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# Homes set for Pasminco site

By DAMON CRONSHAW

THE NSW Government has given its clearest indication that it is paving the way for housing on the former Pasminco site at Boolaroo. A spokesman for the Department of Environment and Conservation said it could not be assumed the site would be used for industrial development.

"We will require a comprehensive plan for remediation that takes into consideration future land uses," the spokesman said.

The department will have input into a master plan for the 100 hectare site that may include "mixed uses including residential and light industry".

The spokesman said the Depart-

ment of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources would ultimately decide whether housing could be built on the site.

Pasminco, which is responsible for remediating the site of its now-closed lead and zinc smelter, is under administration by Ferrier Hodgson, which has contracted property consultants Fitzwalter Group to manage the site.

Project director Anthony Fitzsimmons said yesterday that Lake Macquarie City Council's recent approval of a 154-lot residential subdivision at Macquarie Hills next to the Pasminco site had set a precedent.

Mr Fitzsimmons signalled his support for housing on the land. "A lot of work still needs to be done before

the what and the where are determined," he said.

"We haven't ruled out any type of land use, it's a very large site."

Mr Fitzsimmons said the company had not yet finalised a remediation strategy.

It is understood that at least three million tonnes of toxic waste covers the site.

Lake Macquarie Mayor Greg Piper said it may be possible for housing to be built on the site as long as it complemented the surrounding area.

He said the council was trying to revitalise Boolaroo and some of the less contaminated areas of the site, on the slopes behind the former smelter, were in a "prime location" with good views.