



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 this commitment we have prepared this September 2005 edition of the Community Report.

community information and feedback forum

Thank you to those who attended the Community Information and Feedback Forum held on 25 June 2005 at the Boolaroo Public School. The forum provided an opportunity for local residents, businesses and other interested parties to obtain information on the current activities associated with the planning and redevelopment of the site.

The day was considered a success with an estimated 70 people attending between 11:00AM and 3:00PM. Fourteen presentation boards were on display and the consultant team was on hand to answer any questions. A copy of the boards can be viewed in the entrance of the Environmental Health Centre, 3 Main Road Boolaroo or at the Pasminco website www.pasminco.com.au. The feedback received during the day was generally positive with the vast majority of attendees considering the proposals for the site as being a good thing for the local area.

land use planning

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) recently completed the exhibition of the draft Pasminco Munibung Land Use Strategy. The strategy, placed on public exhibition between mid-June and 11 July 2005, undertook an analysis of the site with a view to outlining various alternative land uses.

Three planning applications to subdivide and rezone various portions of the PCCS site which were lodged with Council in early 2005 are pending assessment subject to the finalisation of the above land use strategy and provision of a Remediation Action Plan outlining the process to remediate the sites.

A fourth application is currently being prepared to subdivide and rezone a portion of land for employment uses as a further extension of the Cardiff Industrial Estate. The application is due to be lodged in the coming months subject to the resolution of traffic issues.

demolition commenced

The dismantling of the buildings and plant is continuing with several stores buildings now completely removed. This is the first major step in the process of cleaning up the former smelter site. Initially the buildings are thoroughly washed down to remove lead dust followed by the removal of wall sheeting before the building frames are demolished. Most of the reusable building materials are being recycled. Strict environmental management controls are being imposed on the demolition contractor by PCCS particularly in relation to minimisation of dust.

As part of the heritage management strategy for the site, and in accordance with the consent conditions issued by LMCC, a report and documentation recording each building is provided to Council before the commencement of any work. Approval for the demolition of each building is received from Council prior to commencement.

A separate development application is currently being prepared by Moltoni Adams for the remaining buildings.

Works on the cataloguing of the historic documents and relics continues.

remediation activities

The concept design for the on-site containment cell is nearly complete. The cell is planned to eventually contain contaminated material from around the site and will be sealed with a capping layer. In addition to the capping layer, there will be upstream surface and groundwater diversions to minimise any water entering the completed cell. There is also an extensive downstream catch drain system to capture and collect any leachate or contaminated groundwater for on-site treatment so that the water can be either reused or discharged from the site as per the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) licence.

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The design report, together with many other site investigation reports, is to be reviewed by the independent Site Auditor. If the proposed design and site remediation solution are considered satisfactory, the Auditor will provide a Site Audit Statement (SAS) for the proposed works. The documents and the SAS will be then submitted to government authorities for their consideration and approval.

environmental management

PCCS personnel are continuing to manage and monitor the environmental performance of the site as the demolition progresses and the site is being cleaned up. This will continue until the site is appropriately remediated and ready for re-use.

> **dust control**

Additional measures are being applied to minimise the dust generated during demolition of the plant which is now actively proceeding. Dust monitors are demonstrating the success of the measures.

> **surface water control**

The amount of surface water overflows during heavy rainfall events since the smelter closure has substantially decreased. While this is partially due to the present low rainfall patterns, it is clear that the recent improvements to the site surface water management regime are largely responsible for this successful outcome. Further improvements are progressing and will be fully operational within the next 6-8 months.

> **groundwater control**

Subject to receiving approval from the DEC, PCCS intends in the near future to install a series of groundwater wells to capture groundwater at two points on the western side of the PCCS site. Any contaminated water will be treated to enable either on-site reuse or discharged from the site as per the DEC licence.

> **lead in soil in the community**

Residents in the suburbs of Boolaroo, Speers Point and Argenton, as nominated in the 1995 Smelter Approval, are reminded that they can still get the soil in their yards analysed for lead content under the conditions of the 1995 approval. Please contact Howard Bridgman on 02 4958 0800 to arrange a suitable time for a test to be undertaken.

Discussions with government authorities are still continuing with respect to a further strategy to manage lead in soil in nominated properties in the community as part of the future overall site remediation process.

call for expressions of interest

Stage 1 of the Call for Expressions of Interest closed on Thursday, 23 June 2005 seeking submissions from qualified and experienced parties to participate in the remediation, redevelopment and ultimate realisation of the site. A number of parties have been short-listed for further consideration.

future distribution area

Commencing with the next edition of the Community Report we plan to reduce the distribution area to the suburbs closest to the site (i.e. Boolaroo, Speers Point, Argenton & Macquarie Hills).

If you reside outside these areas and wish to join our mailing list, please contact our office via the Project Hotline on **02 4958 0801** during office hours or alternatively you may write and/or fax your contact information including email address to us on: fax **9211 9299** or **633 Harris Street, ULTIMO NSW 2007** or admin@fitzwalter.com.au. Alternatively both past and current Community Reports can be viewed on the PasmaInco website at www.pasminco.com.au.

Fitzwalter Group ensures you that your privacy will be respected. Please contact the Fitzwalter Group for a copy of our Privacy Policy.

environmental health centre

The Environmental Health Centre (EHC) is pleased to welcome, Susan Williams, our new community representative for Argenton to its governing group - the Committee for Environmental Health.

If anyone living in Argenton, Boolaroo and Speers Point has concerns about lead in their area or the remediation activities at PasmaInco that they wish to discuss with the Committee, please contact the EHC and they will put you in touch with a community representative.

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