



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PORT KEMBLA CHIMNEY STACK TO BE DEMOLISHED**

The NSW Government has approved the demolition of a massive chimney stack near Wollongong.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, made the announcement during an inspection of the old Port Kembla Copper site in Military Road at Port Kembla.

“While the 205-metre tall chimney stack on the site is considered an iconic landmark by some, it will be demolished because it is not structurally sound,” the Minister said.

The 21-hectare site was used for copper production from 1908 until it was decommissioned in 2003.

Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay, said having such a strategically-located industrial facility sitting idle is not in the best interests of the Illawarra.

“The site is close to existing port facilities and is already serviced by significant infrastructure, meaning it is ready-made for redevelopment which, in turn, means new job-creating investment,” Ms Hay said.

Mr Kelly said demolition of the existing structures, excluding the locally heritage listed Precious Metals Mill Chimney and the Assay Offices, will also enable the site to be cleared of any remaining small quantities of hazardous substances.

“Port Kembla Copper has entered into a Voluntary Remediation Agreement with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water which has led to the successful remediation of groundwater on the site,” the Minister said.

“The demolition of the stack will be supervised by NSW Police, NSW WorkCover and relevant emergency services.”

A total of 42 conditions have been imposed on the demolition, including:

- Preparation of a comprehensive Demolition Management Plan by a qualified professional;
- Preparation of a comprehensive Heritage Management Plan to protect some items during the demolition project and provide ongoing management;
- Consultation with relevant authorities on the establishment of an appropriate exclusion zone during demolition;
- Implementation of a comprehensive community consultation strategy to keep local residents and businesses informed of progress throughout the demolition;
- Minimisation of dust emissions and air quality monitoring throughout the demolition works;
- Compliance with relevant noise and vibration limits and monitoring of these impacts throughout the demolition; and
- Limited hours during which demolition may take place.

Work on the \$8 million demolition project will start immediately and take 30 workers around 16 months to complete. The giant stack is expected to come down towards the middle of next year.