

## **WASS / PASS PROJECT UPDATE**

WASS is waste acid sulfate soil and rock. PASS is potential acid sulfate soil and rock. Total WASS / PASS in the Metro Rail, West Gate Tunnel and North East Link projects that will require management is around 8.2 million tonnes.

Nagambie Resources has an EPA-approved Environment Management Plan (EMP) to store PASS in the legacy water-filled pits at the Nagambie Mine as part of the rehabilitation of those pits. PASS capacity of the pits is around 5.0 million tonnes.

### **IV Waste Infrastructure Review for the Victorian Government**

Infrastructure Victoria (IV) has released a summary of its public consultation process to end July 2019.

From 23 May to 28 June 2019, IV received 46 responses to its call for submissions from stakeholders representing individuals, local government, the waste sector, energy, manufacturing, infrastructure and the environment.

One of the highest priority issues commonly raised by the stakeholders in their submissions to IV included (emphasis added):

***“The landfill levy settings need to be changed to encourage uses higher up the waste hierarchy than landfilling. The current cost of landfilling in Metropolitan Melbourne is significantly lower than many other Australian and European jurisdictions. This has made it extremely difficult for markets to be established that promote higher order outcomes up the waste hierarchy.”***

IV will be conducting a series of workshops for stakeholders in August before presenting its preliminary report and recommendations to industry and the Victorian Government in October 2019. Following feedback on this report, IV will submit its final advice in February 2020.

### **Waste Management Hierarchy**

Nagambie Resources' submission to IV focused on the environmental issues involved in the management of WASS and emphasised the need to discourage disposal to landfill and encourage its management / reuse at facilities that implement a management approach higher up the waste management hierarchy. Best practice for tunnel WASS is underwater storage, to prevent oxidation of the PASS and the formation of acid drainage.

The Victorian Government's WASS policy requires WASS to be handled in accordance with best practice or EPA's best practice guidelines, which provide for the following hierarchy of WASS management approaches:

- 1) Avoid disturbance
- 2) Minimise disturbance
- 3) Prevent oxidation
- 4) Treat to reduce or neutralise acidity
- 5) Offsite reuse or disposal

The EPA Policy Impact Assessment (PIA) of the WASS policy states in particular:

***“EPA aims to work with industry to promote and encourage reuse options rather than disposal of acid sulfate soils to landfill. In particular, EPA will***

### **NAGAMBIE RESOURCES**

***Exploration for Fosterville-style, structural-controlled, high grade sulphide-gold underground deposits within 2,000 sq km of Waranga Domain tenements is being methodically carried out using geophysical targeting techniques, diamond drilling and analysis for hydrothermal alteration of the sediments.***

***Underwater storage of sulphidic excavation material (WASS / PASS) in the two legacy gold pits at the Nagambie Mine is an excellent environmental fit with major infrastructure projects for Melbourne such as Metro Rail, West Gate Tunnel and North-East Link.***

***Recycling of the tailings and overburden dumps can produce aggregates for concrete and gravel products respectively.***

***Quarrying and screening of sand deposits at the mine to produce various sand and quartz aggregate products is planned.***

***The first landfill site is planned to take advantage of the 17 Ha of engineered black plastic under the mine tailings pad.***

### **SHARES ON ISSUE**

**437,407,802**

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*encourage the diversion of this material to unlicensed premises who have an EMP approved under the Policy setting out reuse proposals, in preference to disposal at landfill.”*

### **Landfill Levy Settings**

Nagambie Resources' submission to IV also emphasised the need to consistently charge the Landfill Levy on all wastes being disposed to landfill.

The Victorian Environment Protection Act 1970 (“the Act”) requires a Landfill Levy to be paid for all waste deposited onto land at EPA-licensed landfills. The Landfill Levy was introduced for Melbourne landfills in 1992 and applies to Municipal (council) wastes and Industrial wastes.

The current Landfill Levy settings are set out in the 2009 Regulations to the Act and consist of lists of landfill wastes and the size of the levy, quantifiable in dollars per tonne, for different categories of those wastes. WASS is not specifically mentioned in the Landfill Levy settings but significant amounts of WASS continue to be disposed of in precious Melbourne landfill space. Following extensive inquiry, Nagambie Resources is concerned that the appropriate Landfill Levy, currently \$65.90 per tonne, is not being applied to WASS taken to landfills consistently, or at all.

On 6 June 2019, the Victorian Auditor-General tabled a report titled “Recovering and Reprocessing Resources from Waste”. In his “Audit Overview”, in a section headed “Insufficient Infrastructure”, he highlighted the following risk in relation to the SWRRIP (Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan) and the MWRRIP (Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan):

*“According to the SWRRIP and the MWRRIP, Melbourne is at risk of inadequate landfill capacity by 2025 if appeals against approved planning permits or works approvals are successful.”*

Nagambie Resources looks forward to the IV recommendations regarding the Victorian Landfill Levy settings.



James Earle  
Chief Executive Officer