

Workshop: Site Contamination Policy and Operating Guidelines

Tuesday, 20 August 2024
City Finance and Governance Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

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Public

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The City of Adelaide (CoA), like many urban areas, requires a comprehensive site contamination policy and operating guidelines to address environmental concerns and health risks associated with the contamination of land.

A well-defined policy and guidelines not only helps in identifying and addressing contamination issues but provides a clear framework for regulatory compliance, risk assessment, and effective management of contaminated sites in the CoA local government area.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss a review of the City of Adelaide's Site Contamination Policy and Operating Guidelines. The workshop will:

- Provide an overview of the current Site Contamination Policy and Operating Guidelines.
- Explain the legislative and regulatory context within the Policy and Operating Guidelines.
- Gather feedback from Council Members on the proposed revisions to the Policy and Operating Guidelines.
- Outline the next steps in the review process, including the finalisation and approval of the revised Policy and Operating Guidelines.

The Policy and Operating Guidelines apply to contamination present on or below the surface of land, including waters, in the CoA local government area, where the CoA is the landowner or custodian, lessee or licensee of land or a statutory authority under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*.

The Policy and Operating Guidelines were scheduled for review in December 2018. A review commenced in late 2017 but was postponed as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) commenced a statewide review of the draft Site Contamination Framework for the review of the SA Planning System. The EPA completed the legislative review process in 2022, which introduced a standardised legislative framework under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)* to assess and manage risks posed by known or potential site contamination to enable the safe development and use of land.

The CoA's review of its Policy and Operating Guidelines was recommenced in late 2023. The Policy and Operating Guidelines have broad implications across the CoA's functions, and the review has been informed by internal consultation. The Policy and Operating Guidelines have been externally peer-reviewed by the EPA.

Following the workshop, any feedback received from Council Members will be addressed in the draft Policy, which will be presented to the City Finance and Governance Committee and Council in September for decision.

KEY QUESTION

1. What are Council Members' views on whether the Site Contamination Policy clearly articulates Council's approach to managing site contamination?

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