regulate Council's management of the issue could include:

- issuing further remedial notices
- requiring additional audits and assessments
- requiring additional monitoring.

How will Victoria's new environment laws affect this issue?

New environmental laws that give EPA stronger regulatory powers to prevent impacts from waste and pollution are intended to come into effect on 1 July 2021.

The new laws include a duty to notify EPA of contaminated land. Residents who live on the former Sunshine landfill site will not receive fines or be criminally punished in any way for this historical contamination under the new legislation.

This new legislation means that councils and other organisations are required to report contaminated land to EPA, to ensure appropriate measures are taken to keep the community safe.

Council continues to be responsible for managing impacts from the former landfills site.

We understand that appropriate land use planning tools are being proposed by Brimbank City Council (for example, an Environmental Audit Overlay) which will help manage this issue into the future.

EPA's role here is to ensure your health is protected by regulating Council's management of the former landfills site.

How can I find out more?

You can read more about EPA's role on our website: www.epa.vic.gov.au

If you would like to speak with us, we encourage you to call **1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)**. A call taker will pass your number on to one of our officers who will call you back.

If you haven't met or received information from Council on this issue, we encourage you to contact them on **9249 4000** to seek your individual information and further support.