

Questionnaire

A short questionnaire is enclosed with the Community Report. Your feedback on issues of importance to you in the future management of the Cockle Creek site is encouraged.

Further Information & Contact Numbers for the Site

In the event that anyone has to contact the site, the following numbers can be used:

- > **Project Hotline – 4958 0801** during office hours.
- > **Security personnel on site – 0407 330 540.** Manned 24 hours a day. They will then be able to contact staff on-site or site management.

The Pasminco website will also be updated in the near future to provide the local community with up-to-date information on current and future activities associated with the Cockle Creek Smelter site.
www.pasminco.com.au

'Thank You' Gift from the Environmental Health Centre



Despite the closure of Pasminco in September 2003, there is still a health risk for children in this area from lead. It is important to test the children's blood lead levels until we are sure there is no further risk.

During 2004, the Environmental Health Centre will be saying 'thank you for participating' to all children who have a blood lead test in 2004, by giving them a gift. This will be in the form of \$10 gift voucher for each child aged 0–7 years or a double movie pass for each child 8–13 years. Parents can use these gifts to reward the children for their bravery.

Remember free blood tests are held at the Environmental Health Centre the first Tuesday of each month from 2pm – 4.45pm

COMMUNITY REPORT

A newsletter from Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter

April 2004

Slag mound covering near completion

The covering of the two slag mounds on site is progressing to schedule. A fleet of earthmoving equipment was on site during December and February to reshape and contour the two stockpiles in readiness for the covering of the mounds with a black High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) liner.

As seen in the photograph the covering has commenced and will be completed in April. The covering of the mounds will reduce any material being blown from these stockpiles.



Remedial Action Plan (RAP) submitted

The RAP for the site was submitted to the Department of Energy and Conservation (DEC) in January. This plan was a requirement of the Remediation Order placed on the site by the then EPA in July last year. This report was prepared by CH2MHill and independently audited by Dr Bill Ryall from HLA Envirosiences.

The main aim of the RAP is to identify issues that could lead to a Significant Risk of Harm (SRoH) to the environment and then identify actions to reduce the risk.

Another aspect of the RAP was to identify the materials that were left on the site at closure (termed 'The Inventory') that could contribute to the SRoH and identify actions for the storage, treatment or disposal of these materials.

SRoH can be caused by airborne emissions, surface water discharges or groundwater discharges from the site. The RAP has shown that current activities and management practices on site are controlling the risks associated with airborne emissions and surface water discharges.

A groundwater drilling and sampling program was undertaken during the preparation of the RAP to further understand risks associated with the site groundwater and actions required to be taken to control the groundwater flow from leaving the site. Further investigations are necessary to fully understand the groundwater flows.

Project Manager appointed

With the closure of the Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter a Project Manager has been appointed to manage an assessment of options for the site's future together with any site works such as demolition.

Fitzwalter Group Pty Ltd was appointed in November 2003 and brings with it a wealth of property and project management experience.

Established in 1993, the Fitzwalter Group provides a fully integrated property advisory and project management service. The company has staff with qualifications in project management, surveying, architecture, building and construction, civil engineering, occupational health and safety and land economics.

The Fitzwalter Group's initial task will be to oversee the implementation of remediation as recommended in the Remedial Action Plan such as the covering of slag stockpiles and any related site works.

In addition, a preliminary site analysis is being undertaken into the future long-term use of the site with studies including environmental and geotechnical, flora and fauna, heritage, industrial archaeology, and urban design.

In the future Fitzwalter Group, with Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter, will also be providing regular updates of activities occurring on-site and any future planning options that may be considered. The main focus of the project at the present time is to ascertain how best to address site contamination.

The Project Director, Anthony Fitzsimmons, has extensive experience in managing contaminated sites and multi-disciplined teams to achieve property outcomes to the benefit of all stakeholders.



*Anthony Fitzsimmons
Project Director*



PROPERTY CONSULTANTS, DEVELOPMENT & PROJECT MANAGERS

Demolition contractor appointed

One of the initial tasks for the Project Manager was to manage the engagement of a suitably qualified and experienced demolition contractor to commence the demolition of the main plant and other buildings.

Moltoni Adams has been selected as the preferred demolition contractor having recently completed demolition activities at the BHP Newcastle site. Having a successful track record in managing all issues associated with a site of this scale, Moltoni Adams is scheduled to commence demolition activities in mid 2004 following receipt of relevant approvals.

With the assistance of the Fitzwalter Group, Moltoni Adams will be responsible for obtaining all relevant statutory approvals prior to the commencement of demolition activities including undertaking an assessment of the site's industrial archaeology and heritage significance. Moltoni Adams will also be responsible for implementing appropriate safety and environmental controls during the demolition process.

A Development Application for the staged demolition of the smelter is due to be lodged with Lake Macquarie Council in late April 2004.

Extensive groundwater survey underway

Many people will have noticed a couple of drill rigs on the site and along Main Road at Boolaroo. These rigs are part of an extensive program to sample across the site to help identify the groundwater flow paths and the nature of the material below ground level.

The RAP identified that groundwater was an issue that needs to be addressed. To determine how best to address this issue, we need to understand the problem.

The drill rigs help in two ways. They can drill down to see if there is any water under the surface. This water is then sampled and analysed. The second set of information is gained by sampling the material as they are drilling. This can tell us if there is solid rock, gravel or fill material underground. This information will then be of use in designing an effective solution to keep the groundwater from leaving the site.



Current environmental performance

All monitoring for Lead in Air in the community has continued since closure. There has been no change to the locations or frequency of testing.

The results have shown a dramatic, but not unexpected, decrease in Lead in Air in the community as a result of the smelter closure.

These results are shown in the Table below. One interesting fact is that the total dust levels have not changed significantly, but the major change has been the level of lead in the dust.

LEAD IN AIR

	Annual Average at Closure	Nov 03	Dec 03	Jan 03	Average since Closure
Fourth Street	0.87	0.55	0.45	0.38	0.05
Sixth Street	0.70	0.56	0.51	0.47	0.02
Boolaroo Bowling Club	0.27	0.21	0.16	0.15	0.03
Boolaroo School	0.76	0.48	0.39	0.35	0.04
First Street West	0.57	0.40	0.29	0.23	0.06
Argenton	0.78	0.72	0.66	0.42	0.40