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Hydro Smelter Stacks Depart Kurri Kurri Skyline

Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri's three largest stacks and main water tower were demolished today to make way for future development and conservation outcomes.

The iconic concrete chimney stacks and main water tower of the Hydro Aluminium smelter at Kurri Kurri, that broke the skyline for fifty years, are no more.

The felling of the concrete stacks, two smaller stacks at 70 metres high, one larger stack at 140 metres high, as well as the main water tower at 55 metres high marks a significant milestone in the demolition and remediation of the Kurri Kurri site as it is prepared for future use. Hundreds of hours have gone into the approvals process and the planning and logistics for the demolition, which was executed safely and efficiently.

Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Managing Director, Richard Brown is delighted with the outcome.

"Our aim is that all of the demolition is carried out safely, and that is why we didn't promote that it was happening, along with the fact that it could have been delayed for a host of reasons such as weather." He said.

"We see this significant milestone for the site as another step forward towards the redevelopment of the land and future economic activity".

To ensure the felling took place safely, the demolition was carried out with the assistance of NSW Police, the NSW Transport Management Centre, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Fire & Rescue NSW. In accordance with rules and regulations, relevant bodies such as SafeWork NSW were notified prior to the event.

Hydro Project Manager, Andrew Walker is equally pleased with the result. "The stacks fell just where we had planned. CMA Contracting has done a great job." He said.

The site is now around 70 per cent demolished, with most of the three pot lines, the casthouse and smaller structures also gone.

"CMA has been on site for two years now. We expect main demolition works to be complete by the middle of next year." Said Andrew Walker

The major project component awaiting approval is for the construction of a fully engineered containment cell, to be used for the placement of demolition waste that can't be recycled, the contents of an existing 40+ year old stockpile of mixed waste, and several small quantities of contaminated material.

Underway in parallel with the demolition is the rezoning of parts of the site, and the bio-certification of some 1200-1300 hectares of land that will be conserved as a biodiversity offsetting area.

Spent Pot Lining material stockpiled for the last 20 years, is being recycled by a number of contractors, and Hydro is recycling or reusing everything else from the demolition wherever feasible.

Plans for the future of the 2000 hectare site are (approximately) for conservation (65%), residential development (10%), employment land (10%) and rural land (15%).

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Media interview opportunities:

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