



REGROWTH
KURRI KURRI

CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

HYDRO SMELTER

The Hydro smelter site and buffer zone covers approximately 2000 hectares of land. It is predominantly zoned rural with a large portion in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) and the remainder in the Maitland LGA.

Hydro has lodged rezoning applications with Maitland and Cessnock City Councils and is currently planning for the demolition and remediation of the smelter site, the major parts of which require planning approval.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has recently placed the major project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on exhibition until 12 September for public comment.

REZONING

applications lodged July 2015

gateway determination received with conditions March 2016

subject to biodiversity certification application outcome



REUSE

items donated to charities & NGOs

plant and equipment online sales site



RECYCLING

spent pot lining will be recycled

aluminium components, oil and steel are being recycled



REMEDIATION

basic works commenced in 2015

major project EIS now on exhibition



DEMOLITION

dismantling internal components underway

stage one demolition approved by Cessnock City Council March 2016

EIS – now on exhibition – for stage two (chimney stacks and below-ground infrastructure)



THE HYDRO SMELTER SITE AND BUFFER ZONE COVERS APPROXIMATELY 2000 HECTARES OF LAND

ABOUT THE EIS

The EIS is a large document which describes and details our assessment of the likely environmental and other impacts of this project and the measures we propose to take to mitigate potential impacts.

The EIS is on exhibition for public comment until 12 September. When this exhibition ends, the DP&E will collate the submissions received from the public and request a submissions report from Hydro which addresses any issues and concerns raised in the submissions. We will then provide the submissions report to the DP&E for review, who will then make a determination on whether the project can proceed.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION



HAVE YOUR SAY

During the exhibition period you have the opportunity to review the EIS and have your say about the proposed plans for the smelter site. Submissions must be received by the DP&E by 12 September 2016 and can be made on the DP&E website majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au or in writing.

The EIS for Hydro will be on exhibition from Thursday 11 August 2016 until Monday 12 September 2016. The EIS will be available for inspection on the Department's website and at the following locations:

Department of Planning and Environment

- Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Cessnock City Council

- Cessnock City Council Administration Building, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock
- Cessnock Library, 65-67 Vincent Street, Cessnock
- Kurri Kurri Library, 253 Lang Street (Cnr. Allworth St), Kurri Kurri

Maitland City Council

- Maitland City Council Administration Building, 285-287 High Street Maitland
- Rutherford Library, 13 Arthur Street, Rutherford
- East Maitland Library, 3 Garnett Road, East Maitland

Hydro is holding a community drop-in session where a display and information about the EIS and other work we are doing will be available. Copies of the EIS will also be available to view.

You are invited to drop-in and meet members of the project team who will be there to explain what the plans are for the site and where things are up to, and also answer questions. You do not need to make a booking to do this, simply drop by at any time.

THE DROP-IN SESSION WILL BE HELD

TIME 4pm – 7pm
 DATE 30 August 2016
 VENUE Kurri Kurri Business Enterprise Centre
 Cnr Barton & Merthyr St, Kurri Kurri

LAND REZONING

Rezoning applications were lodged with Cessnock and Maitland City Councils in July 2015 for the following:

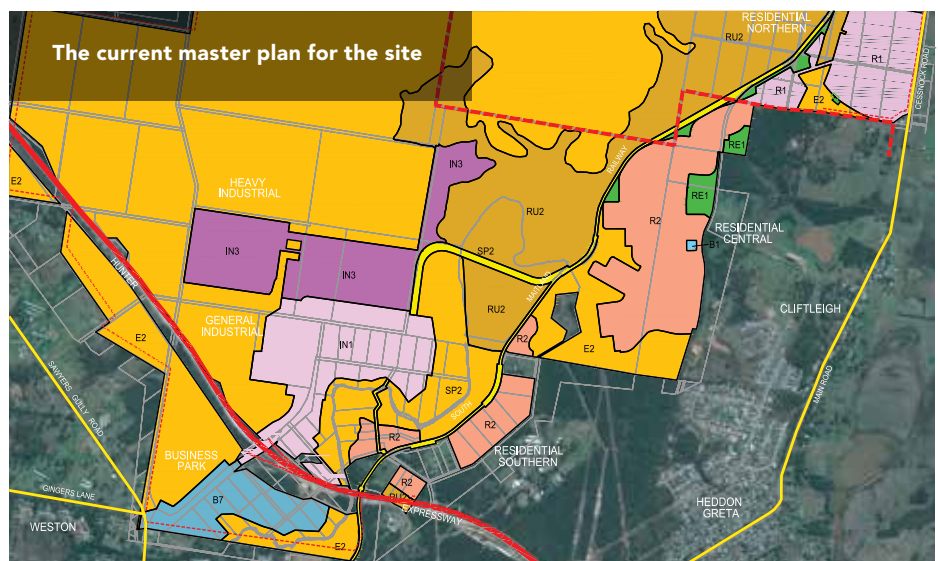
- Rezoning of around 215 hectares to business and industrial zoning
- Rezoning of around 180 hectares to residential zoning
- Rezoning of around 1300 hectares for environmental conservation

