



## Creating a circular economy hub for Sunbury

HiQ is proposing to invest in state-of-the-art energy generation and expand its treatment, recovery, and reuse solutions at the Sunbury Eco-Hub, located at 570 Sunbury Road, Bulla.

The Eco-Hub currently provides a soil processing facility, resource recovery, quarrying, engineered disposal, and an organics centre. The new facilities will complement our existing services to provide integrated solutions that protect and preserve precious resources, divert waste from landfill, and deliver jobs and economic benefits for Sunbury, Bulla and wider Victoria. Our existing buffer zones of up to 1.3km are in place to protect the surrounding environment and community.



## What is the Bulla Spoils Facility?

HiQ's Bulla Spoils Facility is a purpose-built facility located within the Sunbury Eco-Hub at 570 Sunbury Road, Bulla. It was designed and constructed to accept, treat, and safely dispose of largely volumes of material excavated by the tunnel boring machines on the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Bulla Spoils Facility began operations in March 2022, after receiving planning and environmental approvals from the Minister for Planning and EPA Victoria. Operations finished from the West Gate Tunnel Project in June 2023.

Management of material excavated from infrastructure projects is one of the key issues in the waste and resources sector today. Bulla Spoils Facility provides world-class treatment options, in line with EPA guidelines and industry best practice that rise to today's challenges.





## What is HiQ proposing?

HiQ's current approvals for Bulla Spoils Facility only enable it to accept material from the West Gate Tunnel Project. We are proposing to extend these permissions to enable us to accept material from any major project until at least 2050.

With Victoria's major transport infrastructure pipeline underway, solutions are required to appropriately manage, process, and treat material excavated during construction. By co-locating this soil processing facility with advanced treatment and proposed resource recovery technologies, Bulla Spoils Facility would provide closed-loop management of this material.

Extending our approvals does not mean we would necessarily accept all waste from major projects. It simply means we are an option so the large amounts of soil being excavated from these projects can be handled responsibly and effectively.



## A proven five-step process

HiQ's proposed facility will follow a five-step process:



Material arrives at HiQ in sealed trucks



Soil is placed in containment bays for testing and assessment



Any water would be drained off to a water treatment facility



Soil is classified and transferred to appropriate handling site, either a purpose-built cell or to resource recovery to be recycled into construction materials



Any potentially contaminated material is treated and appropriately managed



## Approvals

During 2020 and 2021, HiQ conducted extensive assessments for planning and environmental approvals to accept material from the West Gate Tunnel Project. Is now proposing to amend these approvals to enable the facility to be used for any major project until 2050.

- **Planning approvals**

In March 2021, the Victorian Minister for Planning approved HiQ's Planning Scheme Amendment under 20(5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. This provided the facility with the required permissions to construct and operate the facility. You can read more information on this approval via <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/schemes-and-amendments/browse-amendments>



- **Environmental approvals**

In March 2021, HiQ received approval on the Environmental Management Plan. In this process, EPA Victoria assessed the potential environmental impacts and determined that the facility could safely manage the material excavated in accordance with strict regulations designed to protect the environment and the healthy of the surrounding community.

This plan was developed under the new regulations for the management and disposal of the soil excavated by tunnel boring machines. You can find out more about these regulations via the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws>.



## Why HiQ?

HiQ is one of Australia's leading waste management providers. Our sites around Australia provide advanced recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal facilities that support some of the country's biggest projects.

We have operated the Sunbury Eco-Hub since 2003, and have designed, constructed and safely operated the Bulla Spoils Facility.

