



10 August 2016

Hydro Aluminium EIS on Exhibition

The NSW Department of Planning is exhibiting Hydro's Environmental Impact Statement for major demolition and remediation of the former smelter site

Following the closure of its Kurri Kurri smelter, Hydro Aluminium is continuing to prepare the Kurri Kurri smelter site and buffer zone for redevelopment that will ultimately provide increased economic activity and employment in the local area. A key part of this work is in the demolition and remediation of the smelter site to allow for future business and industrial development.

Hydro has been preparing the Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) for more than two years, in consultation with key stakeholders including the local community, Cessnock City Council, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The EIS is on exhibition between 11 August and 12 September, and can be viewed on the Department of Planning and Environment website at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/> with hard copies also available for viewing at locations around Cessnock and Maitland.

The EIS covers the demolition of the large stacks and underground infrastructure on the smelter site, and the storage of contaminated soils and non-recyclable waste materials in an onsite containment cell, including the construction and ongoing monitoring of the containment cell.

Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri Managing Director, Richard Brown is pleased with progress to date. "We've been consulting with the community and other stakeholders for more than two years now, and their input has altered and improved this project. We are keen to see the site redeveloped to help create jobs, but need prepare the site properly, which takes time".

Kurri Kurri Business Chamber President, Rod Doherty is eager to see jobs growth on the site. "When the smelter shut down, we knew we'd be in for a tough time in Kurri Kurri, but this site has access to the expressway, South Maitland railway and a skilled workforce, so it's prime land for development. We are very keen to see this progress."

While a significant part of the ReGrowth Kurri Kurri project, this remaining demolition and remediation is just one of several activities being undertaken. Other activities include:

- The early clean up and remediation around the smelter buffer zone is well underway.
- Stage 1 demolition has been approved by Cessnock City Council. This includes demolition of the majority of site buildings and structures, *excluding* structures such as the concrete stacks, buildings with a potential for reuse, buildings storing waste materials, and below-ground infrastructure. Planning and early works are underway.

- Rezoning applications have received endorsement from both Cessnock and Maitland councils. Gateway Determination requires several issues to be resolved before the rezoning can be approved, such as the completion of biodiversity certification. In coming months, the councils will exhibit the rezoning plans and seek feedback from the community. This includes rezoning for business and industrial development on and around the smelter site, and rezoning for residential development along Cessnock road near Cliftleigh and Gillieston Heights.
- Biodiversity certification for around 85% of the buffer zone is underway. This will see around 1250 hectares of land conserved, and a significant portion will be an offset area for clearing in the rezoned residential and business zoned land.
- Aluminium, steel, oil and various other materials are being recycled as part of the current demolition process, and recycling options are currently being assessed for the spent pot lining material that is presently being stored on site, after a call for expressions of interest resulted in several proposals for recycling or reuse of the material. Hydro is working towards a three-to-four-year timeline to have the spent pot lining recycled.

Hydro encourages questions and feedback on all parts of the project from all community members, and contact mechanisms include: Community line 1800 066 243; Email address community.kurri@hydro.com; and Mail to: Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri, PO Box 1, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327.

Community Drop-In Session

To assist the community to better understand all parts of the project and to provide detail on the EIS, Hydro is holding a community drop in session during the EIS exhibition period. Anyone interested in the project is invited to drop by at any time during the session to find out more, ask questions and raise any concerns.

Date: Tuesday 30 August 2016

Time: Drop in any time between 4pm and 7pm

Location: Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre, Corner Barton & Merthyr Sts Kurri Kurri.