Both Councils endorsed the applications to be forwarded to the DP&E for Gateway determination and then exhibition. The Gateway determination was approved with conditions in March 2016. One of the Gateway conditions was that the biodiversity certification must be resolved prior to a final decision on rezoning. Cessnock and Maitland

City Council will concurrently exhibit the proposals publicly for community feedback prior to a final decision. This process may take up to 36 months. If approved, separate development applications would then be required for any residential development.

Although Hydro has not proposed the rezoning of any land that it does not own, it is possible that the councils may look to rezone land adjacent to the Hydro property if it is deemed to be strategically important to do so.

If your property is near or within an area that council is considering rezoning along with the Hydro-owned land, you should expect to be contacted by council. If you have any questions or concerns about the rezoning of land, please contact your local council.



--- Site Boundary	R2 - Low Density Residential (127.7ha)	B7 - Business Park (38.18ha)
B1 - Neighbourhood Centre (5,046m ²)	RE1 - Public Recreation (14.17ha)	IN1 - General Industrial (87.23ha)
E2 - Environmental Conservation (1249ha)	SSP2 - Special Purpose Infrastructure (10.6ha)	IN3 - Heavy Industrial (89.88ha)
	RU2 - Rural landscape (235.6ha)	R1 - General Residential (54.21ha)

DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION



Early demolition work underway in Line 3

The demolition and remediation process is a key component of Hydro's strategic vision to increase economic activity and employment in the local area by allowing for a new generation of business and industrial development at the Kurri Kurri site.

There are three parts to the demolition and remediation process:

1. Early Works: this is the relatively simple clean-up work that can be done without any approvals. This is prior to demolition work and is well underway.
2. Stage 1 Demolition: this includes demolition of the majority of site buildings and structures, excluding structures such as stacks, buildings with a potential for reuse, buildings storing waste materials, and below-ground infrastructure.
3. Stage 2 Demolition and Remediation: this includes the demolition of the tall stacks and removal of below-ground infrastructure, excavation of contaminated soils and the on-site containment of these, along with non-recyclable waste material.

Reuse or recycling of materials is the preferred option, and this covers everything from the basic reuse of computers and furniture by donating them to others, through to finding a recycling option/s for the spent pot lining material currently stored in sheds on site.

The early and straightforward remediation work has begun, and in some areas it is complete. This includes the removal of bricks and concrete from areas in the buffer zone, and the repair of landforms. Some areas had a variety of domestic and commercial waste on them (illegally dumped by others), while other areas had large concrete blocks, and other non-hazardous waste materials from the smelter. These areas have now been cleaned-up and it is now ready for future use.

In addition, some decommissioning and preparation for demolition has commenced, such as the removal of asbestos and recovery of aluminium busbars and pot doors.

Preparation for the Stage 1 Demolition is also under way, with development consent granted by Cessnock City Council in March for the demolition of the majority of the

smelter buildings. This consent requires a number of conditions, such as the preparation of a Demolition Environmental Management Plan by the demolition company, for council approval.

To complete the Stage 2 Demolition and Remediation, Hydro needs to comply with the NSW Government approvals process. To achieve this, Hydro has developed a proposal and an EIS, which is now on exhibition for public feedback.

This demolition, including tall stacks and below-ground infrastructure, and the subsequent on-site containment of non-recyclable wastes and contaminated soils, and the treatment of impacted water, will be assessed as a State Significant Development and will be subject to a determination by the DP&E.

