



REGROWTH
KURRI KURRI

CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

The Hydro smelter site and buffer zone covers approximately 2000 hectares of land. It is predominantly zoned rural with a large portion in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) and the remainder in the Maitland LGA.

Hydro is aiming to create a positive legacy for the site by preparing the land for industrial, business and residential development, and by securing the conservation of a large proportion of the land (1300 hectares of 2000).

Hydro has lodged rezoning applications with Maitland and Cessnock Councils and is currently planning for the demolition and remediation of the smelter site.

REZONING

applications lodged July
gateway determination expected early 2016
exhibition expected around April 2016



REUSE

items donated to charities & NGOs
online sales site live now



RECYCLING

spent pot lining will be recycled and not contained
aluminium components being prepared for recycling



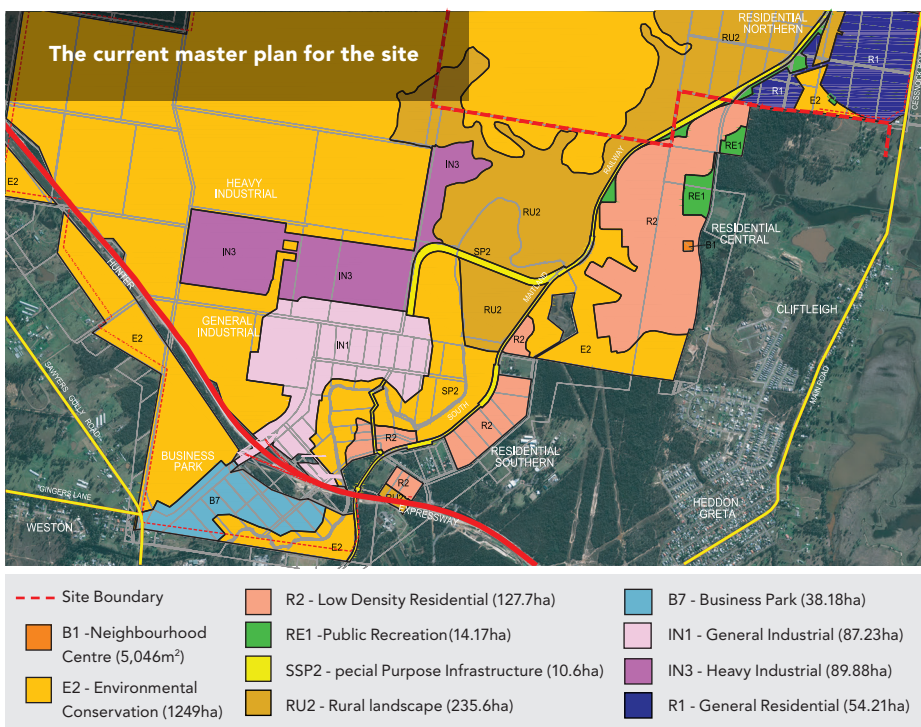
REMEDIATION

basic works commenced in 2015
major project EIS exhibition expected early 2016



DEMOLITION

dismantling internal components commenced
building demolition approval with council
chimney stacks & below ground infrastructure requires EIS - decision expected late 2016



LAND REZONING

Rezoning applications were lodged with Cessnock and Maitland Councils in July 2015 for the following:

- Rezoning of around 215 hectares to business and industrial zoning
- Rezoning of around 180 hectares to residential zoning
- Rezoning around 1250 hectares for environmental conservation

Both Councils have recommended that rezoning proposals be forwarded for Gateway Determination and then exhibition. Overall the rezoning process is expected to take up to 18 months.

Although Hydro has not proposed the rezoning of any land that it does not own, it is possible that Councils may look to rezone land adjacent to the Hydro property if it is deemed to be strategically important to do so.

If your property is near or within an area that Council is considering rezoning along with the Hydro-owned land, you should expect to be contacted by Council. If you have any questions or concerns about the rezoning of land, please contact your local Council.

DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION



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 at the Kurri Kurri site.

There are three parts to the demolition and remediation process.

1. The early and low impact "clean up" work that can be done without any approvals. This is prior to demolition work and has commenced
2. Stage 1 Demolition: this includes demolition of the majority of site buildings and structures, apart from structures such as stacks, buildings with a potential for re-use and where waste materials are being stored and below ground infrastructure, and

3. Stage 2 Demolition and Remediation: this includes the tall stacks and removal of below-ground infrastructure, excavation of contaminated soils and the onsite containment of these, along with non-recyclable waste material.

In each case, reuse or recycling is the preferred option. This covers everything from the basic reuse of computers and furniture – by donating them to others, through to finding a recycling option or options for the spent pot lining material that is stored in sheds on site.

The early and straightforward remediation work has begun, and in some areas it is complete. This includes the removal of bricks and concrete from areas in the buffer zone, and the repair of landforms. Some areas had a variety of domestic and commercial waste on them (placed by others), while other areas had large concrete blocks, and other non-hazardous waste materials from the smelter, stacked on site.

These areas have now been cleaned up and the land regraded, and it is now ready for future use.

As well some decommissioning and preparation for demolition has commenced, such as the removal of asbestos and recovery of aluminium busbars and pot doors.

Preparation for the Stage 1 demolition is also under way, with development consent required from Cessnock Council for the demolition of the majority of the smelter buildings. This development application was submitted in August.

To complete the Stage 2 demolition and remediation, Hydro needs to comply with the NSW Government approvals process, and so has developed a proposal and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which

is being discussed with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) before being submitted in 2016.

This demolition, including tall stacks and below ground infrastructure, and the subsequent on-site containment of non-recyclable wastes and contaminated soils, and the treatment of impacted water, will be assessed as a State Significant Development and will be subject to a determination from the DPE.

