

# Hunters Hill

## Remediation of 7-11 Nelson Parade

May 2020



### Project Facts

The NSW Government owns the land at 7-11 Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill

#### Contact

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#### The NSW Government is committed to:

- remediation of the site
- complying with the NSW EPA Management Order
- consulting with and keeping the community informed

### Site's industrial legacy

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, a carbolic acid plant operated on land in Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill. As a result of this previous use, the soil along the foreshore of the site has elevated concentrations of coal tar waste material and heavy metals.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) has issued a Management Order for the remediation of soil in this foreshore area.

Site soils are also impacted by low concentrations of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) contained within the processed ore, a by-product of a radium processing facility that operated onsite for a short period from 1911. Independent experts do not consider NORM located on the site to pose a risk to human health.

The NSW Government is committed to delivering a safe and secure remediation solution for residents that addresses both forms of contamination identified.

### Project update

In May 2019, a remediation solution for the Nelson Parade site was lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment (now the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the Department) for assessment.

The proposed solution included the treatment of material subject to the NSW EPA Management Order and the encapsulation of NORM in two cells at 9 Nelson Parade.

While this approach was supported by residents closest to the affected site, the Government assured the community it would continue to explore other options.

After further examination, a solution that will deliver the best outcomes for residents and taxpayers has been found.

The Government has negotiated an agreement with an experienced Australian remediation company to remediate the site, and with US Ecology, for the transport and disposal of the radioactive active material from the site to US Ecology's fully-permitted disposal facility in the USA.

### Proposed solution

The revised remediation proposal involves:

- contaminated and radioactive material will be excavated and safely transported for shipping to the USA for disposal at a fully-permitted disposal site, and
- other excess soil from the site, which is not radiologically active, being excavated and sent to an offsite landfill as general solid waste.

Pending planning approvals and potential disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected excavation work will start in late-2020. The remediation works are expected to be completed within 18 months of approval and 12 months of work starting on site.

This solution satisfies the EPA Management Order relating to the site.

It can also be implemented more quickly than the National Repository option that has often been proposed, as well as honouring the Government's commitment not to send the waste to Kemps Creek.

The proposal will also allow the three residential lots to be sold on completion without a restriction placed on their future use.

### Excavation and remediation

The NSW Government has appointed a highly experienced Australian contractor to undertake a remediation process that is safe and meets all relevant regulatory requirements.

Once the necessary planning consent has been received, work will commence within 90 days and is expected to take 12 months to complete.

The remediation works will include:

**Step 1:** Site preparation works

**Step 2:** Excavation and removal of soil down to the bedrock

**Step 3:** Contaminated soil placed into shipping containers and sealed for shipping, and

**Step 4:** The material will be shipped to the USA for permanent disposal.

## Transport and disposal

US Ecology has significant experience working with Australia's energy and mining industries in transporting and disposing of waste materials similar to what is found at the Nelson Parade site.

US Ecology and its logistics partner, ALARA Logistics, are taking all reasonable precautions to ensure all transport activities protect residents, the broader community, and the local environment.

The material will be transported in what are known as Industrial Package Type 1 containers, which is the required package type for the movement of radioactive materials.

US Ecology and ALARA will satisfy all transport regulations pertaining to radioactive material, both domestic and international.

The USA facility where the Nelson Parade material will

be disposed has been designed and engineered to the highest standards to prevent any leakage into the surrounding environment:

- The facility meets all USA and international standards for safe waste treatment and disposal
- The facility is registered by the State of Idaho to treat, store and dispose hazardous and radioactive waste.

## Planning process

Planning consent is being sought to proceed with the remediation and off-site disposal of waste material from the Nelson Parade site.

## Community consultation

The Government will continue to consult with the local community and stakeholders throughout the remediation process.

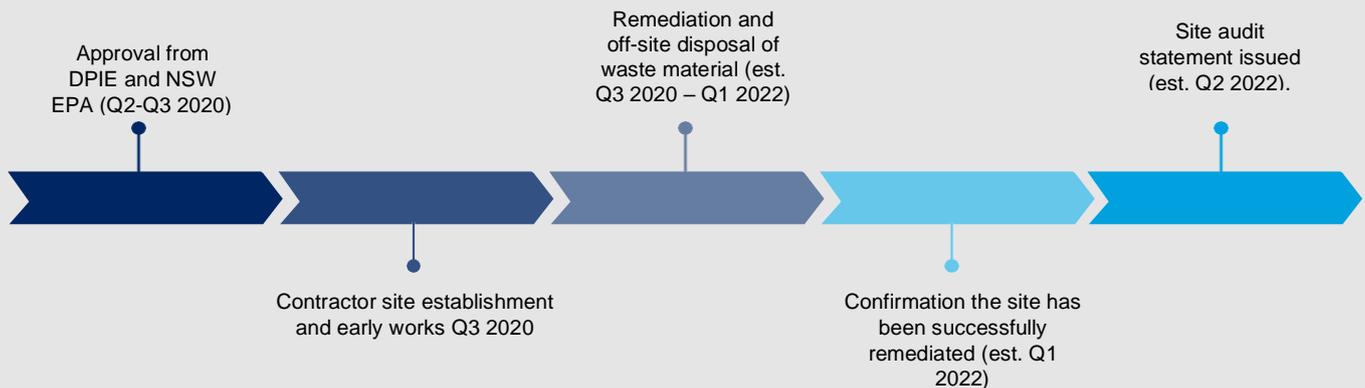
All contractors recognise that safety and minimising disruption to the local community is of paramount importance during the remediation work.

Residents will be contacted and advised of next steps and information sessions on the remediation project.

The community has the opportunity and is encouraged to provide feedback on the planning proposal as part of the planning process.

## Ongoing Community Consultation\*

**DPIE:** Department of Planning, Industry and Environment | **NSW EPA:** NSW Environment Protection Authority



\* Timelines subject to change