The proposal for the major demolition and remediation of the site has been developed in consultation with stakeholders such as the EPA, the DP&E and the wider community, and using the skills of a range of specialist consultants. Hydro has been working closely with the EPA for more than two years, providing details on the areas of contamination and waste types on the site and on how Hydro proposes to manage these wastes and the contamination.

Site materials including concrete, metal and smelter wastes (such as separated spent pot lining) that can be recycled, will be, where it is a reasonable and feasible option.

Our community reference group (CRG) was established with the purpose of bringing community input to the project, and was involved in the development of criteria to be used in shortlisting potential recyclers of the spent pot lining. Discussions about this are recorded in meeting minutes which are available to view on our website. While this recycling process is separate to the remediation of the site, Hydro wished to involve the community in the selection of the spent pot lining recycling process. Hydro is currently undertaking a series of investigations with potential recyclers.



The stacks in this photograph will be demolished as part of Stage 2 demolition, and require an environmental impact statement.



If you are interested in seeing images of the work being carried out on site, head to our YouTube channel. We have uploaded photographs of early remediation and early works prior to the larger demolition. Simply search on YouTube for Regrowth Kurri Kurri.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

To date the project team has carried out a variety of consultation activities.

Project web pages contain a range of information and feedback mechanisms. Advertisements have been placed in online and traditional media seeking feedback on proposal elements and promoting four community drop-in sessions which took place in Kurri Kurri, Weston and Gillieston Heights during 2015.

A fifth drop-in session is now scheduled on 30 August, with details inside.

Since July 2014, the Community Reference Group (CRG) has been meeting regularly to bring together community stakeholders with an interest in the project. The CRG is made up of community, business, and local government representatives, and is one of a number of ways the community is able to exchange information with Hydro and gain answers to questions and concerns.

We welcome feedback at any time and are always keen to hear from any local residents, business owners or other stakeholders who have questions or issues about any aspect of the project. Feedback from the community and other stakeholders has already improved the project, and we encourage you to help us to improve it further.

CONTACT

THE PROJECT TEAM



community.kurri@hydro.com



1800 066 243



Hydro Aluminium
Kurri Kurri, PO Box 1,
Kurri Kurri NSW 2327

REMEMBERING THE SMELTER

The Kurri smelter has been a part of the local landscape, and a part of many people's lives for decades. We want remember the smelter's place in the history of the region.

In August 2015 we put a call out for interested people to tell us how they think this can be achieved. The general consensus was to establish a mural. A small committee of interested locals was established to lead the mural process such as the design and location to incorporate the values and ideas of the community into the process and overall outcome.

WHAT WILL THE MURAL LOOK LIKE?

The committee has a collection of ideas, however we are still interested in hearing yours. There may be limitations in terms of the size and scale of the mural due to cost, planning approvals and the current site plans, however all ideas will be considered.

The committee has held several meetings and is considering the most appropriate location for the mural and has agreed that the mural will feature key visual reminders of the smelting history on the site.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Hydro is committed to facilitating long-term employment and economic activity for the Kurri Kurri and Weston communities and the broader Hunter Region.

Early predictions estimate that development of the business and industrial area could bring several hundred million dollars of regional value and create thousands of construction jobs as well as several thousand ongoing jobs, when the site is fully developed.

The conservation area alone could potentially generate around a million dollars of regional value, and ongoing conservation management jobs.

REZONING OF LAND TO RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CONSERVATION

TIMEFRAME

Prepare rezoning application	Completed April 2015
Planning Proposals submitted to councils	Completed July 2015
Planning Proposals tabled to meeting of councils	Completed November 2015
Applications forwarded to the LEP Review Panel	Completed August 2015
Gateway determination	Completed March 2016
Proposals on exhibition by Councils	2017-19
Biodiversity Certification application outcome (Gateway condition)	2017-19
Detailed Assessment by councils	2017-19

MAJOR PROJECT DETERMINATION

TIMEFRAME

EIS submitted for appropriateness to the DP&E	Completed October 2015
Public exhibition of EIS	11 August 2016 to 12 September 2016
DP&E receives submissions	Until 12 September
Hydro reviews submissions and prepares a Submissions Report	Late 2016
Submissions Report provided to DP&E for review	Late 2016
DP&E determination process commences	September 2016