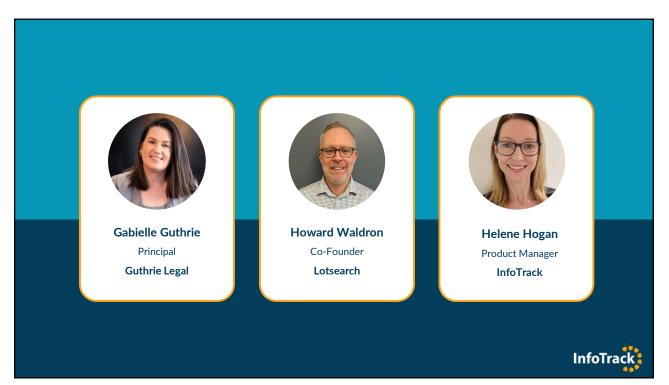


Managing environmental risks in property transactions using the latest data







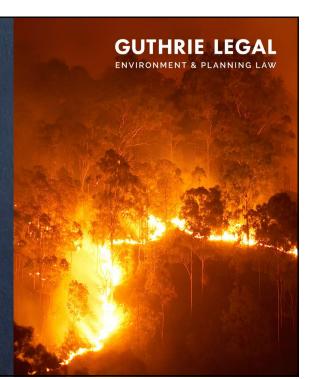


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3

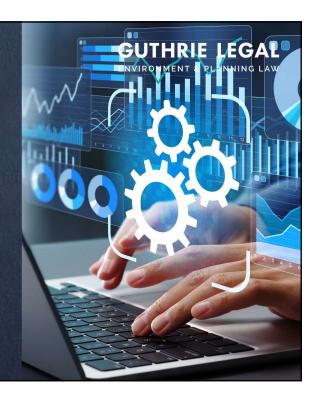
### Emerging environmental data

- Contamination
- Environmental enforcement
- Environmental licences / approvals
- Natural hazards (bushfire, flood, climate change, extreme temperatures)
- Biodiversity (threatened species and ecosystems)
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and heritage
- Planning and development matters



### The value

- data-driven decision-making
- potential impacts on property can be better evaluated - clients can make an informed decision about a transaction
- practical impacts such as availability of insurance or capital investment, development constraints, prospects of being able to achieve goals or secure approvals can be better understood
- data can shape sale strategies and purchase options / price



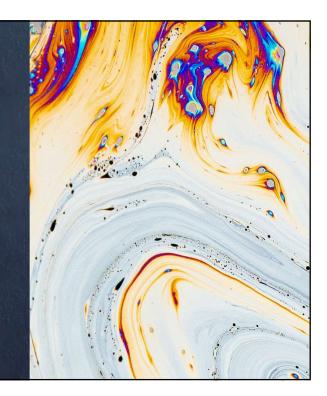
### The challenges

- Staying on top of what exists as datasets are regularly updated and expanded
- no consistent national approach data is in the control of different agencies (local, regional, State/Territory or national) - publicly accessible information in different formats on different websites
- ultimately impacts both clients and solicitors and requires a plan for dealing with environmental matters in transactions



### Practitioners

- duty to exercise of reasonable skill and care and to deliver legal services competently, diligently and promptly as reasonably possible
- obligation to warn client of risk associated with transaction and advise on practical implications of entry into a transaction the subject of advice
- informs retainer and recommendations for environmental due diligence (including appointment of specialists)



7

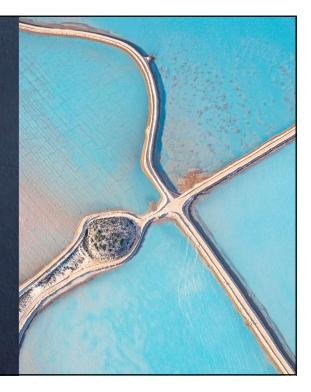
### Acting for sellers

Minimum vendor disclosures required by property law, but you need to turn to the relevant laws to determine what is disclosable (new report types may increase disclosures progressively)

2

Vendor disclosure requirements are supplemented by requirements under environmental protection legislation

Vendor due diligence may be required to support client (depending on knowledge) and act in client's best interests



### Victoria - Vendor disclosures

- Section 32 Sale of Land Act 1962 Statement requirements relevantly include Section 32D(a)
- Section 39(e) *Environment Protection Act* 2017 provision of adequate information to enable any person who is reasonably expected to become a person in management or control of the contaminated land to comply with the duty to manage contaminated land.
- Section 214 *Environment Protection Act* 2017 preliminary risk screen assessment statement or an environmental audit statement has been issued in respect of a site
- Section 280(1)(a) *Environment Protection Act* 2017 a copy of the notice or order; and (b) details of the steps which have been taken (if any) to comply with the notice or order.
- Other information as necessary or desirable



