

## Environmental regulation of the Ace Waste site

### What occurs at the Ace Waste site?

Ace Waste operates a waste incineration site at Gooderham Road, Willawong. The site incinerates medical wastes and other materials such as quarantine wastes. It is the only site in south east Queensland capable of disposing of certain types of medical wastes which must, by law, be incinerated.

### What is DERM's regulatory role?

The Ace Waste site is regulated by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and operates under a development approval.

This development approval contains a range of stringent conditions designed to protect surrounding environmental values such as air, land and water. It operates in conjunction with other conditions stipulated under Brisbane City Council's planning approval.

The development approval:

- sets release limits for emissions and the volume and types of waste that can be incinerated
- sets out requirements to ensure optimal performance of the facility, including the types and volumes of waste that may be incinerated
- requires Ace Waste to continually monitor some parameters and conduct stack monitoring at regular intervals for a wide range of parameters.

To evaluate compliance with development approval conditions, DERM conducts regular compliance inspections of the sites it regulates, including Ace Waste. DERM has published enforcement guidelines which it follows in the event of non-compliance. A full inspection of Ace Waste generally takes two days to complete.

### What emissions are released and how are they monitored?

The development approval specifies release limits for a range of emissions including particulates, metals, organics and atmospheric trace gases.

Ace Waste is required to continually monitor a number of parameters critical to the environmental performance of the site. These include combustion efficiency, chamber temperatures and carbon monoxide.

DERM maintains a continuous link to the Ace Waste central computer enabling live monitoring of these parameters at any time, 24 hours a day.

In addition the approval requires an independent consultant to conduct regular 'stack emission tests' for 15 other types of parameters. The frequency of testing varies between parameters with most monitored every six months. The approval contains conditions which ensure the monitoring is representative of Ace Waste's normal operation. Ace Waste must provide these monitoring reports to DERM.

### Are there any human health impacts?

There is no evidence of any health risk from Ace Waste to nearby residents.

### What advice has DERM provided to Brisbane City Council?

Brisbane City Council (BCC) is in the process of preparing neighbourhood plans for the Paradise Wetlands and Lower Oxley Creek areas. Under these plans some land surrounding the Ace Waste site may be used for residential purposes.

DERM has recommended BCC increase the proposed separation distance between Ace Waste and residents from 300m to up to 1000 meters. This conforms with draft State planning guidelines in Queensland and published guidelines in other Australian states.

BCC has commissioned an independent study to determine future suitable land uses in the Willawong/Pallara area, which is expected to be completed in December 2010.

DERM is committed to assisting BCC with its investigations in relation to the proposed residential development near Ace Waste and will keep the community informed of progress.

### Enquiries

For questions about the department's regulation of Ace Waste contact Project Manager, Luke Stephan, on 3238 3757.

For enquiries relating to BCC contact the call centre on 3403 8888.

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For general enquiries contact the  
Queensland Government call centre 13 13 04  
or visit [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)