

Thursday, 23 April 2020

Clean-up for Sedan dump sites

Clean-up is set to begin at two sites at Sedan, about 100km north-east of Adelaide, where thousands of tonnes of construction and demolition waste containing asbestos were found dumped in 2017.

The sites, on Battens and Pipelines roads, were discovered after an EPA investigation with the assistance of SA Police, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and local government.

EPA Director, Regulation, Peter Dolan, said the EPA had stepped in to remove the waste after the Port Adelaide-based demolition contractor alleged to have dumped the material failed comply with a clean-up order.

“We have engaged appropriately licensed contractors to carry out the work in order to protect the community and the environment,” Mr Dolan said.

“I can assure residents that the clean-up and transport operation is perfectly safe. Asbestos has to be inhaled to be hazardous to human health.

“This waste has been sprayed with glue, which prevents the escape of any exposed asbestos fibres and also works as a dust suppressant.

“It will be wrapped and transferred in covered trucks to a specially lined cell at the Cambrai Waste Depot, which is licensed to receive asbestos.

“Air quality monitoring is also being carried out at both sites while work is under way.”

Transporting the waste from Sedan to Cambrai is expected to take about a month, with trucks working between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, plus Saturdays if required.

The EPA is in the process of preparing a brief for the Crown Solicitor, seeking criminal prosecution relating to the dumping of the waste and cost recovery for the clean-up.

SafeWork SA is responsible for licensing asbestos-removal contractors, while the EPA regulates the transport and disposal of asbestos.