



We're looking to remediate land after nearly 50 years of smelter use by various owners.

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Demolition of site buildings and the remediation of a few small areas of land will allow the redevelopment of the former smelter site which will ultimately provide the local community with new opportunities for employment, housing, recreation, and environmental conservation.

## INTRODUCTION

Hydro has undertaken comprehensive investigations to identify the extent and types of waste and contamination both around the smelter site and in the buffer zone land. The majority of smelter-related contaminated material is contained within an approved capped waste stockpile. Hydro has evaluated options for the remediation of the smelter site and selected a remediation option that is both environmentally sustainable and responsible.

Much of the low impact clean-up work (early works) has already been completed, and an environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared for the demolition and remediation of more complex parts of the smelter.

Hydro employs best practice environmental management and is proud of its environmental record. The demolition and remediation process is a key component of Hydro's strategic vision to increase economic activity and employment in the local area by allowing for a new generation of business

and industrial development.

## PROPOSAL

There are three parts to the demolition and remediation process:

- **Early works:** This is the low impact clean-up work that can be done without any approvals. This work is well underway.
- **Stage 1 demolition:** This includes demolition of the majority of site buildings and structures, excluding structures such as stacks, buildings with a potential for reuse, buildings storing waste materials, and below-ground infrastructure. This received Council approval in March 2016.
- **Stage 2 demolition and remediation:** This includes the tall stacks and removal of below-ground infrastructure, excavation of contaminated soils and the on-site containment of these along with non-recyclable waste material. This is considered State significant and thus requires NSW Government approval. These activities are the subject of the EIS.

The reuse or recycling of materials is the preferred option for managing site wastes; this covers everything from the basic reuse of computers and furniture by donating them to others, through to finding a recycling option/s for materials including concrete, metal and smelter wastes where it is a reasonable and feasible option.

Hydro has worked closely with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E), the community, and environment specialists for more than two years to develop the proposal and EIS.

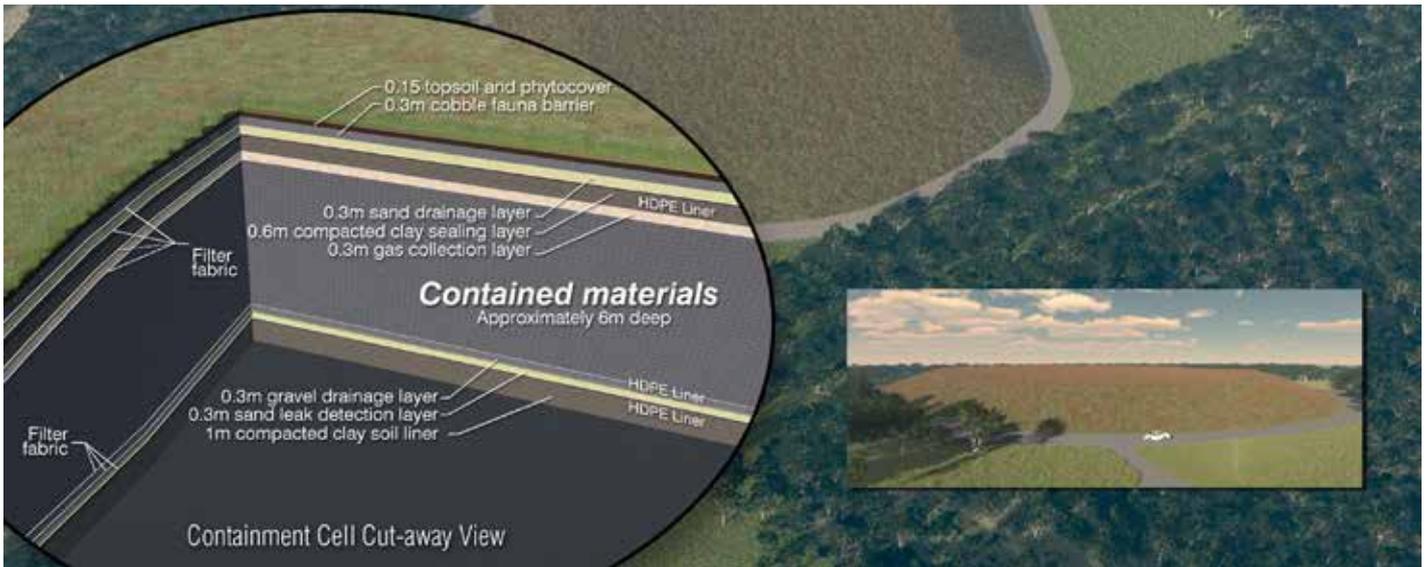
Materials that are not recyclable, or not deemed reasonable or feasible to recycle, are proposed to be contained within a purpose-designed and built containment cell.

