



## Project Fact Sheet No.1

Since placing the smelter into 'care and maintenance' mode in October 2012, Hydro has been deliberating about the future of the plant and conducting environmental investigations and other assessments in order to make informed decisions.

In May 2014, Hydro decided to formally close the aluminium facility and preliminary plans are being made for the future of the site. It is important to note that this project will take considerable planning and the involvement of various government agencies and other organisations. It will take at least two years before any significant changes occur on the site.

### The site

The site includes the smelter and the buffer zone around the smelter, an area of approximately 2000 hectares.

The new Hunter Expressway travels through the site on the south western side, with the sites most eastern part bordering Cessnock road near Gillieston Heights.

Land near the centre of the site is part of a catchment area for Wallis creek, which flows into the Hunter River at Maitland, and land to the North West is rich in biodiversity, containing threatened flora and fauna species.

The buffer lands currently contain some residential areas, undeveloped forested land and grazing land as well as the existing industrial sites.

The northern boundary of the buffer zone is between 3.5 and 4 kilometres away from the smelter.

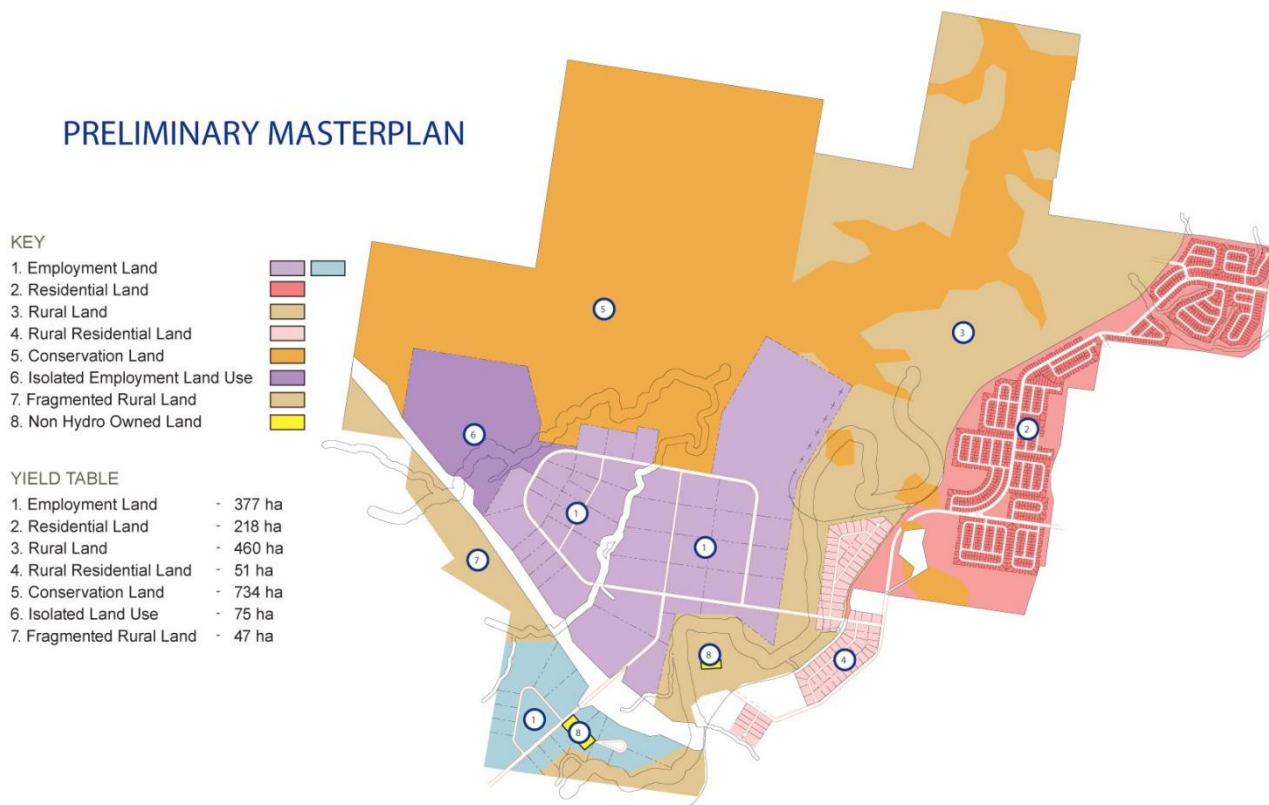


*An aerial view of the smelter site and buffer zone*

## Plans for the future

The site's size and location, its previous use and existing infrastructure mean that it is well suited for a variety of future uses. After considerable research, environmental and other investigations, and considering the demand for various land uses in the Lower Hunter, Hydro is proposing that some parcels of land could be redeveloped to facilitate employment and some areas could be developed for residential purposes. It is anticipated that much of the Hydro owned land would be maintained for rural use or for the creation of conservation land in most of the native habitat areas.

The diagram below shows the current thinking around future land uses for the site. Note that details such as residential lots and roads are only for illustrative purposes, with no final designs at this early stage.



## Keeping the Community Informed

Hydro understands that the smelter has been a significant part of the history of the local area, and that the future of the site will be important to the future of the local community and others. For these reasons Hydro will be keeping the community up to date with activity and developments on the site over time.

There are a number of ways to stay informed about and provide input into what is happening and what is being planned for the site.

1. A community information line 1800 066 243
2. A community information email address [community.kurri@hydro.com](mailto:community.kurri@hydro.com)
3. New web pages on the Hydro web site [www.hydro.com/kurri](http://www.hydro.com/kurri)
4. Letters and newsletters which will be sent to neighbours and other interested stakeholders
5. A Community Reference Group (CRG), will meet regularly and act as a liaison point between the community and the project. The group will be made up of community representatives from Council, community groups, business groups and local residents. Hydro will inform the community of who the representatives are, and they will be encouraged to provide information about the project to interested community members. Minutes from CRG meetings will also be available on the web site.