



**Environment,
Climate Change
& Water**

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Our reference: DOC11/20610
Contact: Scott Cook, 02 9995 57690

Team Leader - Industry
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Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Ms. Felicity Greenway

Dear Ms Greenway

**Environmental Assessment - Former Gasworks Site Remediation,
Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW**

I refer to your letter dated 28 April 2011 and the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) seeking comments on the Tarcutta Street Former Gasworks Site Remediation at Wagga Wagga.

We have reviewed the information contained in the *Tarcutta Street Former Gasworks Site Remediation, Environmental Assessment, Volume 1 – Main Report, and Volume 2 – Technical Appendices* both dated April 2011 and the *Report for Tarcutta Street Gas Remediation Site, Air Quality Assessment, April 2011*.

OEH supports the proposal and notes that the proponent is carrying out the proposal due to regulation by OEH under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* with funding in part by the NSW Environmental Trust.

We wish to submit the following comments on the proposal arising from the Environmental Assessment.

Licensing

The proposed activity will not require a licence under the provisions of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* but is subject to a remediation notice under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is now known as the
Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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Noise

The *noise affected level* (defined in the EA as the background noise level plus 10 dB(A)) during the recommended construction hours is predicted to be exceeded at several locations and the EA describes a range of mitigation measures. The EA recommends the implementation of these noise measures but does not commit to implement any in particular. We consider that the Statement of Commitments should reflect the proponent's commitment to implementing noise mitigation measures.

The noise report concludes that implementation of all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures may not result in noise levels below the *noise affected level*. The potentially impacted residents should be informed of the nature of the works, expected noise levels, duration and project management contact details. This will need to be carefully managed through effective community engagement prior to and during the project. *The Interim Construction Noise Guidelines* (DECC, July 2009) is a useful reference and identifies a range of options for managing noise impacts through the various stages of a project.

Air

OEH notes that there is limited information provided in the EA about odour and vapour impacts. This is in part a function of the uncertainty of the characteristics of excavated material.

The modelling of potentially impacted receptors has not been presented in the EA although the report concludes that the soil-gas concentrations of naphthalene and other volatile organic compounds in the contaminated soil to be excavated are unknown. It will be important for the project to ensure nearby receptors are not exposed to unacceptable levels of volatiles in air. The EA identifies 37 sensitive receptors located within 200 metres of the site so odour impacts will require careful management.

A Quantitative Assessment of potential air quality and odour impacts and an associated Quantitative Human Health Risk Assessment have not been undertaken although both have been considered in Chapter 8 of the EA and a Qualitative Risk Assessment is included in Appendix D. Uncertainty in the characteristics of excavated materials limits the ability to predict vapour releases and therefore the accuracy and usefulness of any quantitative risk assessment. Due to the fact that any vapour concentrations escaping the site are likely to be relatively low (assuming the stipulated controls are adhered to), the relatively short duration of the remediation works, and the transient nature of any associated vapour and odour releases, a detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment is not considered necessary.

The methods proposed in section 5.1 of the EA to minimise odour should be incorporated into the Statement of Commitments. In particular, the proponent should commit to minimising the area of exposed contaminated material at any one time and ensuring that there are no stockpiles of contaminated material remaining onsite for extended periods. We consider that the use of odour suppressant sprays may impact on sensitive receptors and is therefore the least preferred method of odour control.

General

Our comments relate to the project as proposed in the documents and information provided to OEH. If the development is modified either by the applicant prior to the granting of consent or as a result of the conditions proposed to be attached to the

consent, we request to be consulted about the changes prior to the consent being issued. This will enable OEHL to determine whether we need to modify our comments in response to any changes.

If you have any enquiries about this matter please contact me on 02 9995 5620.

Yours sincerely

 17/6/2011

ANDREW MITCHELL
Manager Special Projects - Contaminated Sites
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