A containment cell is an engineered structure with multiple barrier layers, specifically designed to encapsulate and lock away waste material, prevent water from entering, and to minimise and capture any gas or leachate generated. Containment cells are current best-practice for the management of many wastes and contaminated materials around the world.

On-site containment has been used globally and locally to remediate contamination (including smelter wastes) and can be found in areas such as Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush Bay, the former Pasmenco smelter at Cockle Creek, the former BHP site at Mayfield, at Charlestown in Lake Macquarie, and Carrington in Newcastle.

The detailed design and constructability assessment is likely to be completed in late 2016, however, the containment cell is still subject to approval by the DP&E.

In preparation for these waste management solutions, Hydro is undertaking a series of investigations with potential recyclers, has commissioned the detailed design for the containment cell, and is working with the EPA and the DP&E on the appropriate mechanism for the resourcing and funding of the long-term management of the containment cell.



## PROJECT STATUS

**EARLY WORKS – underway**

**STAGE 1 DEMOLITION**  
– development consent granted in March 2016. Preparation is underway.

**STAGE 2 DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION – EIS completed. Subject to determination by the Department of Planning and Environment.**

## NEXT STEPS

A competent and experienced contractor will be engaged by Hydro to manage and execute the demolition works. This contractor will prepare a demolition environmental management plan for Council approval prior to the commencement of site demolition activities.

The proposed containment cell detailed design is underway and, following consultation with the EPA, expected to be completed by late 2016. Hydro is continuing to work with the EPA and the DP&E on the long-term management plan for the containment cell.

The EIS is on exhibition for public comment until 12 September. When this exhibition ends, the DP&E will collate the submissions received from the public and request a submissions

report from Hydro which addresses any issues and concerns raised in the submissions. We will then provide the submissions report to the DP&E for review, who will then make a determination on whether the project can proceed.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Will the smelter be demolished?

After considerable planning, preparation, investigations, and approvals from Cessnock City Council and the NSW Government, demolition of some or all of the smelter will occur. The overall process is likely to take several years. Hydro will keep the community and other stakeholders informed about timeframes and other activities.

### When will demolition activities occur?

Council granted development consent for the demolition of the majority of the smelter in March 2016. We expect that the demolition permitted by this consent would commence in late 2016 at the earliest.

### Is there contamination on the site?

There are a few areas making up a quite small proportion of the Hydro land that contain contaminants. Hydro is committed to managing site contaminants so that they do not present a risk to human health or the environment and continues to work in consultation with the EPA to manage the remediation of these areas.

### What is a containment cell?

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wastes and contaminated materials around the world.

On-site containment has been used globally and locally to remediate contamination (including smelter wastes) and can be found in areas such as Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush Bay, the former Pasmenco smelter at Cockle Creek, the former BHP site at Mayfield, at Charlestown in Lake Macquarie, and Carrington in Newcastle.

### Why do you want to put the waste into an on-site containment cell?

The on-site containment cell is considered to be the best remediation option considering cost, risk, legacy, timeframe, environmental, and corporate social responsibility factors. It allows Hydro to ensure responsibility of the cell into the future, while other options had varying degrees of uncertainty. In addition, Hydro is committed to recycling site materials, including concrete, metal and smelter wastes where it is reasonable and feasible to do so.

### Are there any risks to the public during remediation and demolition of the site?

Any identified potential risks have been considered in the EIS to be examined and approved by the DP&E. Impacts such as noise, dust and traffic are described in the EIS along with mitigation measures to control them. The mitigation measures to address the potential risks will be implemented in accordance with a demolition and remediation environmental management plan which will be prepared in consultation with DP&E and the EPA prior to commencing these activities.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW**

Hydro welcomes all feedback on these proposed plans. Please provide feedback or ask questions through these channels:

Email: [community.kurri@hydro.com](mailto:community.kurri@hydro.com)

Phone: 1800 066 243

Write to: Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, PO Box 1, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327.