



## Minister for Health

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LAAD-13-0009

Mr Hong Lim MP  
Member for Clayton  
Level 1/1312 Centre Road,  
CLAYTON SOUTH VIC 3169

Dear Mr Lim

Thank you for raising the adjournment matter in the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2013 regarding odour issues associated with landfills in Clayton South, Clarinda and Dingley and for your request for a study into the health of residents living in these suburbs.

Landfills in Victoria are licensed under the Environment Protection Act 1970 by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria. Prior to licensing, planning approval must be provided by the local government authority to use the land as a landfill. I understand that the licence outlines the requirements for operating the landfill including environmental monitoring parameters.

I am advised that the Department of Health has been invited to attend the community forums and has attended on several occasions as you stated. The department would like to contribute to discussions at these forums regarding health effects of landfill odours, however I am advised that it is currently not in a position to be able to contribute anything new. The EPA is working closely with the department on this issue.

I am advised that the EPA, as the licensing authority and regulator, has been working closely with landfill operators and the City of Kingston to achieve best practice standards and to improve management practices at the landfills. I am further advised that the odour issues in Clayton South, Clarinda and Dingley are being appropriately addressed and will be resolved, however this will take some time.

With respect to your request for a study, I am advised that there is currently no evidence to suggest that there are any direct adverse health effects from landfill odours and as such, a study is not required. I acknowledge however, that landfill odours can be offensive to residents.

Please advise your constituents that they may contact the department's Environmental Health program on 1300 767 874 if they would like to discuss any concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Davis', enclosed within a circular scribble.

**Hon David Davis MP**  
**Minister for Health**

5/3/2013