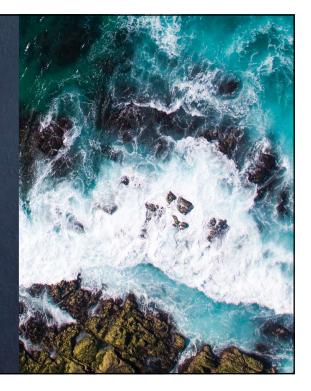
Queensland - Vendor disclosures

- 1 August 2025 *Property Law Act* 2023 and *Property Law Regulation* 2024 will come into operation
- Mandatory environment and planning disclosures in Disclosure Statement with certificates (documents). The disclosures are extensive. Compliance necessitates you cross reference the relevant sections of the *Environmental Protection Act* 1994 to ensure fulsome disclosures of notices and relevant matters
- Also includes disclosures under *Planning Act* 2016 and whether or not the the lot is affected by the Queensland *Heritage Act* 1992 or is included in the World Heritage List under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Cwlth)
- Other information as necessary or desirable



### New South Wales -Vendor disclosure

- Section 10.7 Certificate (previously known as Section 149 Certificate) - Planning Certificate required under Schedule 1 *Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation* 2022
- Prescribed warranties in relation to "adverse affectation"
- Other information as necessary or desirable



### Acting for purchasers

Vendor disclosures are not exhaustive. Information in a vendor statement should be checked, understood and supplemented with other searches.

2

Consider relevance of environmental risk to transaction and and client and an apporpriate scope for environmental due diligence.



Appoint suitably qualified environmental specialists to provide advice as needed.





Exercise caution with old reports and have them peer reviewed against current standards

Multidisciplinary advice

5

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### Thank you

### GUTHRIE LEGAL

ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING LAW

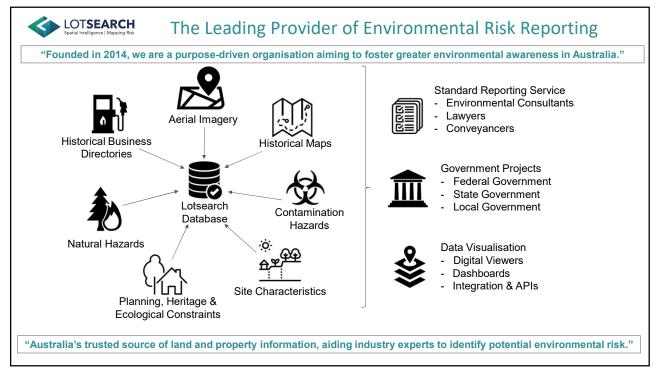
This presentation is indended only to provide a summary and general overview on matters of interest. It is not comprehensive and does not address in detail all matters in any specific Australian jurisdiction. It is not legal advice, consulting advice, strategic advice or product advice. Whilst attempts have been made to ensure that the content is current, Guthrie Legal and Gabrielle Guthrie do not guarantee currency. This presentation does not establish a lawyer-client relationship. You should always seek independent legal or other professional advice on your particular circumstances and before acting or relying on any of the content.

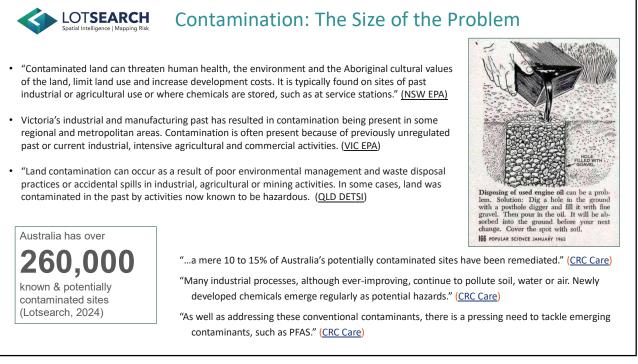
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

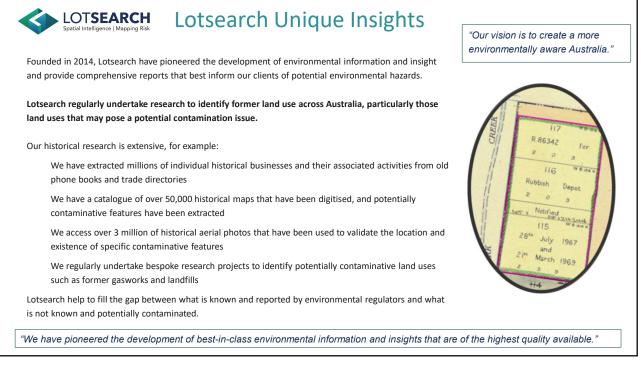








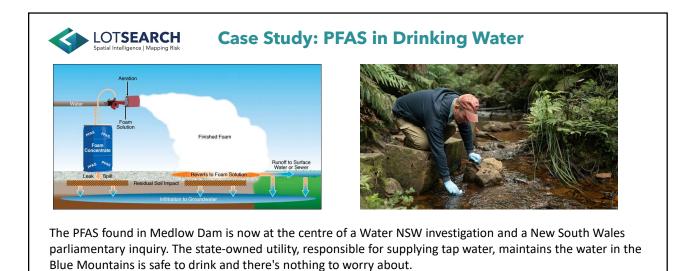




Case Studies / In the News

21





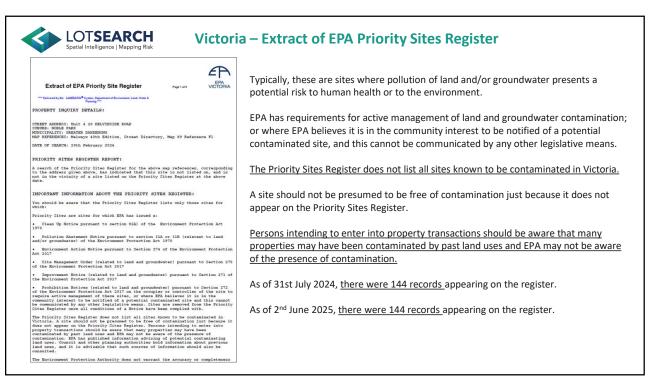
Residents who have since discovered high levels of PFAS in their blood vehemently disagree. The Australian drinking water guidelines set the allowable limit of PFAS in water. In July last year Water NSW, the body responsible for the state's dams, found PFAS levels in untreated water in Medlow Dam exceeded those guidelines. A class action lawsuit is being prepared.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-15/blue-mountains-pfas-drinking-water-and-blood-tests/105147258

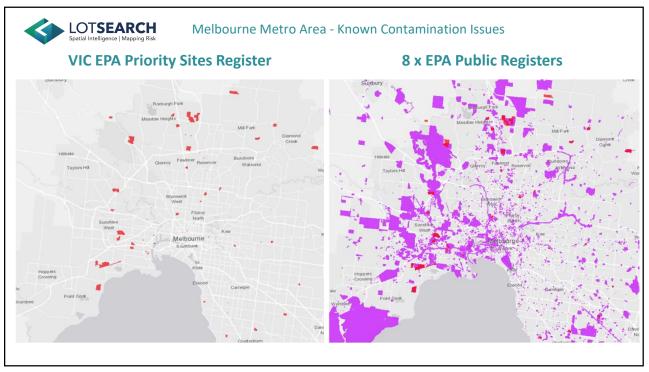


'Known' Contamination (VIC)

Records related to contaminated land, held by state environmental regulators and selected federal government agencies on publicly available registers.



Public Register Name	Number of Records / Sites	
EPA Priority Sites	140	X
EPA Site Management Orders	28	
EPA Register of Permissions	21445	
EPA Preliminary Risk Screening Assessments	<mark>184</mark>	
EPA Environmental Audit Reports	6337	
EPA PFAS Site Investigations	9	
EPA Groundwater Zones with Restricted Uses	880	
EPA Victorian Landfill Register	591	
Total	29,614	
on 214 Environment Protect	ions under the Environment Act tion Act (2017) A preliminary ris audit statement <u>must</u> be provic <u>r is sold</u> .	k screen





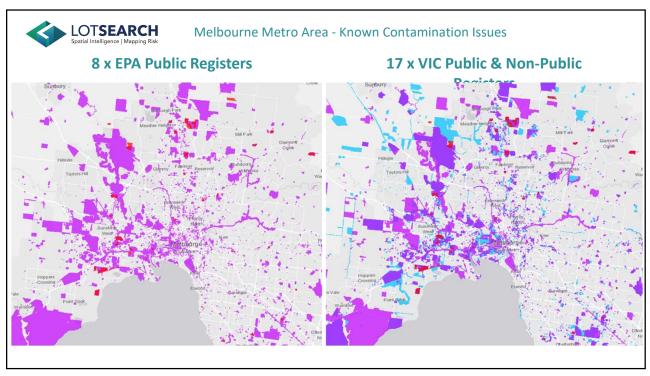
Easier to identify records as they are included on a map with links to key documents!

29

LOTSEARCH Spatial Intelligence   Mapping Risk     Environment Act (2017)	7) - New Environmental Duties	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Public Register & Non-Public Sources	Number of Records / Sites	
EPA Priority Sites	140	
EPA Site Management Orders	28	
EPA Register of Permissions	21,445	
Legacy EPA Licensed Activities	969	
Legacy EPA Works Approvals	396	
Legacy EPA Prescribed Industrial Waste	2,780	
EPA Preliminary Risk Screening Assessments	184	
EPA Environmental Audit Reports	6,337	
Planning Scheme Overlay - Environmental Audits	1,667	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
EPA PFAS Site Investigations	9	
Defence 3 Year Regional Contamination Investigation Program	21	
Airservices Australia National PFAS Management Program	2	
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program - Investigation Sites	4	
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program - Management Sites	4	
Former EPA Priority Sites & Other Remedial Notices	9,316	
EPA Groundwater Zones with Restricted Uses	880	
EPA Victorian Landfill Register	591	
Total	44,773	

practicable, even if you didn't cause the contamination. (section 39 of Environment Act 2017).

This duty requires you to identify any known or reasonably known contamination and take steps to assess and manage the risks



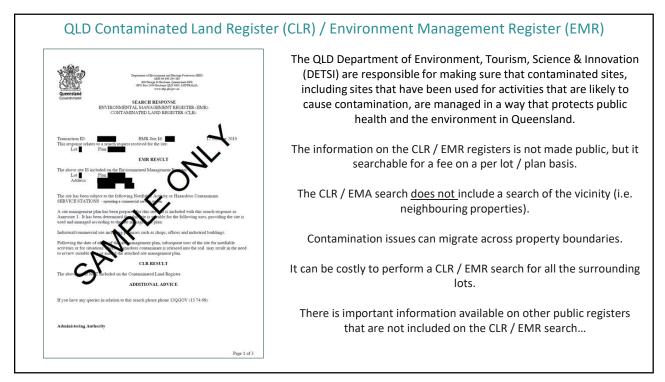


Standard Due Diligence Tool | Delivery: Within 1 Business Day Contains: key information from multiple government registers to identify known and potentially contaminated land

Easier to identify records as they are included on a map with links to key documents!

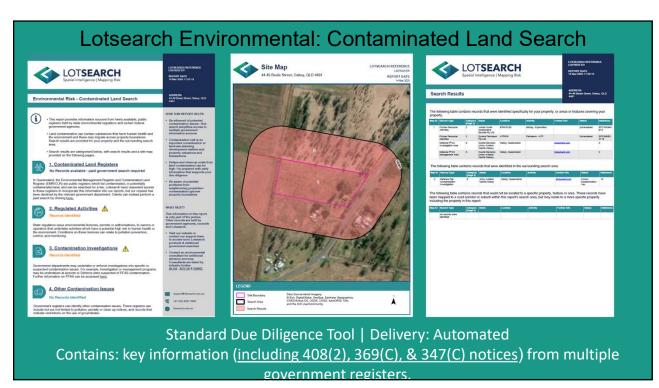
'Known' Contamination (QLD)

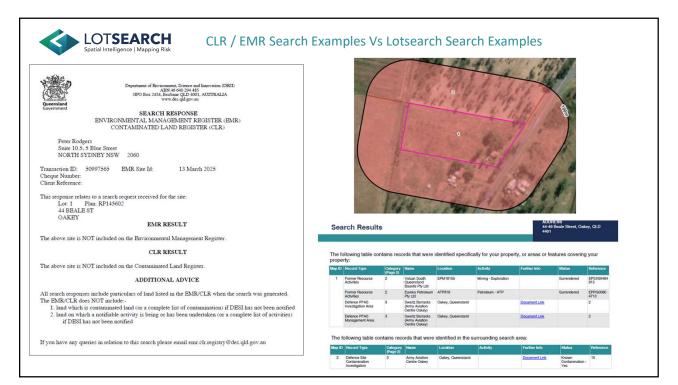
Records related to contaminated land, held by state environmental regulators and selected federal government agencies on publicly available registers.



Part 3 – Lan	d use, planning and environment									
local planning scheme	You may not have any rights if the current or proposed use of the prop- e. You can obtain further information about any planning and developm relation to short-term letting, from the relevant local government.				Rea	uirements under Contaminatic	n	<b>Q</b> .		
Zoning	The zoning of the property is (Insert zoning under the planning schem ment Act 2012; the integrated Resort Development Act 1987; the Mited the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 or the 3 1985, as applicable):	Use Devel	opment	Act 199;	Neq	Environmental Protection	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Q		
Transport proposals and resumptions	The lot is affected by a notice issued by a Commonwealth, State or local government entity and given to the seller about a transport infrastructure proposal* to: locate transport infrastructure on the property: or alter the dimensions of the property.	🗆 Yes		No	• CLR	/ EMR will be a mandatory dis	cl	osu	re	
	The lot is affected by a notice of intention to resume the property or any part of the property.	🗆 Yes		No		item but also				
	re has the meaning defined in the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> . A p fficial process to establish plans or options that will physically affect the The property is recorded on the Environmental Management			esolution No	• Noti	ces under section 408(2) of the	e E	EP A	٨ct	
	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental				Contamination		-	Yes		No
and environmental protection	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.				Contamination	The property is recorded on the Environmental Management				
	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental	Yes		No	and environmental protection	The property is recorded on the Environmental Management Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.				
	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The following motics are, or have been, given: A notice under section AOB(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example, Londs is contaminated, show cause notice requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 369C(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which an environmental	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul>		No No	and environmental	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the <i>Environmental</i> <i>Protection Act 1994.</i> <b>The following notices are, or have been, given:</b>		Vac		N
	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Art 1994. The following notices are, or have been, given: A notice under section 408(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example: Land is contaminated, show cause notice, requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 36/C2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which an environmental enforcement order applies). A notice under section 34/C2) of the Environmental Protection Act				and environmental	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.		Yes		No
protection	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection At 199 Protection At 1994 The following notices are, or have been, given: A notice under section 408(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example, Land is contaminated, show cause notice, requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 306(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which an environmental enforcement oxider applica).	🗆 Yes		No	and environmental	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. <b>The following notices are, or have been, given:</b> A notice under section 408(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example, land is contaminated, show cause notice, requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 369C(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which an environmental Protection Act		Yes Yes		
	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The following notices are, or have been, given: A notice under section 408(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example, Land is contaminated, show cause notice, requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 396(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which an environmental enforcement order applies). A notice under section 347(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the property is a place or business to which a prescribed transitional environmental program applies). There is a tree order or application under the Neighbourhood	<ul><li>Yes</li><li>Yes</li></ul>		No No	and environmental	Register or the Contaminated Land Register under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. <b>The following notices are, or have been, given:</b> A notice under section 408(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (for example, land is contaminated, show cause notice, requirement for site investigation, clean up notice or site management plan). A notice under section 369C(2) of the Environmental Protection Act				No

Public Register Name	No. of Records
invironmental Authorities Register: Current Prescribed Environmentally Relevant Activities	11,251
nvironmental Authorities Register Current Resource Activities	8,093
invironmental Authorities Register Former Prescribed Environmentally Relevant Activities	6,594
Environmental Authorities Register Former Resource Activities	7,031
Defence 3 Year Regional Contamination Investigation Program	36
Airservices Australia National PFAS Management Program	7
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program – Investigation Sites	7
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program – Management Sites	7
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services PFAS Investigation Sites	46
Queensland Government PFAS Site Investigations	24
Enforcement Actions	<mark>5,004</mark>
Temporary Emissions Licenses	1,784
Progressive Rehabilitation & Closure Plans - Mining	1,247
Total No. of Records	41,131





'Known' Contamination (NSW)

Records related to contaminated land, held by state environmental regulators and selected federal government agencies on publicly available registers.

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### information on planning certificates in NSW

- A Section 10.7 Planning Certificate is legally required to be attached to the contract of sale under the Conveyancing Act 1919.
- In 2020, the NSW EPA undertook a review of contaminated land information on planning certificates.
- The EPA found that there were inconsistencies with how councils were reporting information with key information being left out...

Some councils failed to meet their legal duties in listing records appearing under the section 59 CLM Act. Councils said they do not include them

because they do not have a contaminated land policy in place... Only half of councils surveyed reported that they check the EPA's Record

The Records of Notice register include:

- preliminary investigation orders
- notices of declared contaminated land
- approved voluntary management proposals management orders
- ongoing maintenance orders

of notices register!

Most councils did not include any relevant information on part 5 of their planning certificates such as:

- potentially contaminating activities
- council site investigations
- notifications of remediation
- council-held audit statements

Clearly, further due diligence is a key requirement for lawyers!

https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/22p3809-contaminated-land-planning-certificate-review.pdf

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Public Register Name	No. of Record
ist of NSW contaminated sites notified to EPA	2042
Contaminated Land Records of Notice	434
Licensed Activities under the POEO Act 1997	4430
Former POEO Licensed Activities not revoked or surrendered	3540
Delicensed POEO Activities still regulated by the EPA	1428
Defence 3 Year Regional Contamination Investigation Program	40
Airservices Australia National PFAS Management Program	2
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program – Investigation Sites	9
Defence PFAS Investigation & Management Program – Management Sites	٤
Notices under the POEO Act 1997	4207
Former Gasworks	63
EPA Other Sites with Contamination Issues	48
Temporary Water Restriction (Botany Sands Groundwater Source) Order 2018	2
Total	16,253



### S10.7 Planning Certificates vs Lotsearch

Example: s10.7 Planning Certificate - 16 Victa Street, Campsie, NSW 2194.

### Contamination

Council has adopted by resolution a policy concerning the management of contaminated land. The policy applies to all land in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area and will restrict development of the land if the circumstances set out in the policy prevail. A copy of the policy is available on Council's website at <u>www.cbcity.nsw.gov.au</u>.

Council is not aware of the land being affected by any matters as prescribed by Section 59 (2) of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.

Please refer to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for more information.

The s10.7 implies that there is no contamination for the site under question.

Lotsearch Contaminated Land Search Example - 16 Victa Street, Campsie,

Map ID	Record Type	Category (Page 2)	Name	Location	Activity	Further Info	Status	Reference
1	Site notified to EPA as contaminated	1	Former Sunbeam factory	60 Charlotte Street,Campsie	Other Industry	Contamination formerly regulated under the CLM Act	Current EPA List	259
	Site on the EPA Contaminated Land Record of Notices	1	Former Sunbeam Factory	60 Charlotte Street, Campsie		4 former Notices		3374

## **Potential Contamination**

Potentially contaminated land is land where a known past or present activity or event occurring on or off the land may have caused contamination on the land.

*"It can sometimes be hard to know if land is contaminated without testing the soil or groundwater. Testing may not always be necessary, though, as you may be able to identify, or 'infer', the potential for contamination based on the historical use of the land or land nearby." (VIC EPA)* 

### LOTSEARCH Potentially Contaminative Activities (PCAs)

How to identify a potentially contaminative activity (PCA)?

There are several different sources:

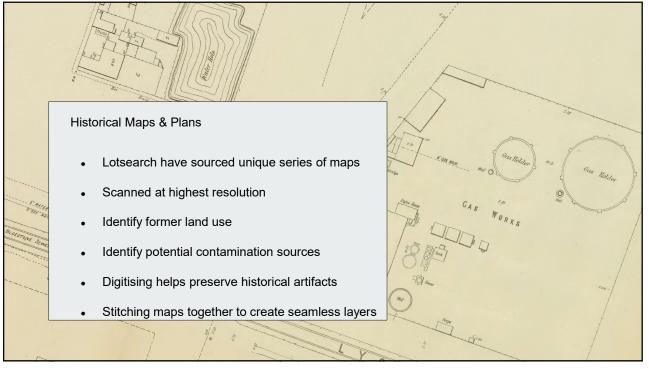
- NEPM
- NSW SEPP55 / Resilience and Hazards SEPP 2021
- VIC PPN30: Potentially Contaminated Land
- · QLD: Notifiable Activities
- · WA : DWER Assessment and management of
- · contaminated sites
- Council Contaminated Land Policies (e.g. Bathurst)
- · UK Claire DoE Industry Profiles
- · Other Contaminated Land guidelines

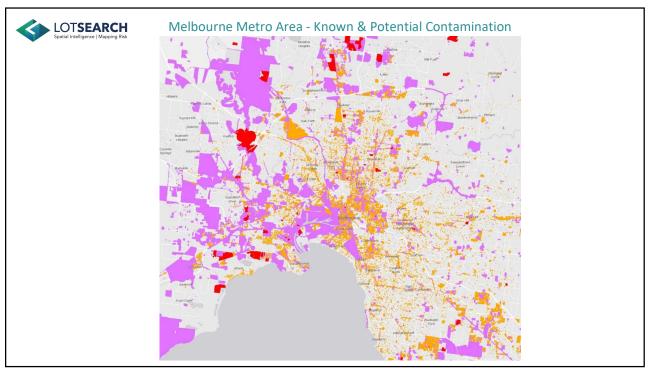
Accessing these lists can help councils to determine what types of activities can pose a potential contamination issue.

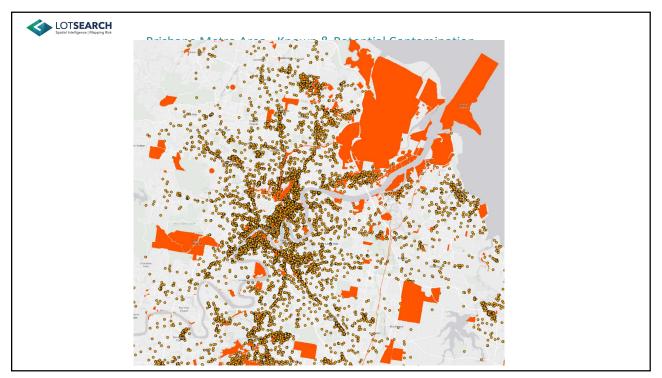
Note: Contamination can be caused by other types of activities and incidents, but it is a helpful guide...

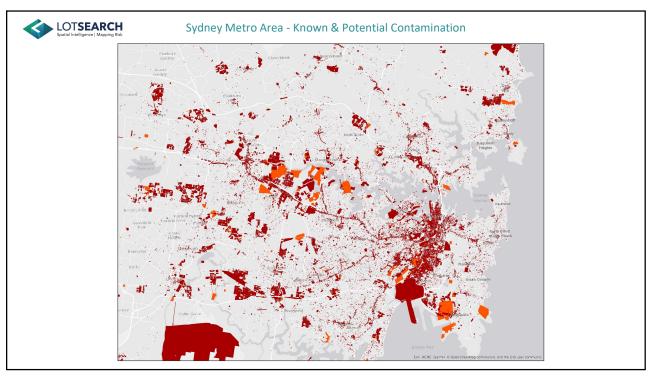
Contaminating Group	Category Code	Detentially Contomination Activity	Locialation	
Agriculture &	Code	Potentially Contaminating Activity	Legislation	
Agriculture & Horticulture	A1	Agricultural/horticultural activities	SEPP55	
norticulture	A1 A2			
	AZ	Tanning and associated trades	SEPP55	
	A3	Sheep and cattle dips	SEPP55	
	A4	Aquaculture	CRJO CL Policy	
	A5	Extensive agriculture	CRJO CL Policy	
	A6	Intensive livestock agriculture	CRJO CL Policy	
	A7	Intensive plant agriculture/horticulture	CRJO CL Policy	
	A8 A9	Livestock processing works Food manufacturing	CRJO CL Policy CRJO CL Policy	
	A10	Rural supplies	CRJO CL Policy	
	A11	Stock and sale yards	CRJO CL Policy	
Asbestos	B1	Asbestos production and disposal	SEPP55	
Chemical	C1	Acid or Alkali Manufacture, Formulation or Use	SEPP55	
chemical	C1	Paint Manufacture and Formulation	SEPP55	
	С3	Pesticide Manufacture and Formulation	SEPP55	

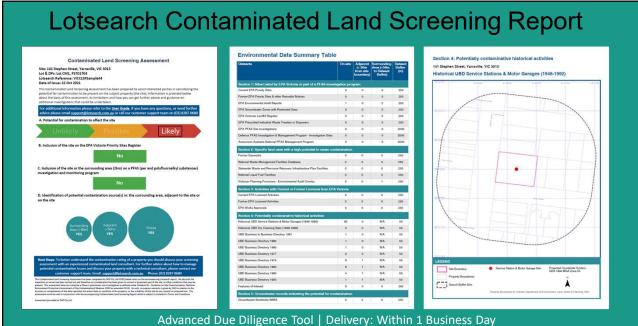










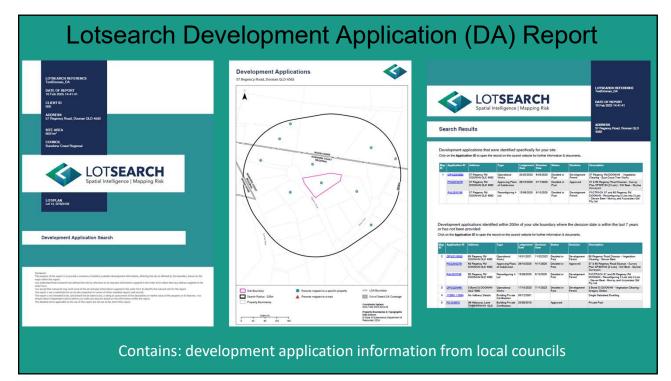


Contains: key information from publicly available government registers <u>and</u> potential contamination sources. Includes a contaminated land screening assessment page.

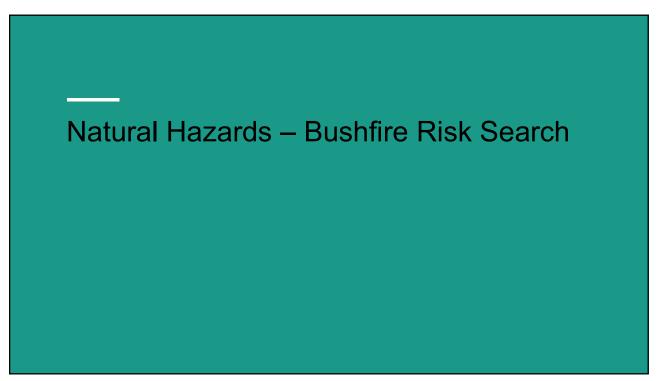








# Acw Lotsearch Development Application (DA) Report Overall Aim: Help you protect your client against the negative impacts of development Launched in QLD in Feb | Launched in VIC in Mar | Launched in NSW in May In Victoria, Development Applications are more commonly referred to as 'Planning Permits'. There are requirements in Victoria to disclosure information relating to approved planning permits. *32D Notices made in respect of land to be disclosed in section 32 statement* A section 32 statement must contain the following details in respect of any notice, order, declaration, report or recommendation of a public authority or government department or approved proposal directly and currently affecting the land, being a notice, order, declaration, report, recommendation or approved proposal of which the vendor might reasonably be expected to have knowledge; *321 Evidence of title required to be disclosed in section 32 statement* (iv) a statement of the contents of any permit under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 authorising the staged subdivision; Lotsearch are currently evaluating building permits in Victoria as these are also required to be disclosure under the Section 32 Act.



