



3 September 2015

Media Release

Project Update

Hydro to submit EIS for Demolition and Remediation Project

As part of Hydro's ongoing commitment to prepare the Kurri Kurri smelter site and buffer zone for redevelopment, Hydro has announced that it proposes to lodge an Environmental Impact Statement for its Demolition and Remediation Project by the end of 2015. The Demolition and Remediation Project 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.

Hydro has been working closely with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for more than two years, providing details on the waste types on the smelter site, and in a few small areas within the smelter's 2000 hectare buffer zone, and on how Hydro proposes to manage these wastes. We have also consulted with the community through various channels, including our Community Reference Group.

Following consultation with these key stakeholders and the general community, Hydro has developed a remediation and demolition strategy for the site that includes the construction of an engineered containment cell for non-recyclable wastes and contaminated material. Site materials including concrete, metal and smelter wastes (such as spent pot lining) that can be recycled, will be, where it is reasonable and feasible to do so.

"Our early consultation has highlighted the view that the spent pot lining should be recycled if it is reasonable and feasible to do so. We will therefore investigate further the viability of potential options for this material" said Richard Brown, Managing Director of Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri.

"We wish to thank our Community Reference Group, Cessnock and Maitland Councils and staff at the EPA and the Department of Planning and Environment, for their preliminary feedback on our proposal." Said Mr Brown.

Hydro continues to recycle various smelter wastes such as a recent shipment of 8000T of carbon materials, exported to Germany for reuse. Hydro will continue to work closely with the EPA to assess the viability of recycling options for spent pot lining both locally (including the Regain and Weston Aluminium operations) and internationally.

“We would like to involve the Community Reference Group (CRG) in this process, initially by confirming the assessment criteria for evaluating the viability of the available options. We will also continue to work with the EPA to ensure that they understand the consultative process that we are undertaking and how our proposal has been developed.” Said Mr Brown.

“This assessment will consider the full life-cycle analysis in terms of environmental and social outcomes in line with Hydro’s overarching Corporate Social Responsibility Policy”. Said Mr Brown.

“Hydro wants to find the right balance of feasible options for recycling the spent pot lining whilst ensuring that the jobs and economic benefits of the ReGrowth Kurri Kurri project are delivered without undue delay for the people of our region” Said Mr Brown.

The current progress of other parts of the project is as follows:

- The rezoning applications to both Cessnock City Council and Maitland City Council were submitted in July;
- The process to commence the bio-certification of up to 1300 hectares of the buffer zone has commenced with Cessnock City Council and OEH;
- The demolition Development Application for the first stage of site demolition (buildings to ground level, not stacks, etc.) was submitted in August;
- The rehabilitation of several small parcels of land in the buffer zone – to remove concrete blocks, bricks, domestic waste etc, is complete;
- Sale of various plant and machinery, and raw materials for smelting is continuing;
- Removal of asbestos, dust and retrievable metals prior to demolition is continuing;
- The demolition of several derelict houses in the buffer zone is continuing;

Hydro encourages questions and feedback on all parts of the project from all community members.

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.

Richard Brown
Managing Director
Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Pty Limited