





## OUR PLAN TO TREAT AND REUSE SOIL FROM THE WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

Hi-Quality Group has submitted a proposal to expand its existing Sunbury Eco-Hub to build and operate a temporary facility that will treat and safely dispose of soil excavated from the West Gate Tunnel Project. The proposed site is located at 570-600 Sunbury Road in Bulla.

**Why is this facility needed?**

The West Gate Tunnel Project is a major infrastructure project that is intended to provide a much-needed alternative to the West Gate Bridge. As a result of the tunnel excavation work, there is a large amount of soil that needs to be safely disposed of. Some of the soil may contain low levels of PFAS, a group of man-made chemicals commonly found in former industrial areas.

**What does the expansion involve?**

Hi-Quality is proposing an expansion to its existing Sunbury Eco-Hub. The proposed project involves the collection, assessment and treatment of waste soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project. It will be integrated into the site's 24 hours, seven days a week operation.

As part of the project, Hi-Quality is proposing to build 58 specially engineered and constructed containment bays made of high-strength hardstand with a leach-proof lining. These bays are designed in-line with the Victorian Government's Best Practice Environmental Guidelines (BPEM) and have been developed with oversight from EPA Victoria. The soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project will be transported in specially covered and sealed trucks to the bays where it will be held for assessment and testing.

The soil will be the consistency of sludge when it arrives at the site. Once it is tested, the water will be drained off and treated through a water treatment plant at the Hi-Quality site, resulting in water that is within Australian Drinking Water Guideline levels. The treated soil will be classified and either held as landfill on site or reused to support future developments or other projects.

The entire process will be engineered to control dust at every stage. Hi-Quality Group has undertaken detailed environmental impact reviews, which showed storage and reuse of the soil will not cause any unacceptable impact or leave any detrimental environmental legacy, either on site or to the local community.



**How will the works impact me?**

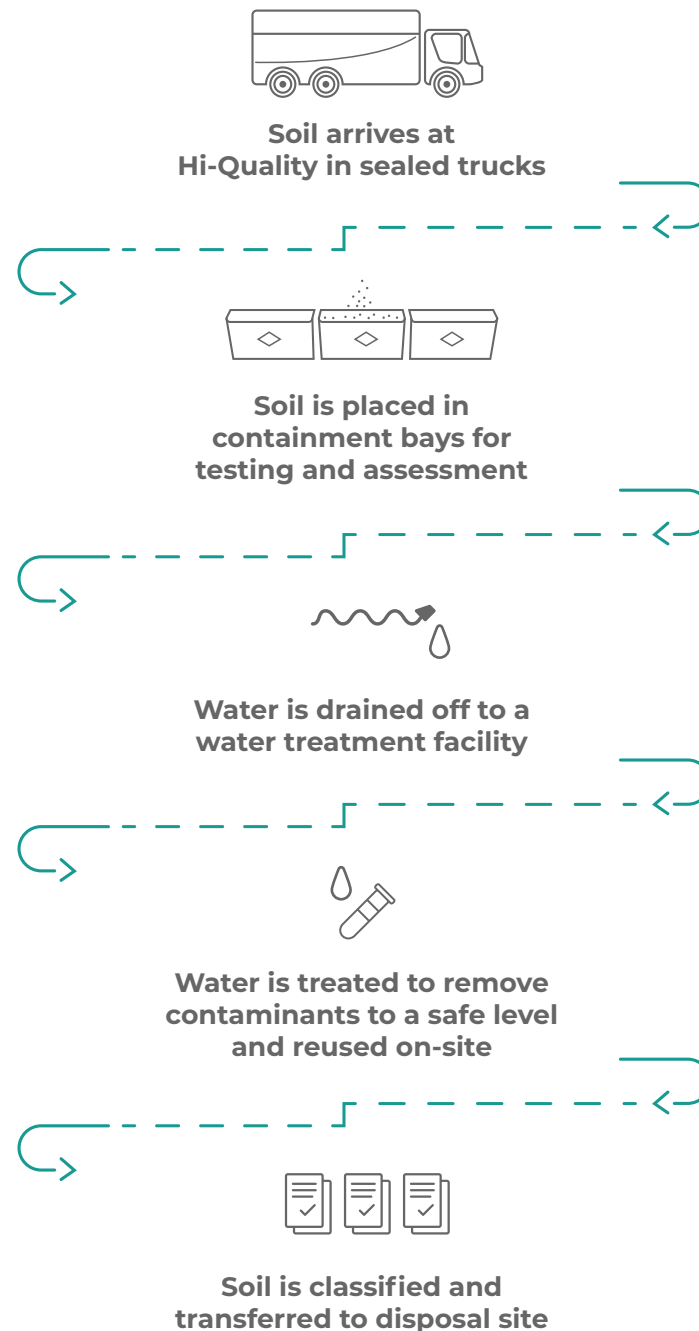
The proposed facility will be situated well away from residential communities to ensure minimal impact to Sunbury residents. However, depending on where you live or work, you may notice some construction noise while the facility is being built. There will also be an increase in the volume of trucks travelling to and from the site on Sunbury Road, via an approved truck route. As the project will operate 24/7, there is a recommendation for traffic lights to be installed at the turn-off to the Hi-Quality site to ensure the safety of all road users. EPA Victoria will have oversight of the project every step of the way.

