



Major Development Assessment
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Our ref ER21323
Your ref 10/21869

Attention: Chris Richie

Dear Mr Richie

Pasminco Cockle Creek Remediation (06_0184 Mod 3)

I refer to your letter dated 24 January, 2012 regarding the Pasminco Cockle Creek Remediation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. The NSW Office of Water has reviewed the information submitted by Pasminco Pty Ltd and provides the following advice.

The Office of Water understands that the remediation being undertaken by Pasminco Pty Ltd, at the former Cockle Creek Smelter site at Boolaroo, is in adherence to statutory directions issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The Office of Water and EPA undertook discussions prior to the commencement of remediation works by Pasminco Pty Ltd, regarding the application of statutory requirements administered by the separate agencies to avoid unnecessary duplication of process.

As part of the remediation works, contaminated groundwater is being extracted, treated and reinjected into the target aquifer beneath the former smelter site. Whilst it was agreed between the EPA and Office of Water that the EPA will be the lead agency in regard to the remediation project, it was also recognised that there was a statutory requirement related to the extraction of groundwater and establishment of monitoring bores. As a result, the Office of Water issued licences to the 'owner' of the remediation site under part 5 of the *Water Act 1912*, for the purposes of 'groundwater remediation' and 'groundwater monitoring'.

As the EPA is the lead agency in regard to the remediation directions, the Office of Water defers to the EPA for comment in relation to the *Application to Modify Project Approval No. 06_0184 Mod 3*.

If you require further information I can be contacted on (02) 4904 2549.

Yours sincerely

Mark Mignanelli
Manager Major Projects, Mines and Assessment

10 February 2012