

Is the facility safe?

- Yes, based on the state-of-the-art technology we are using, the strict environmental measures in place and the extensive experience that Enviropacific has in operating soil clean up plants across Australia mean that the facility will be a safe one.
- Solve is working closely with Environment Protection Authority Victoria, the Hobsons Bay City Council and the local Hobsons Bay community to ensure we meet the rigorous environmental and safety controls required to operate the facility.
- Enviropacific has undertaken multiple projects around Australia over the past 15 years using similar technology to that used in the SOLVE facility with no emissions breaches of our licence and permit limits.

How can the community be reassured that the facility is operating safely?

- Our license to operate contains very strict conditions, overseen by Environment Protection Authority Victoria and Hobsons Bay City Council.
- We will continue to work closely with the relevant authorities to ensure we keep the community – including our own employees – safe.
- We will be an active participant of the Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group, made up of representatives from the companies that operate in the Complex, the Hobsons Bay City Council and the local community. This is an important Group that enables the “community to participate together to encourage continuous environmental improvement and to regularly monitor environmental, health and safety performance (including individual company’s Environmental Improvement Plans) of the Altona Chemical Complex and to receive formal feedback.”

How does the facility work?

- The plant uses internationally recognised thermal desorption technology that essentially cooks the soil and destroys contaminants in the soil, with the process taking place in a fully enclosed system.
- This process breaks down the contaminants into carbon dioxide and water. Acidic gases are also formed and are neutralised using a slightly alkaline solution to capture the acid gases in the form of common salt (NaCl).
- Dust that is generated within the system is collected by special sealed filter bags and returned to the process.
- There will be stringent and ongoing monitoring of the facility, overseen by Environment Protection Authority Victoria and Hobsons Bay City Council to ensure that there are no emissions breaches.

Why is the facility being built in the Altona Complex?

- There is a growing need for soil clean up facilities due to the significant property development and infrastructure growth in Victoria. This substantial pipeline of infrastructure is expected to also generate a significant amount of contaminated soil waste that requires treatment. SOLVE offers a certain and safe way to manage and clean up the contaminated soil.
- The Altona Complex has been an industrial zone for more than 50 years (since 1963). There are very few locations within the current Victorian Planning Scheme where SOLVE can be built – the Altona Industrial complex is one of those.
- The SOLVE facility is located close to main arterial roads meaning very few trucks will need to drive through Altona to get to the facility.

Why is the facility being built now?

- The increase in the number of development and infrastructure projects in Victoria means there is a need for a soil clean up facility.

When will the facility start operating?

- There is no set start date; however, the commissioning process – designed to test the plant and make sure it is working safely and properly – will begin in March 2018. We will be working closely with Environment Protection Authority Victoria and Hobsons Bay City Council throughout this process.

What benefits are there for the local community?

- SOLVE will create 10-15+ new jobs.
- SOLVE will clean soil from sites across western Melbourne, including Altona, making the area healthier and safer for the entire community, in line with our mission to “improve environments and create safer, healthier communities”
- We plan to partner with a range of universities to create a Centre of Excellence focussed on developing smarter and cleaner waste clean up technologies.

What type of waste can the facility receive?

- SOLVE will be able to receive contaminated soils classified as Category A and Category B in accordance with the VIC EPA Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines (Publication IWG621). In addition, the facility will be capable of processing certain Prescribed Industrial Wastes (PIWs) subject to an approvals pathway and case by case treatability assessment.

What are the treatment production rates?

- The SOLVE thermal treatment plant can treat wastes at a high capacity greater than 20 tonnes per hour. The facility has a licence to operate 24 hours, 7 days a week.

For further information regarding the operation of SOLVE Altona, please contact our facility manager on 1300 995 116 or info@solvefacilities.com.au

www.solvefacilities.com.au