

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Cleansing Contaminated Soil a Step Closer**

A company planning to cleanse contaminated soil from sites across Melbourne's western suburbs is continuing its application to install its facility at the rear of the Dow Chemical site in Kororoit Creek Road.

Innova is applying to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for a declaration concerning whether its 'Centre for Soil Remediation' proposal is a permitted use for that site.

The Dow site is zoned SUZ3, which means that if the land is to be used for industry it must be a petrochemical industry as defined in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme.

If VCAT declares that the centre is a permitted use for the site, and a works approval from the Environment Protection Authority is approved, then a Hobsons Bay Planning Permit is not required.

The Innova cleansing process removes a range of petrochemical related contaminants producing only water, carbon dioxide and trace elements.

The decontaminated soil can be reused in parks and gardens as well as commercial and industrial developments.

The process can transform wastelands into thriving new developments - making urban land usable again.

Innova estimates that the project will create 10 jobs in its construction phase and 20 on an ongoing basis.

The managing director of Innova Soil Technology, Dr John Lucas, said he expected the application to go before VCAT within the next few months. If successful, the facility would be operating by the end of the year.

Dr Lucas said the Innova process is safe, clean and meant that contaminated soil did not need to be sent to landfill.

"The Dow site in the Altona Petrochemical complex is ideal due to location, size and existing resources. The centre will be located more than 900 metres from the nearest residents," he said.

"Innova has demonstrated during previous projects, including a recent major soil remediation project in Springvale, that there is no impact on local residents. Additional controls included in Innova's proposal provide further assurance that there will be no adverse impacts," he said.

"From the community's point of view, the centre will be located in the heart of some of the most polluted sites in Victoria - including 18 in the Hobsons Bay municipality - and offers a proven and environmentally friendly solution," he said.

#### **For further information:**

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