The proposal for the major demolition and remediation of the site has been developed in consultation with the EPA, the DPE, and the wider community.

Hydro has been working closely with the EPA for more than two years, providing details on the waste types on the site and on how Hydro proposes to manage these wastes.

Site materials including concrete, metal and smelter wastes (such as separated spent pot lining) that can be recycled, will be, where it is reasonable and feasible to do so.

In September this year the Community Reference Group (CRG) that was set up to bring community input to the project, discussed the assessment criteria that they felt should be used in assessing the various reuse or recycling options for the spent pot lining. You can read this discussion online in the minutes.

While this recycling process is separate to the remediation of the site, Hydro wished to involve the community in the selection of the spent pot lining recycling process.

Hydro is currently working towards the development of a shortlist of potential spent pot lining recyclers that can be assessed against the suggested criteria.



Aluminium pot doors stacked ready for recycling off site.

"SITE MATERIALS INCLUDING CONCRETE, METAL AND SMELTER WASTES (SUCH AS SPENT POT LINING), WILL BE RECYCLED, WHERE IT IS REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE TO DO SO."

COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THE REUSE OF EQUIPMENT

While the decision to close the smelter was not an easy one, and certainly not welcomed by the local community, one of the immediately positive side effects of the closure of the smelter is that a significant amount of equipment that is no longer needed, can be offered to organisations that can benefit from it.

For example, Camp Quality has recently benefitted from the delivery of surplus furniture, including a lounge, some shelving, stationery cabinets and a television set.

Other worthy organisations have included:

- Kurri Kurri Pre School – white goods and stationery items
- Jacaranda Men's Shed Cessnock – work benches, cabinets and tools
- Kurri Kurri Community Centre – furniture and stationery items
- Kurri Kurri High School – furniture, projector screen
- Jodie's Place, Cessnock – computers
- Towns with Heart – computers
- Greta Rural Fire Brigade – water fountain, lockers
- Kurri Kurri Speedway – white goods and computers
- Kurri Kurri Junior Motorcycle Club – white goods and furniture
- Calvary Aged Care and Retirement Community – work benches, steel cabinets and furniture
- St. Phillips Christian College Cessnock – metalworking tools and consumables
- Kurri Kurri Little Athletics – furniture, lockers and a computer
- Hunter Wetlands – furniture, computers, a workbench and a vice
- Kurri Kurri Early Childhood Centre – stationery items
- Kurri Before and After School Care – stationery items
- Mission Australia Early Learning Kurri – stationery items
- Kurri Kurri Girl Guides – stationery items
- Mai Wel – computers



Be sure to check the web site for more information, including short videos
www.hydro.com/kurri



A site visit as part of consultation activities to date.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

To date the project team have carried out a variety of consultation activities. Project web pages contain a range of information and feedback mechanisms. Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers and in online media seeking feedback on proposal elements and promoting three Community Drop-In Sessions that took place in Kurri Kurri, Weston and Gillieston Heights in May and June 2015.

Since July 2014, CRG has been meeting regularly to bring together community stakeholders with an interest in the project. The CRG is made up of a dozen community, business and local government representatives, and is one of a number of ways the community is able to exchange information with Hydro and gain answers to questions and concerns.

To contact the team please:

Email: community.kurri@hydro.com

Phone: 1800 066 243

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

NEXT STEPS

We expect the EIS for our major proposal to be placed on exhibition in the New Year after some details are worked through with the EPA and DPE.

This gives us an opportunity to take another thorough look at the proposal and see if it can be improved, and to consider the nature and design of the proposed onsite containment system.

The project approvals process is managed by the DPE, and they will advertise where and when the formal exhibition process is taking place. We will also promote the exhibition period, but are always keen to hear from any local residents, business owners or other stakeholders who have questions or issues about any aspect of the project. Feedback from the community and other stakeholders has already improved the project, and we encourage you to help us to improve it further.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Hydro is committed to facilitating long term employment and economic activity for the Kurri Kurri, Weston communities and broader Hunter Region.

Early predictions estimate that development of the business and industrial area, could bring around 300 million dollars, and create up to 30,000 construction jobs as well as several thousand ongoing jobs, when the site is fully developed.

The conservation area alone could potentially generate around a million dollars of regional value, and ongoing conservation management jobs.



BIODIVERSITY

The Hydro owned land has large areas of significant biodiversity value and Hydro is looking to establish a long term conservation area which will protect around 1250 hectares of the 2000 hectare site.

A Biodiversity Certification process is currently being progressed with Cessnock Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Large areas of high biodiversity value land are planned to be set aside as conservation land forever

REZONING OF LAND TO RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CONSERVATION

TIMEFRAME

Prepare Rezoning Application	Completed April 2015
Planning Proposals submitted to Councils	Completed July 2015
Planning Proposals tabled to Meeting of Councils	Completed November 2015
Applications forwarded to the LEP Review Panel	Completed August 2015
Gateway Determination	Early 2016
Proposal on exhibition	Mid 2016
Detailed Assessment by Council	Late 2016

EQUIPMENT SALES

Hydro has established a web presence for the online sale of a range of used equipment.

The web address is
rhas.com.au/index.php/hydro

MAJOR PROJECT DETERMINATION

TIMEFRAME

EIS submitted for appropriateness to the Department of Planning and Environment	Completed October 2015
Public exhibition of EIS	Early 2016
DPE receives submissions	Throughout the exhibition period
Hydro reviews submissions and prepares a Submissions Report	Early 2016
Submissions Report provided to DPE for review	Early 2016
Department of Planning Determination	Late 2016



MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE REGROWTH KURRI KURRI PROJECT TEAM WISH YOU MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.