

Date

December, 2014

Issue:

Contaminated sites- Kwinana industries response to the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 and specific legislation to manage contaminated site issues.

KIC Position and Key Messages

- KIC members supported the introduction of the Act.
- They have and will continue to fulfil their obligations under the Act and to the community.
- In most instances, and for many years, KIC companies have reported and continue to manage contaminated sites voluntarily in conjunction with regulators and the community.
- KIC members will continue to operate in a manner aimed to ensure the well-being of their workforce.
- KIC members will not knowingly expose the local community or the environment to unacceptable risk.

Background information

Until the Western Australian Government introduced the Contaminated Sites Act no specific legislation within WA dealt with the investigation and clean-up of potentially contaminated sites.

The Department of Environment Regulations (DER) will maintain a public data base of contaminated sites.

The Act requires the owner, occupier or persons who caused the contamination to report the condition of a site to the DEC.

The KIA was established in the mid 1950's when industry operating practices and regulatory requirements were in the infancy. While operating practices and regulations have now improved, early practices and spillages have left the KIA with legacy contamination issues.

A site is considered contaminated if a substance exists at above background concentrations and presents, or has the potential to present, the risk of harm to human health or the environment. A site can encompass an area of land, above or below water and may include subsurface groundwater and surface water running across or adjacent to the contamination.

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