

January 2011



CONTAMINATION AT BARANGAROO AND PROCESS TO REMEDIATE

Background

In May 2009, the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) declared specific portions of Barangaroo and Hickson Road as a remediation site under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, meaning that it is subject to a statutory remediation process. The contamination of the remainder of Barangaroo was not considered by DECCW to be significant enough to warrant regulation.

The Authority has committed to clean up the contamination left by the former gasworks operator to protect human health and the environment. The Authority's clean-up efforts are documented in the Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP) for the Declaration Area, approved by DECCW, and also the overarching Remedial Action Plan, approved by the independent Site Auditor. Both of these documents are available on the Barangaroo website.

The remediation of Barangaroo is being undertaken in stages and through a rigorous independent auditing framework to minimise the impact of contamination on the environment and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Site specific Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared as appropriate for each phase of development. A RAP will also be prepared as part of the VMP for the remediation of the Declaration Area, that is, the former Millers Point Gasworks, which lies on a portion of central Barangaroo and Hickson Road.

The facts on the remediation of Barangaroo are:

- DECCW declared a portion of Barangaroo and Hickson Road an 'Investigation Area' in May 2007, under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.
- After a comprehensive environmental assessment, DECCW declared specific portions of Barangaroo and Hickson Road (the footprint of the former Millers Point Gasworks) a 'remediation site' in May 2009. This is known as the Declaration Area, under the Contaminated Land Management Act.
- In July 2010 the Barangaroo Delivery Authority entered into a Voluntary Management Proposal (statutory document) with DECCW for the Declaration Area to manage the contamination left after the gasworks were vacated.
- In approving the VMP, DECCW was satisfied that the Barangaroo Delivery Authority had identified the owners of the Declaration Area (the Barangaroo Delivery Authority and the City of Sydney) and the person responsible for significant contamination of the Declaration Area, that is, Australian Gas Light Company (currently called Jemena Limited) and had consulted these persons.
- The remainder of Barangaroo, including the southern end where Lend Lease is undertaking its development and Headland Park, was not identified by DECCW as being significantly contaminated and was consequently not included in the Declaration Area. Nevertheless, these areas need some remediation work.

Checks and Balances

- The Barangaroo Delivery Authority has an Overarching Remediation Action Plan (RAP) in place, prepared by Environmental Resources Management, to provide the framework for all the different stages of remediation works to be undertaken across the Barangaroo site. This report is available on the Barangaroo website www.barangaroo.com/remediation
- Within this framework, specific RAPs are being developed to address remediation of the contaminants in specific parts of the Barangaroo site.
- Each RAP requires that an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared to document the measures to protect the environment, including the waters of Darling Harbour, air quality and the amenity of neighbours; and Health and Safety Plans (HASPs), to protect the health of neighbours and workers involved in the remediation works.
- The Authority's remediation expert will provide assessment of the remediation works.
- An independent Site Auditor, accredited by DECCW, will review all aspects of the remediation works across Barangaroo. The Site Auditor will issue Site Audit Statements certifying the suitability of the remediated land only when satisfied that the remediation works have been completed in accordance with the statutory process and DECCW's requirements.
- DECCW will be regulating the remediation of the Declaration Area and will approve reports prepared by the Authority's consultants, after these have been reviewed and approved by the independent Site Auditor.
- In addition, during the course of the remediation works, rigorous programs of monitoring and reporting of environmental and human health values will be undertaken in accordance with requirements of the development consent and any other requirements, such as those set out in an Environmental Protection Licence.

The current status is:

- A comprehensive RAP is being developed for the first phase of works proposed for Headland Park. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Early Works Approval. This RAP will be submitted to the Department of Planning in the first quarter of 2011.
- A RAP has already been developed for the first phase of development by Lend Lease in the southern part of the Barangaroo site. This RAP has already been approved by DECCW and the Department of Planning.
- No excavation by Lend Lease as part of the blocks 1-3 basement excavations or for the Headland Park will enter the footprint of the former gasworks site.
- All excavation works will include rigorous measures to minimise the potential for any contaminated water run off into Darling Harbour during the course of works on the site.
- Relevant assessments and investigations have been conducted on the Declaration Area, as required under the VMP, in preparation for the formulation of RAP(s) for the Declaration Area.

Glossary of terms

EMP	An Environmental Management Plan is required under each Remedial Action Plan to outline measures to protect the environment, including the waters of Darling Harbour, air quality and the amenity of neighbours.
HASP	A Health and Safety Plan is required under each Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to outline measures to protect the health of neighbours and workers involved in the remediation works.
DECCW	The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, who has regulatory responsibility and oversight for the remediation of the Declaration Area, under the Contaminated Land Management Act, 1997.
Declaration Area	The area designated as a remediation site, under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, which corresponds to the footprint of the former Millers Point Gasworks.
Investigation Area	The area which was formerly designated as an area for further studies and investigation, prior to the designation of a remediation site, under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.
RAP	A remedial action plan which establishes the remediation objectives and details the strategy for remediating a site to make it suitable for the proposed use. The RAP outlines the proposed works to reduce the risks of contamination to acceptable levels and achieve the clean-up objectives for a site.
VMP	A Voluntary Management Proposal is a statutory document, prepared under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 and approved by DECCW, which sets out measures to manage contamination on a site, including the remediation works that would be carried out in order to address DECCW's requirements in its declaration.