

3 June 2009

Chris
Inscribe Australia
27 NORTHGATE DRV
THOMASTOWN
3074

Dear Chris

YARRA RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION – NOTIFICATION OF PREMISES INSPECTION

EPA Victoria has been undertaking site inspections of industrial and commercial premises in Thomastown and other areas to determine compliance with the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. The areas have been targeted as part of the Lower Yarra stormwater program focused on reducing pollutant inputs to the Yarra from industrial and commercial sites and identifying and rectifying pollution 'hotspots'. These areas have been identified as having a high risk of pollution due to the large number of industrial sites and their proximity to the local creeks that drain to Yarra River.

As you are aware, your business was assessed by an EPA Stormwater Task Team Officer. The assessments have provided the EPA with information on practises in the industrial and commercial sectors that may impact the quality of water transported through our stormwater drains to the Yarra River. This letter provides the results from your assessment and discusses how your business complied with the *Environment Protection Act, 1970*. The EPA Stormwater Task Team will re-visit the Thomastown area in late June, and your business may receive a follow up inspection to assess the progress made on the issues identified in this letter.

Your site assessment conducted on 05 May 2009 showed that the nature and operation of your business means that your site poses a minimal risk of stormwater pollution. Nonetheless, all business owners can contribute to keeping the Yarra River clean and need to be aware of their environmental obligations.

For your information:

There is environmental legislation relating to your business and its operation. We urge you to be familiar with any legislation that is relevant to your business. Harsh penalties can apply to businesses that break the law. You have obligations under the Environmental Protection Act to:

- Ensure there is no pollution of water, air and land and no excessive noise.
- Ensure your business does not discharge to waste without a licence.
- Ensure your business does not cause an environmental hazard.

There are drains within your site that are connected to stormwater. It is important to minimise the pollutants entering the drain by keeping your site clean. No waste may be disposed of to this drain unless it is connected to a treatment device.

You were able to locate your stormwater drains. Stormwater ends up in your local waterways without being treated, therefore all pollutants that enter the drain will flow directly into the Yarra River. Ensure all staff are aware of the location of stormwater drains and they are also identified to any new staff.



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Inspection of your drains identified them as free from litter and blockage.

Our interview identified that your business operations have a small potential for liquid wastes to enter the stormwater system.

You currently store chemicals and/or oils/fuel on site. The assessment identified that you store of liquids inside a designated storage room, away from drains and with a spill kit nearby. These are excellent ways of reducing the risk of stormwater pollution.

Your business has Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on site. These sheets contain information about Regulatory requirements and health hazard information. The employer is responsible for making sure MSDS are available for all substances used on site. Employees should have access to information about the chemicals that they come in contact with.

Cigarette butts are a large polluter of the stormwater system. Provide cigarette containers for your customers, clients and contractors in convenient locations.

Please ensure that all staff use the waste containers for butts and that smoking bins are emptied regularly.

The general appearance of your site was tidy. Keeping your site clean is not only good for stormwater and our waterways, but can also be good for your business.

The following photos were taken on the day of your assessment and demonstrate some relevant issues on your site.

Storing liquids undercover, away from stormwater drains and with a spill kit nearby are excellent ways of reducing the risk of stormwater pollution.



Keeping your site clean is an excellent way to minimise the pollutants entering the stormwater drain.



If you have any questions regarding your assessment or the Program, please contact Jamie McCaffrey at EPA Victoria on 9695 2700.

Yours Sincerely,

Jamie McCaffrey
Program Manager
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EPA Victoria

