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RE: MP 08 0191 Exhibition of Stack Pre-demolition Management Plans

I would like to thank you, the Planning Department and especially Minister Hazzard for delaying the September date for demolition in order to properly evaluate the proposal and its conditions.

The Deputy Director General, Richard Pearson, approved Schedule 1 of the Port Kembla Copper Demolition Project on 15th August 2010, under delegated authority and subject to conditions set out in Schedule 2 and Schedule 3. Tony Kelly was the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Infrastructure at the time so he was the one held responsible for the decision.

In December 2011 the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) found that Tony Kelly had engaged in corrupt conduct on a property matter. The Labor Party terminated Kelly's membership. How can the community rely on a decision made by a corrupt person in a position of power? Especially a decision that can affect our lives and health.

In view of the vague and inadequate conditions that only give 'Motherhood Statements' with little or no specific qualifications or detail it is my firm opinion that the whole approval needed to be reviewed. Where there are detailed conditions in Schedule 3 there has been many instances of noncompliance. PKC has ignored the requirements or shown only token gestures

The people of the Illawarra have never been given the choice about whether or not to save an outstanding structure that is a heritage from our industrial past. The Stack is an icon in the Illawarra and people are dismayed that a multinational company based in Japan is about to demolish our chimney because it is cheaper than maintaining it. The chimney will not fall down and will most likely be standing in 100 years. PKC has not been entirely truthful about the integrity of the stack. There have been viable plans put forward to save the stack and turn it into a tourist attraction, but our Wollongong City Council (WCC) appears to have sabotaged those attempts by delaying tactics and poor advice about rezoning requirements. Other councils assist people to begin projects that will create tourist opportunities and ultimately extra jobs. WCC has put every obstacle in the way of people who wish to save

this icon. Residents suspect that a few powerful people in the Labor Party have influenced these processes for an opportunity to make a quick buck for themselves by the sale of the unencumbered land. I suspect there are a few dirty hands behind the push to demolish the stack.

My main concern is that if this chimney comes down, that it is brought down safely and the health of the residents is not compromised. There were so many problems in the proposal that the whole process has to be reviewed in light of new information.

How can PKC have been allowed to drill over 900 holes to place explosive charges when the approval to proceed has not yet been given? That is the typical arrogance that this company has shown the people of Port Kembla since the Carr Government passed legislation that stopped the court case against the reopening of the copper smelter in 1997. Bob Carr passed the law that allowed 11.5 tons of Arsenic, 11.5 tonnes of cadmium plus lead and sulphur dioxide fumes to be emitted over the residents of Port Kembla annually. I might add that Bob Carr recently criticized the Syrian Government for gassing its people.

I will attempt to list the flaws that still exist in the stack demolition process. Flaws that could impact our health, safety and wellbeing.

1. We require proof that the felling of the Stack by explosion is safe

1.1 A stack of this height and mass has never been felled in Australia before.

1.2 Has it been established whether pre or post-tensioned concrete has been used in the construction of the stack? What affect will there be on the directional control of the felling of the stack?

1.3 Various tests have been carried out to disclose the composition of the stack. There is still no guarantee that the concrete, mortar, bricks and surfacing paints are free of asbestos, only that it **was not detected** in the samples. All the laboratories placed **disclaimers** that the method of testing could not detect small and sparse fibres of asbestos. There still could be asbestos in the stack structure. 'Flintkote' surfacing is shown to have been used in the Tileman & Co plan. **'Flintkote' used asbestos** in its products. The company filed for bankruptcy in 2004 with over 350,000 cases for mesothelioma, caused by its products, having been paid out.

1.4 In one test, sub-dominant levels of **Mullite** were reported. The Mullite Safety Data Sheet states **"This product contains crystalline silica. Avoid dust creation. Do not inhale dusts from this product."** Inhaling silica dust causes silicosis – a lung disease as lethal as asbestos related diseases.

1.5 The levels of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead, nickel, selenium and zinc as reported in the exposed bricks report seem to be unacceptably high. How can we be sure that these toxic heavy metals do not disperse into a cloud to envelope the community? Several of these heavy metals are carcinogens.

1.6 The Tileman & Co plan in the book shows that Acalor 23A is used as a paint inside the shell and Acalor 7C is used in mortar in the bracket at RL720'6". Acalor is an anticorrosive epoxy resin for which we do not know the health risks it creates when smashed and inhaled.

1.7. Considering what we know now about the composition of the stack how can it be considered to continue with the proposed method of demolition? The dust is too dangerous and too hard to control. The water sources for the sprays are in the footprint of the stack and could be useless if the stack falls outside the proposed path.

