

18 June 2012

Damian Zammit

Ms Emma Barnet
Environmental Planning Officer
Major Projects Assessment
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Emma.Barnet@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Barnet

Re: Submission to the Proposed Macdonaldtown Gasworks Remediation Project

I refer to the Railcorp Macdonaldtown Gasworks Remediation Environmental Assessment for Exhibition, dated 24 April 2012, Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 ("the Environmental Assessment").

The Environmental Assessment was sent to Strathfield Council for exhibition because part of the proposal is to use a Railcorp site at Chullora (within the Strathfield Municipality) for the remediation of contaminated soil excavated from Macdonaldtown, a site contaminated from a decommissioned gasworks.

The Environmental Assessment has been reviewed, and Council's officers formed the view that the application not be supported. Council therefore objects to the proposal. Council is of the view that the stockpiling of excavated materials from Macdonaldtown on the Chullora site would contaminate land, groundwater, and surface water. The Chullora site is also very close to the Cooks River Canal. The stockpiles would contain coal tar (and associated chemicals such as benzene and xylene) and would be stored on the grassed site prior to processing within the enclosed plant room on site.

It is proposed that 23,000m³ of excavated material from Macdonaldtown would be remediated over a period of approximately two (2) years, part of which would be at Chullora, if required. Council has concerns that the amount of excavated material taken to Chullora may be significant at any one time, considering the large area allocated to storage on the map within the Environmental Assessment being over 1500m². It is noted that for the purposes of odour, only 150m² of the outdoor stockpiling is permitted to remain uncovered. However, exposure to rain would mean the stockpiles would leach contaminants.

The Environmental Assessment shows that Chullora has only minor levels of contamination (typical of the industrial uses in the area) at present, and introducing coal tar and other contaminants to the land may result in remediation of that site, following completion of the proposed works. Also, it is unknown whether these stockpiles would be combustible.

In addition to the above, Council is concerned for the residents located some 150m to the east in Marlene Crescent and Davidson Street, in that they would receive offensive odours, both from the outdoor stockpiles and from the plant (should odour filters fail).

It is also noted that the residents in the Strathfield Municipality have not been notified to date.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please contact Council's Environment & Compliance Coordinator, Damian Zammit, on 9748 9999 during normal business hours.

Yours sincerely

SILVIO FALATO
GROUP MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT