



Polluter pays under proposed contamination laws

Clean-up obligations will be retrospectively imposed on developers, landowners and those responsible for contamination prior to May 1995, under proposed reforms to South Australia's contaminated land laws.

The draft Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Bill (SA) 2005 defines contamination as a chemical substance (including waste) in concentrations above normal background levels that results in actual or potential harm (that is not trivial) to human health, water or the environment.

It sets out a hierarchy of the most "appropriate person" to be served with a site contamination assessment order or a site remediation order. If the polluter is insolvent, unidentifiable or dead, responsibility passes to the owner of the source site rather than the "innocent" owner of the contaminated land. Public comment closed January 27.

More: www.epa.sa.gov.au

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