**When will work begin?**

If the plan is approved, construction is likely to begin this year. The first truckloads of soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project would arrive several months later. The temporary facility is expected to operate for 18 to 24 months.

**Why the Hi-Quality site?**

Hi-Quality Group's Sunbury Eco-Hub is the most suitable and best-equipped site in Victoria to take the material from the West Gate Tunnel Project. It has been used for recycling, landfill and soil processing of contaminated and non-contaminated products for more than 20 years, and it is identified as a hub of state significance waste and resource recovery. Due to its remote location and extensive land holding, the proposed facility will be situated well away from residential communities and development, ensuring minimal impact to Sunbury residents.



### Is the treatment and disposal safe?

Hi-Quality's state-of-the-art facilities offer a safe and sustainable solution for the treatment of contaminated soils and other waste material, in line with strict environmental and planning controls.

Hi-Quality has undertaken robust and comprehensive checks throughout this project, including environmental analysis, noise and traffic assessments, culture and heritage reviews and a bushfire management report. All of these assessments showed limited impact to surrounding areas.

The proposed project will only go ahead with the State Government approval and the oversight and ongoing monitoring of EPA Victoria.

### What is PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, are a group of man-made chemicals which have been widely used in a range of everyday applications since the 1940s. All of us are exposed to small amounts of PFAS every day in dust, air, food, water and contact with consumer products containing these chemicals.

The Australian Government's Expert Health Panel for PFAS has found there is currently no evidence that PFAS has a significant impact on human health. Low levels of PFAS in soil are not harmful to the public during soil removal, relocation or disposal.

### Who can I talk to if I have any more questions or concerns?

Further project information and updates can be found at [hiqualityecohub.com.au](http://hiqualityecohub.com.au)

For specific enquiries, please contact Todd Beavis at [todd@ie.community](mailto:todd@ie.community).

### About Hi-Quality Group

Hi-Quality Group is an Australian company with more than 55 years' experience in quarrying, recycling and waste management solutions. Hi-Quality already processes most of the material excavated for Melbourne's major infrastructure projects, including the Metro Tunnel Project. It is highly experienced in the safe handling of soil and materials containing levels of PFAS contaminants.

### About the Sunbury Eco-Hub

Hi-Quality Group's Sunbury Eco-Hub is a best practice waste management and resource recovery facility. With the greatest capacity of any facility in Melbourne, it is vitally important when emergencies occur such as major bushfire events, heavy equipment accidents or industrial fires. This facility is licensed to accept prescribed industrial waste (PIW) and fulfils a vital community service in this regard. It has a proven track record of safe waste management for over two decades.

### About the West Gate Tunnel Project

You can find more information on the West Gate Tunnel Project at [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)

### About PFAS

For more information on PFAS, you can read the enHealth Guidance Statements on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances ([health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au), June 2019) or visit the EPA Victoria website at [epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/pfas](http://epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/pfas)