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## **Property Owners Demand Compensation for Long Term Damage**

Slater & Gordon confirmed today that in excess of 370 owners in the Brooklands Green Estate have now formally retained Slater & Gordon to act for them in a damages claim arising from methane gas migration from the Stevenson Rd Landfill in Cranbourne.

It was now likely that a Class Action on behalf of those owners will be issued this month, subject to ongoing investigations by the firm.

The Class Action would seek compensation for the short term losses incurred as a result of the evacuation and gas migration this year, including relocation costs, as well as the long term damage to the value of homes.

Any Class Action would be commenced in the Supreme Court of Victoria against the City of Casey.

Slater & Gordon has had in excess of 550 inquiries to date from owners and residents and there was no question that the community believed that lasting damage had been done to them as a result of the environmental hazard and ongoing concerns over the management of the site.

Ben Hardwick who is heading the action for owners said that the residents were demanding the City of Casey be made accountable for the debacle.

“Property owners allege that the Council was negligent in failing to prevent the landfill gas spreading to their properties.”

Mr Hardwick said that the City of Casey had proffered no meaningful defence for its conduct to date other than to blame other parties for contributing to the mess.

“Whilst our clients welcome the downgrading of warnings about the risk of their homes exploding, they certainly don’t regard the downgrading of those warnings as the end of the matter.”

Mr Hardwick said owners are concerned that the gas migration issues will have a long term impact on property values.

“There are a number of significant cases that enable property owners in this situation to claim damages for the drop in value in their homes as a result of this type of environmental pollution.”

Mr Hardwick said Slater & Gordon would make a final decision on whether to commence the action in the coming weeks.