

24 February 2012

Our Ref: AS120933

Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
Attn: Chris Ritchie  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

via email: [chris.ritchie@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chris.ritchie@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Chris

**Re: Pasminco Cockle Creek Remediation (06\_0184 Mod 3)**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January 2012 providing information about an application to modify the approved containment cell design for the above project.

I am conducting a site audit in relation to the Pasminco Cockle Creek site. The containment cell is being constructed as part of the remediation. I understand that the containment cell design was reviewed by the previous Contaminated Site Auditor, Dr W.R. Ryall. My role may require me to review the contamination status of the material to be used within the cell cap to verify site suitability for future use, but I am not involved in the design of the cell itself. My role may also involve monitoring of potential leaching from the cell as part of the overall site groundwater monitoring.

I provide the comments below on the proposed changes to the containment cell design, in relation to their possible impact on contaminant management:

***Use of a geomembrane layer to replace the portions of the u2C cap for the Containment Cell affected by the short-fall in supply***

Comments: The geomembrane should be able to provide equivalent performance to the clay cap.

***Use of a geosynthetic drainage system to replace the approved gravel drainage system in areas where geomembrane is used***

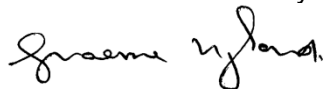
Comments: The geosynthetic drainage system should be able to provide adequate drainage.

***Flattening of the gradient of the Containment Cell slope from 3% to 2% on the top deck of the cell structure.***

Comments: While this proposed change could increase infiltration, the capping and drainage system if properly designed should ensure that there is no increase in leachate generated.

I therefore have no objections to the proposed changes.

Yours faithfully  
ENVIRON Australia Pty Ltd



Graeme Nyland  
Contaminated Sites Auditor