



# Category C Soil EPA Works Approval Amendment Application



Firewall Compacted Clay Liner

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What exactly is in Category C soil?

The make-up of the soils differs depending on the origin of the soil, just like clean fill. There are upper and lower limits of all contaminants – if one contaminant is above the upper limit then the soil is classified as Category B or A and it won't be received at MBC.

In order to be classified as Category C, contaminants must not be leachable or mobile. That means they are stable. Metals such as tin, copper, nickel and zinc are common contaminants in Category C soil. Where soils have come from farm land, it may be contaminated with traces of pesticides.

The EPA website contains a great deal of information about categorisation of soil types:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2009/july/iwrg621>

Category C soils are the lowest level of contaminated soil, just above clean fill. The contaminants are stable but they make the soil unsuitable for construction. When builders encounter Category C soil they must contain them or remove them. Dumping is illegal and bad for the environment so sites like MBC take Category C soils and put them in landfill.

MBC has received Category C soils since 1997 and we continue to add them to the landfill in operational cells. Cells are sections of a landfill that are lined to prevent waste from entering the environment. There are many different designs of cell liners. MBC holds an EPA Works Approval Permit to create a new landfill cell. We now want to vary that permit to allow us to include Category C soils in our new landfill cell. This is because the EPA changed its soil re-use regulations so it is no longer practical to use category C soils as part of the landfill cell design.

Instead MBC seeks to upgrade its cell liner system to include a high density polyethylene membrane as well as a clay liner so we can receive and safely store Category C soils in the new cell. MBC has discussed this amendment with the MBC Consultative Committee (<http://maddingleybrowncoal.com.au/community/>) and the Committee is supportive of the change. The proposed change does not alter the type of waste that is currently received at MBC nor does it change hours of operation or number of truck movements.

### Will the proposal impact on me?

As there will be no changes in site operations or the type of waste received at the site, we do not believe any of our neighbours will be impacted.

The two-part liner will provide an additional level of environmental protection and will comply with all contemporary EPA requirements.

As we already receive Category C soil there will be no impact on our customers.



Compacted Clay Liner being lined with High Density Polyethylene membrane liner

### What does MBC want from the EPA?

We are seeking permission to amend an existing permit so that we can accept Category C soils in our new landfill cell, which will be north of the current cells which already take Category C soil.

### What are the EPA's best practice environmental management (BPEM) guidelines?

The EPA produces BPEM guidelines for all sorts of things and they are updated regularly. The landfill guidelines were last updated in 2015.

The BPEM landfill guidelines contain very stringent controls over the design, construction and operation of landfill cells. Compliance with the guidelines is mandatory and all landfill operators must assure the EPA of their compliance during construction and operation.

There are many EPA guidelines relevant to landfills: <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/landfills-guidance/landfill-operators-guidance-documents>

### Will there be further consultation?

The MBCCC has formed the view that the proposed changes are technical in nature and will not impact adversely on the community. However, if we receive interest from the community then the MBCCC will determine whether further information or consultation is required.

For further information about the project please phone MBC on 5367 3211 or email to [contactmbc@callejatransport.com.au](mailto:contactmbc@callejatransport.com.au)