



January 9, 2018

Kurri Kurri Smelter Remembered with Mural on Hart Road

Work underway on aluminium smelter commemorative mural.

Construction is complete on Hart Road for the mural structure, and artist Daniel Joyce is starting work on the artwork this week.

Vision Opportunity: Onsite at Hart Rd, Wednesday 10 January from 9am – 10am.

Following the closure of its Kurri Kurri smelter, Hydro Aluminium called for ideas from the community for ways to commemorate the smelting heritage of Kurri Kurri and Weston. The most popular idea was for a mural, and so Hydro has asked community based economic development organisation *Towns With Heart* to manage the appointment of an artist and development of a mural that remembers the smelter and its history.

A mural committee was formed from the interested parties, with elements of the mural selected by consensus. Various images that represent activities at the smelter and of course the skyline of the smelter site will be incorporated into the finished artwork.

Hydro Kurri Kurri Managing Director, Richard Brown, is pleased with the project so far.

“We stayed at arms-length from the outcomes but just said we wanted a quality product and input from community members”, he said. “We are very pleased with how it is coming along”.

Artist Daniel Joyce completed work earlier this year, on a mural in Kurri Kurri that celebrated the work of the late Ian “Beat” Hill.

Kurri Kurri is known as “the mural town”, and the completion of this mural will take the total number of murals in and around Kurri Kurri to 61.

Towns with Heart President, Toby Thomas has plans for more. “This town entry mural is part of a larger plan to have murals placed at the entry points to several other nearby towns, such as Neath, Stanford Merthyr and Pelaw Main. Cessnock Council has seen and endorsed our Town Entry Murals plan, and a mural at Neath should be underway by 2019, with two more likely as soon as we can find the funds” he said.

The first town entry mural is on Main Road at Kurri Kurri.

Other activities on the Hydro site and buffer zone

- The early clean up and remediation around the smelter buffer zone is well underway.
- The first stage of demolition of the Kurri Kurri smelter site has been underway since May this year, and will take between 2 and 3 years to complete.
- Hydro is applying to have the Stage 2 demolition approved under a separate Development Application with Cessnock City Council. This includes other major infrastructure onsite such as the chimney stacks and underground infrastructure. Once approved, the removal of the stacks is expected in late 2018.
- Rezoning applications have received endorsement from both Cessnock and Maitland councils. Gateway Determination requires several issues to be resolved before the rezoning can be approved, such as the completion of biodiversity certification and a flood study being conducted by Maitland City Council. The councils will then exhibit the rezoning plans and seek feedback from the community. This includes rezoning for business and industrial development on and around the smelter site, and rezoning for residential development along Cessnock road near Clifftleigh and Gillieston Heights.
- Biodiversity certification for around 85% of the buffer zone is underway. This will see around 1250 hectares of land conserved, and a significant portion will be an offset area for clearing in the rezoned residential and business zoned land.
- Hydro has committed to the reuse or recycling of all materials from the site where feasible. Aluminium, steel, oil and various other materials are being recycled as part of the current demolition process, and recycling options are being assessed for the spent pot lining material that is presently stored on site. Hydro is working towards a three-to-four-year timeline to have the spent pot lining recycled.
- The environmental approval process for the remediation of the site is ongoing. Hydro expects a determination from the Department of Planning around mid-2018.

Hydro encourages questions and feedback on all parts of the project from all community members, and contact mechanisms include: Community line 1800 066 243; Email address community.kurri@hydro.com; and Mail to: Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, PO Box 1, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327.