

COMMUNITY REPORT

A newsletter from the Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter

August 2006

Both the Deed Administrators of the Pasminco Group of companies and the Fitzwalter Group, Project and Development Managers appointed by the Deed Administrators, are committed to keeping the local community informed about what's happening at the Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter ('PCCS') site. As part of the commitment we have prepared this August 2006 edition of the Community Report which provides an update on on-site activities and an update of the progress of the Site Remediation Approval process.

previous investigations and actions post closure

The December 2005 newsletter identified that the most appropriate remediation methodology for the site's slag materials and contaminated soils is to place and compact them in a containment cell on the site as the central component of the proposed on-site remediation strategy.

The preliminary concept design studies completed in 2005 determined the engineering and environmental requirements for the construction of a containment cell. A Site Audit Report and Site Audit Statement were prepared by the Site Auditor which confirmed that the remediation strategy and design was suitable. The remediation documents were submitted to the Department of Environment and Conservation for their technical approval. These documents have also been included as an integral part of the application to obtain environmental approval for the cell construction from the Minister for Planning. This newsletter outlines the progress of the approval application.

At the same time, PCCS has awarded a contract to Golder Associates Pty Ltd to complete the final design of the containment cell so that work can commence on its construction after an approval is obtained. Golder Associates is a highly respected and successful consultancy that has had extensive experience in similar cell designs.

The proposed site remediation strategy will ensure that there will be no risk to human health or the environment and that the whole site will be available for the nominated future uses.

announced Incitec-Pivot closure

In a media statement released 20 April 2006, Incitec-Pivot announced closure by September 2009. Incitec-Pivot stated "The demolition of the smelter gives us the opportunity to cooperatively remediate both sites in preparation for other possible uses, which might include light industry and public space, subject to the final land use strategy adopted by the Lake Macquarie City Council." PCCS and Incitec-Pivot propose to work together on the remediation and redevelopment of both sites.

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www.pasminco.com.au

project hotline : 4958 0801

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▼ Figure 1: PCCS Owned Lands



planning approval process for site remediation

PCCS is seeking to gain approval from the Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ('**EP&A Act**') for various works associated with the remediation of the PCCS site ('**the Project**'). The Project application includes:

- > the staged remediation of PCCS owned lands at Boolaroo (see **Figure 1**);
- > the acceptance onto the Main Site of certain specified waste materials from nominated residential properties in Boolaroo, Speers Point and Argenton and possibly from the Incitec-Pivot site at Boolaroo;
- > the construction of a containment cell (or two cells) on the Main Site for the receipt and long term storage of materials arising from the sources noted above; and
- > associated environmental controls and site management during and after remediation.

As the various site areas are remediated, they will become available for development for the future uses of industrial, commercial, residential or open space. Once finished, it is currently intended that the top of the cell also be used for light industrial/commercial purposes. Residential uses will not be permitted on the cell. Approvals for the redevelopment phases will be sought independently.

The Minister for Planning has issued final Director's Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment under Part 3A of the EP&A Act 1979. The guidelines can be found on the Department of Planning website www.planning.nsw.gov.au and are also reproduced in the Environmental Assessment document.

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Public Exhibition The Environmental Assessment Report will be on public exhibition from Thursday 17 August 2006 to Monday 18 September, during normal business hours, at:

Department of Planning Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney

Lake Macquarie City Council Customer Services Centre, Administration Building (1st floor), 126-138 Main Road, Speers Point

Environmental Health Centre ('EHC') 3 Main Road, Boolaroo

The EHC office is open in Boolaroo on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only** from **8.30AM to 5.00PM** and can be reached on **4965 8933**.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment Report may also be viewed on the Department of Planning's website **www.planning.nsw.gov.au**.

Submissions

You are invited to make a written submission on this proposal. This submission should include:

- > your name and address;
- > the application reference number (05_0184);
- > the name and address of the proposal;
- > a statement on whether you support or object to the proposal; and
- > the reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Your submission must reach the Department by close of business on Monday 18 September 2006, and should be addressed to:

Critical Infrastructure and Special Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Under section 75H of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* the Director-General is required to send copies of submissions or a report of the issues raised in those submissions to the proponent, and to any other authority the Director-General considers appropriate, but the names and addresses would be withheld. If you do not want your submission to be made public, please state this in your submission.

Enquiries – Ricardo Prieto-Curiel (02) 9228 6112 or Scott Jeffries (02) 9228 6426

lead abatement strategy

In parallel with the proposed remediation of PCCS Lands, PCCS has voluntarily proposed a lead abatement strategy ('**LAS**') in respect of the management of potential lead dust exposure on certain properties nominated in the 1995 Smelter Upgrade consent. The strategy has been developed to provide for reduced exposure for residents of the nominated properties to previous lead dust deposition such that exposure levels from lead dust deposition are within acceptable limits during everyday living. It is expected that agreement on the final details of the LAS will be completed at the same time as the approval of the remediation works which will allow a start in 2007.

asset sales

The Administrator is continuing with the progressive realisation of PCCS Pty Ltd (subject to Deed of Company Arrangement) assets. As part of this program it is intended that the EHC premises will be sold in the months following the exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. In conjunction with this the Administrator is working with the EHC and Department of Health regarding the ongoing operation of the EHC and its premises.

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community information & feedback session

A forum will be held at Boolaroo School on Saturday 2 September between 10am-3pm. There will be a number of information boards displayed in a casual and comfortable environment for local residents and interested parties to discuss any issues with the project team including the Environmental Assessment, site planning, remediation strategies, current site activities and future plans related to the site. PCCS would welcome the opportunity to speak to all of the community interested in the project.

demolition progress

Demolition is virtually complete with the last items of materials to be removed from site in October 2006. The Old Laboratory is to be retained and is expected to be revitalised for heritage conservation and other uses such as office space. The other remaining buildings and structures, (office, gatehouse and effluent treatment plant) will be demolished as part of the remediation works.

In April 2006, the large concrete stack was expertly felled by the demolition contractor CMA. Figure 2 shows photos of its exciting fall.



Figure 2: Demolition of the large concrete stack

further information

If you would like further information about the Cockle Creek site please contact:

- > the Project Hotline on **4958 0801** during office hours or visit the PasmaInco website at **www.pasmaInco.com.au**

Alternatively, should you wish to write and/or fax information or your comments we can be reached on:

- > fax **9211 9299** or at **633 Harris Street, ULTIMO NSW 2007.**

Please address any correspondence to the attention of Andrew Freeman, Senior Development Manager.

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