

COMMUNITY REPORT

As part of our commitment to provide the local community with information regarding activities associated with the former Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter (PCCS) site, we have prepared the November 2004 edition of the Community Report. Various activities are progressing in relation to the site's remediation planning, demolition and the winding-up of all operations. Current and proposed activities are outlined in more detail below.

environmental management

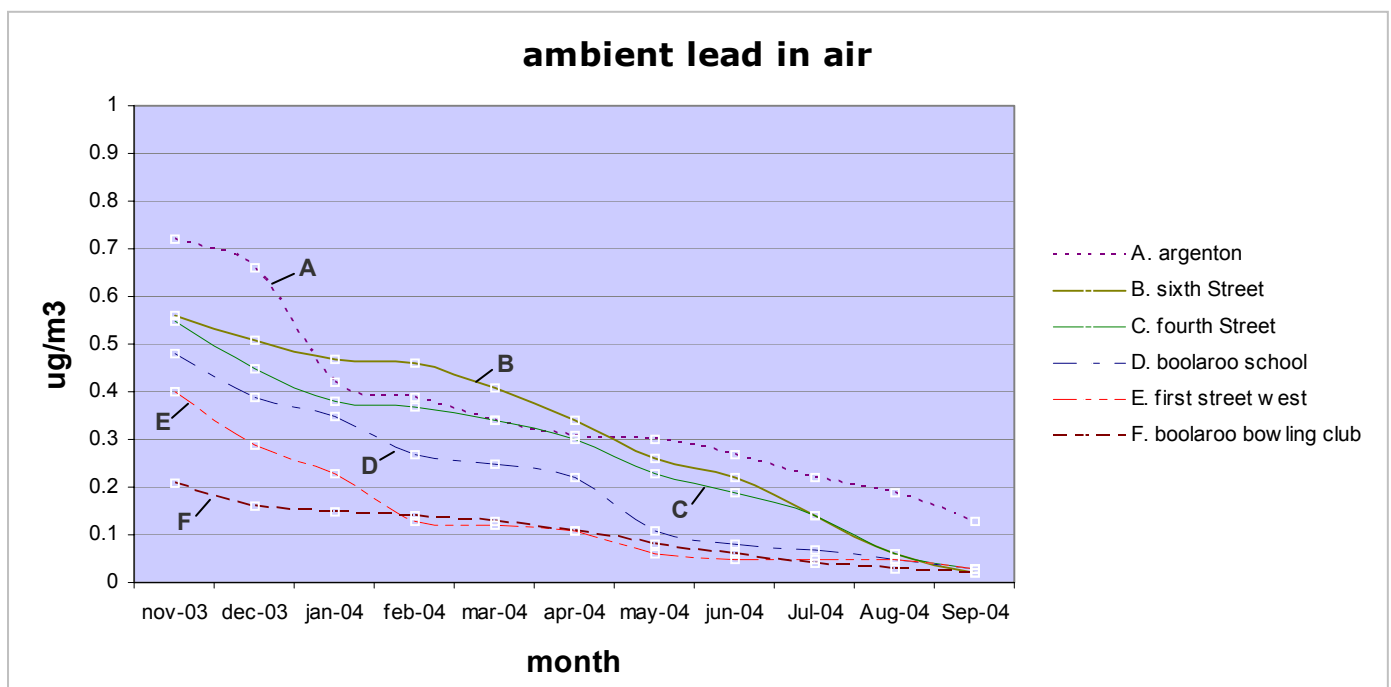
PCCS Services Site Manager, Stuart Munro is responsible for the day-to-day management and progressive decommissioning of redundant operations on-site. In addition, Stuart has implemented additional dust control measures and is overseeing limited remediation activities.

dust control

The covering of the two large slag mounds with a high density plastic liner is complete and will significantly reduce the potential for material being blown from the stockpiles. Roads within the site are regularly watered down. With the continuation of lead-in-air monitoring since closure, activities have again resulted in a decrease in lead-in-air levels in the community. The results since closure are shown in Figure 1 below.

remediation activities

Limited remediation activities are being undertaken in accordance with the PCCS Operating Licence and the Remediation Order which has been issued in relation to the Smelter site. PCCS Services is also in negotiation with international buyers for certain materials on site that may have a commercial value.



site remediation planning

Given the history of the PCCS site, it is anticipated the remediation processes will be complex. Current activities include:

- > Maintenance of the site (dust and surface water);
- > Multiple site investigations to characterise and quantify all residue materials;
- > Limited removal of materials which can be processed or re-cycled;
- > Development and review of remediation options and documentation of a whole-of-site remediation strategy for discussion;
- > Obtaining approvals from relevant Local, State and Commonwealth authorities including the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (incorporating the EPA, and Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC)), Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), and Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC); and
- > The staged implementation of the remediation strategies in parallel with the overall redevelopment of the site.

