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Reducing
workplace
harm.

Improving
outcomes for
injured workers.

Mr Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council
PO Box 21
ALTONA VIC 3018



Dear Mr van Egmond

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 2024 regarding land and residential uses at Techno Park Drive, Williamstown, adjacent to ExxonMobil site.

As requested, a WorkSafe Victoria statement is attached, which can be made available to the public at your discretion.

I hope the statement is of assistance to you and the Council. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I can confirm that Matthew Wielgosz, WorkSafe's Director, Major Hazards and Dangerous Goods, and I would be happy to meet with you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me about this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Calafiore".

Joe Calafiore
Chief Executive Officer
WorkSafe Victoria

7/ 8 / 2024

Approved Statement for Hobsons Bay City Council in relation to Techno Park Drive

WorkSafe is the regulator for most of the Major Hazard Facilities (MHFs) across the state of Victoria, with the exclusion of MHF sites regulated by Comcare. These facilities are industrial sites that store, handle or process large quantities of dangerous goods and must be licenced by WorkSafe.

In order to operate an MHF in Victoria, the facility must be registered with, or hold a licence granted by, WorkSafe. The licencing process includes the assessment, clarification, and verification of a Safety Case prepared as a requirement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*. Licences are typically assessed for renewal every five years, with stringent and ongoing regulatory oversight occurring throughout the licence period.

The regulations require MHF operators to identify and prevent or control incidents that could occur at their site. The regulations set rigorous requirements for operators of MHFs to ensure greater protection for:

- workers at the facility.
- the surrounding community.
- the infrastructure that the facility needs to keep operating safely.

Two ExxonMobil MHFs, the ExxonMobil South Crude Tank Farm MHF and the ExxonMobil Altona Refinery MHF, were granted five-year unconditional licences on 24 October 2022.

Sites remain licenced MHFs, and therefore continue to be considered as such for land use planning purposes, until such time that the licences are surrendered, and the associated regulatory requirements are met.

Details on WorkSafe's involvement in land use planning and current guidance can be found on our website. Referrals from councils, as the responsible authorities seeking advice, often related to land uses in proximity to MHFs, typically fall under section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. WorkSafe is one of a number of referral entities from which councils can receive advice. WorkSafe's role is to assist responsible authorities in the provision of advice related to management of appropriate land uses near MHFs in the context of a specific land use planning application. Councils then make a final decision on any permit approvals based on all the information made available.

For any further queries, please contact WorkSafe's Land Use Planning team at LUP@worksafe.vic.gov.au. Useful information can also be accessed in the links below:

- ExxonMobil Altona Terminal 2022 Safety Case Summary: <https://www.exxonmobil.com.au/-/media/australia/files/newsroom/altona-safety-case-summary-2022.pdf>
- WorkSafe guidance on Major Hazard Facilities: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/major-hazard-facilities>
- WorkSafe guidance on Land Use Planning near Major Hazard Facilities: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/land-use-planning-near-major-hazard-facility>