1.8 The Australian standards for demolition states that if there is uncertainty about the presence of asbestos then it must be assumed to be present. PKC (Golder) says that asbestos emissions are unlikely. This suggests that there is a possibility of asbestos remaining in the structure and therefore the structure should be assumed to contain asbestos and dismantled in an approved asbestos handling way.

2 Community Consultation

2.1 Community consultation has been poor. As a member of the Combined Liaison Group (CLG) I was very concerned about the lack of consultation and information being given to the residents by the company. I have attended the CLG meetings for some years and have never been happy with the antagonistic way they have been conducted. At least six very capable residents have been denied attendance. Only three elderly residents have been permitted to attend along with the EPA and a WCC officer (for a time no council officer attended.)

We have repeatedly requested that PKC consult with the wider community by setting up a shop front, regularly printing updates in the local papers and to hold public meetings. At the 18 July CLG meeting we were told there would be a public meeting called next week i.e. between 28 July and 3 August. That did not happen. How were three elderly people expected to spread the information to residents? We do not have the ability or the resources to do that. The CLG meetings were briefings and information was limited. Residents and CLG members were surprised when they received a letter saying the smelter will be felled on 6th September.

At the CLG meeting on 18th July, we were shown a map that indicated the exclusion zone. I requested a copy but was denied. When I tried to study the map that was about 2 feet from me the manager slammed his hands over it and told me not to take notes because I would tell everyone. He kept his hands over the map and no one could see it. He bullied me and denied scrutiny of the map to us. The manager also bullied another member of the group when she queried his reply to a question she asked. I do not feel inclined to attend the CLG meetings again.

2.2 The Community Information Session on 15th August was poorly planned and badly run. The venue was too small, no one chaired the meeting, and there were only a few chairs for residents, no microphone and no authorities present, except for a police officer, to answer the residents' questions. Several residents told the meeting of standover tactics by PKC people doing the dilapidation reports. There was no book to register a request for a

dilapidation report as one lady was told by WorkCover. No information was given about assistance. It was a nightmare meeting and one man became very agitated and disrupted the meeting so that police were called. Residents left in disgust and eight police officers arrived to remove the troublemaker.

2.3 PKC will not call a public meeting and have all the agencies present to answer questions.

2.4 The shop front has not been adequately advertised or staffed in accordance with what would work.

2.5 PKC has not delivered all the public letters it has claimed to deliver to selected groups.

2.6 Landlords of rented properties may not receive the letters intended for the property owners.

2.7 The recent brochure 'PKC Stack Demolition: Plan Ahead' was delivered to my letterbox on 25th October. Some streets in Port Kembla only received them as late as 28th October. It quotes the www.stackinfo.com.au site to download the plan and hard copies viewed at Wollongong City Council and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure offices in Wollongong. It does not mention the shop front (not that there were many days left and people do have to work). It further says that the 'Feedback on the plans closes on Thursday 31 October', but gives no postal or email addresses to send submissions. That is not adequately informing the public. Why the mad rush? Residents cannot give feedback if they are not informed. Also the map in the brochure that depicts the exclusion zone is small and pale and consequently useless. I give PKC one tick for a summary in Greek, Italian and Macedonian.

3 Road Closures

3.1 Local residents need to be involved with these plans.

3.2 The maps used in Appendix G in the Golder Plan are wrong. Streets and lanes are missing and sometimes they appear in wrong places.

3.3 There needs to be consultation with locals about the detours and road closures.

3.4 A preschool and the Mission for Seamen are wrongly placed on the maps provided.

3.4 Maps in the Golder Plan are illegible.

4 Make Good Clause

4.1 How do residents prove that damage done to their property by the vibrations from the demolition if they are not in the exclusion zone and have not had a dilapidation report done or have been denied a report by PKC?

4.2 Have all underground infrastructure providers prepared for the demolition? They include Sydney Water, Telstra and Gas suppliers?

5 Heritage

5.1. The 1916 Port Kembla Public School had a heritage order upon it. It was sold to PKC for \$600,000 when the school was moved to a new site away from the smelter. PKC left the school site vacant and did not adequately protect it. In consequence the school was vandalized and burnt down. No charges for the destruction of a heritage building were laid.

5.2 The Assay Building and the small chimney are heritage listed. What will happen if these buildings are damaged when the stack is felled?

5.3 Many citizens believe that the stack that is the subject of the demolition proposal should have heritage status.

5.4 We have no information about where the heritage items, pictures etc. are kept. This needs to be investigated.

Yours sincerely,

Olive Rodwell

Cc Minister Brad Hazzard

Cc Premier Barry O'Farrell