Investigations and site characterisation

A series of investigations are either complete, currently underway or proposed in the near future, to characterise and quantify materials on the site. These investigations include:

Ground and groundwater sampling program: A drilling and sampling program was undertaken during the preparation of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to address Significant Risk of Harm (SRoH) issues. The drilling program provided a broad cross section of the type and quantities of materials on-site.

Further drilling is due to take place in the near future to provide additional input into the development of a hydrogeological model of the groundwater flows. The model may ultimately be used to assist in the preparation of a performance specification for the possible construction of a groundwater interception system.

Surface water treatment: The surface water catchments on-site have been mapped and modeled to identify on-site water storage requirements. The data collected will be used to progressively manage stormwater run-off from the site.

Site remediation options

The data collected and the conclusions drawn from the various studies will be used in developing and documenting a number of potential strategies or methods to remediate the site.

An initial review of the remediation options indicates that some material which can not be economically removed for processing or recycling is likely to be managed and stored on-site in a containment cell. The remediation strategy for the site is the subject of ongoing discussion with the DEC.

It is expected a consortia of civil contractors and developers will be invited to assist in the remediation and redevelopment of the site.

demolition of the plant

The proposed lodgement of a development application for the staged demolition of the main plant and ancillary buildings in April 2004 has been delayed until later in the year. However in the interim period the demolition contractor, Moltoni Adams, has commenced with the de-dusting of buildings. While Moltoni Adams is ultimately responsible for implementing appropriate safety and environmental controls, a specialist contractor has been appointed to overview Moltoni Adams' compliance with relevant codes of practices in relation to demolition activities.

site land use planning

LMCC has engaged the services of Dickson Rothschild and URS to prepare an urban land use strategy for the Glendale SRA land (incorporating the Glendale sub-regional centre), the PCCS site and the southern slopes of Munibung Hill.

The main objective of the study is the preparation of a document to guide the future possible land uses, planning and development of the Boolaroo, Argenton, and Glendale locality adjacent to and including the PCCS site.

The broad strategy is to reflect the sustainability principles that underpin the LMCC's Lifestyle 20/20 Strategy.

The proposed strategy will ensure that:

- > Future development and management of lands within the study area reflects the social, economical and environmental values of the lands; and
- > Future land uses are compatible with and integrate with the adjoining urban areas of Boolaroo, Argenton, Glendale and Cardiff.

LMCC propose to prepare a draft urban land use strategy and supporting documentation for public exhibition in late 2004.

environmental health centre

In an effort to simplify the blood lead testing process, the Environmental Health Centre (EHC) will continue to trial the 'fingerprick' method for the next 3-4 months to determine whether it is a more acceptable method to the children and families of the Argenton, Boolaroo and Speers Point areas.

A number of the families have decided to use this method and the EHC has received positive comments about this method of blood testing. As the fingerprick test is a screening test, children who are found to have an elevated blood lead levels are then offered a venous or needle test to back up the result.

The EHC will continue to have their clinics on the first Tuesday of each month from 2:00pm – 4:45pm, however they will now have fingerprick clinics running every Tuesday afternoon. If these times are not convenient, parents can ring the EHC to make a time that suits them.

Don't forget that during 2004, every child who has their first test for the year will receive a free gift. Children under 8 years will receive a \$10 gift voucher and children aged between 8 and 13 years will receive a movie pass. Contact the EHC staff on 4965 8933 for more information.

Vacuum cleaners

Anyone living in the Argenton, Boolaroo and Speers Point area can borrow one of the HEPA vacuum cleaners from the EHC. The vacuum cleaners are very popular so they can only be loaned out for 2 –3 days.

feedback questionnaire

A questionnaire was issued with the last Community Report seeking your feedback on issues of importance to you in the future management of the Cockle Creek site. Overall we received an excellent response with 344 questionnaires being returned to us by local residents and the business community. In summary:

- > 77% thought closure of the smelter was ultimately a good thing;
- > 92% of respondents supported investigations into alternative land uses for the site including:
 - . Residential – (14%),
 - . Industrial/commercial – (25%),
 - . Community uses (e.g. community centre, sports centre) or institutional type uses (e.g. hospital, education) – (14%), and
 - . Open space – (26%);
- > Strong emphasis was placed by the majority of respondents on the creation of employment opportunities and the remediation of the site.

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 Pasminco website at www.pasminco.com.au

Alternatively, should 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. We respect your privacy. Please contact the Fitzwalter Group for a copy of our Privacy Policy.