

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

Mr Matthew Gordon  
Environment Protection Authority  
PO Box 500  
EAST MELBOURNE  
VIC 3002

Dear Matthew,

## **RECOMMENDED BUFFER DISTANCES FOR INDUSTRIAL RESIDUAL AIR EMISSIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the recently released draft guidelines for recommended separation for industrial residual emissions.

The CMPA would like to compliment the EPA on the clarity and format of this draft document. However, it must be brought to the EPA's attention that current separation distances could be one of the contributors to the reduction of the number of Work Authorities being granted in Victoria. DPI data identifies that in the last 4 years only one proposal for a significant extractive industry site has been approved. It must also be highlighted that the majority of the 876 approved Work Authorities in Victoria currently under operation would not meet the existing separation distances.

The association is concerned that this state's extractive industry resources are currently being sterilised through residential and industrial encroachment and that there are no clearly identified areas where future Work Authorities could be applied for being either identified and protected for future generations by any Government department.

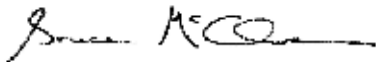
With respect to the draft document now under consideration, the CMPA would like to raise the following issues as provided by members:

1. That Work Authorities have a limited life, a minimal footprint and whose final end use can revert to sensitive land use.
2. The right to challenge the proposed separation distances as a result of site specific operational and environmental conditions is allowed as long as it is supported with scientific evidence.
3. That the interface land use area as identified in the compatible land uses gives examples to be encouraged but it may be appropriate for some of those industries listed in the recommended separation distance schedule to also be encouraged as there is presently clear examples of this outcome being successfully managed.

4. That the separation distances recommended had been used by the DPI in the past to minimise the potential impact on the wellbeing and amenities to sensitive land use pertaining to noise and vibration and could be considered in the scope of the guideline.
5. That the reference of respiratory silica within the recommended separation distances attached to applicable Work Authorities requires scientific studies to be provided identifying this as an issue by the EPA. This is required as material recovery, asphalt plants, unsealed roads, recycling and concrete businesses may also be implicated.
6. That the activity boundary for a Work Authority should be identified from its work plan and measured from its extraction limits and the footprint identifying the processing plant, stockpile and overburden areas.
7. That the separation distance between the activity boundary should be measured from the dwelling closest to the sensitive land use boundary (identified in figure 3- illustration of method 2b) as this is the method having been implemented by the DPI in the past. To apply it from the sensitive land use boundary will result in a financial restriction of entry to the market of all but the very largest operators. This will inevitably result in an increase to the carbon footprint of the industry due to cartage and escalation in the price of the materials being processed.

The CMPA requests that you consider these comments in finalising the guidelines document and would be happy to meet with the EPA to discuss any of the above issues. We also look forward to further opportunities to comment on the proposed guidelines.

Yours sincerely



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