

26 July 2018

Nicholas Hall  
Planning Officer  
NSW Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hall

**PASMINCO COCKLE CREEK SMELTER REMEDIATION PROJECT – MODIFICATION 6  
(MP 06\_0184 MOD 6)**

I refer to your letter dated 3 July 2018, inviting Hunter New England Population Health (HNEPH) to make a submission on the modification to approval conditions for the Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter Remediation Project.

The former Pasmenco lead and zinc smelter site is the subject of a Remediation project located approximately 13 km south-west of Newcastle. HNEPH has reviewed the modification proposal with particular attention being paid to the management of air quality, noise, water and other issues that may impact on public health.

Hunter New England Population Health objects to the modifications proposed to the Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter Remediation Project (MP 06\_0184 MOD 6). In general, our concerns align closely with those of NSW EPA. Adherence to the original conditions is important for ongoing management of the site, public confidence in the future management of the site and ensuring future costs are not borne by the community. Our comments in relation to specific modifications are detailed below:

1. Remove the timing for the application of a covenant to the containment cell on the site

This modification is opposed. A positive covenant should be put in place as soon as possible in compliance with the initial conditions of consent.

2. Amend the framework for funding the cost of ongoing maintenance of the containment cell

This modification is opposed. The original funding conditions should be maintained to ensure funding in perpetuity and protect the community from any environmental liability.

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3. Reduce future groundwater, surface water, air quality and noise monitoring and environmental management and reporting requirements

This modification is opposed. It would only be supported where the modification was deemed satisfactory by NSW EPA and in consultation with the community. It is important that transparent reporting continues.

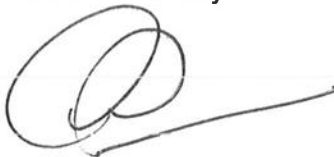
4. Remove the requirement to maintain up to date information on the project's website.

This modification is opposed. There is still a need for the existing and new community members to have access to information on the history and context of the remediation project and ongoing monitoring. Open, up-to-date information is important for public confidence in the effectiveness of the containment cell. It could be argued that more comprehensive information on the remediation project could be made available online.

Most of our comments relate to the importance of maintaining agency and community confidence in the effectiveness of the remediation project going forward. We strongly recommend that any modification to the conditions be negotiated with local community reference groups who have been involved with lead related issues in North Lake Macquarie.

Should you require any additional information in relation to the above, please telephone Ms Nichole Mason, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477.

Yours sincerely



Dr Tony Merritt  
**Acting Service Director - Health Protection**  
**Hunter New England Population Health**