### **Bushfire Overview**

The 2019/2020 bushfires burned more than 46 million acres (72,000 square miles) with more than 3,500 homes and thousands of other buildings lost.

- bushfire losses were approximately \$A1.9 billion in insured claims
- amplified by changes in the climate; Australia's climate has warmed by more than one degree Celsius over the past century

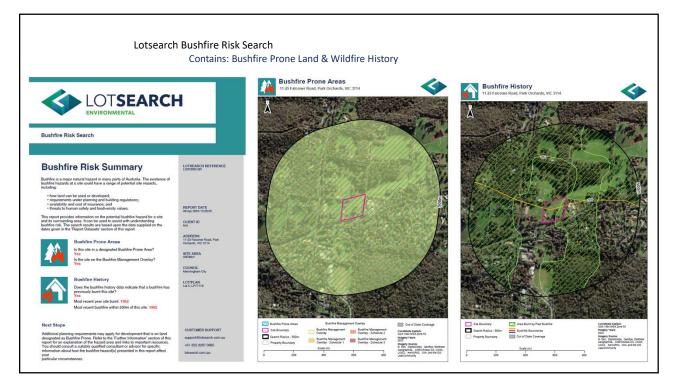
State-based planning regulations are in place to provide a framework for developments located on bushfire prone land.

Significant commercial risk to property owners and investors especially with a hotter, dryer summer approaching.

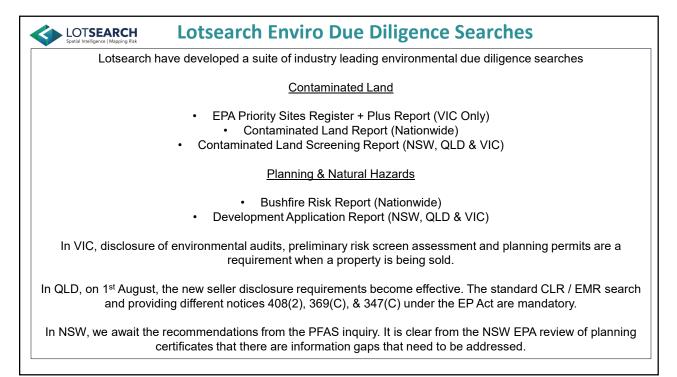


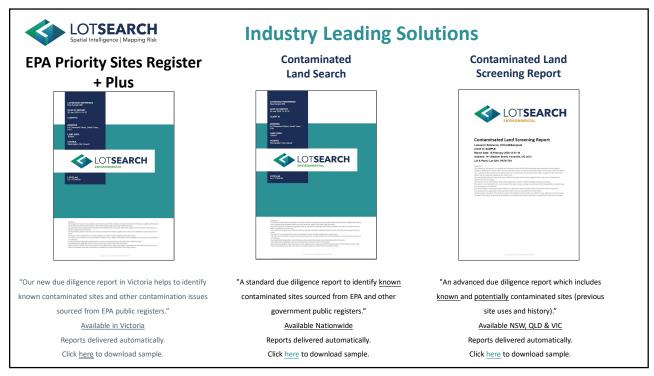






# Summary & Next Steps





nfoTrack	Q Search services, orders, and more	All Services ~	Reporting		🤸 🏟 🖮
Greater Western Wate	r certificates are expected to be impacted by delays in fulfilment due to the authority und	ergoing maintenance between 26th of March	to 1st of April 20	25. You may continue	to Read more.
VIC Prope	erty Enquiries > Select certificates				0
<u>&gt;</u> 1206/16 \	WOORAYL STREET, CARNEGIE VIC 3163				©
4 potential risk	is flagged				
Lotsearch Contamina     Lotsearch EPA Priori	ated Land Search: A contamination hazard has been identified within 100m. ated Land Screening Report: A contamination hazard has been identified within 50m. ty Sites Register Plus- Report: A contamination hazard has been identified within 100m. fied a development application within 200m.				
Certificate			ETD	Detail	Fee
Lotsearch Er	nvironmental: Contaminated Land Search - View sample		1 Day	Within 100m	
Lotsearch E	nvironmental: Contaminated Land Screening Report (Max 3 Lots) - View sam	ple	1 Day	Within 50m	
_	nvironmental: EPA Priority Sites Register Plus+ - View sample		1 Day	Within 100m	
Lotsearch E			1 Day	Within 200m	

