Community to have its say on plans for Port Kembla stack demolition

Two new measures announced today will ensure the Port Kembla community has its say on demolition plans for the Port Kembla Copper chimney stack.

The NSW Government has announced that detailed management plans for the upcoming demolition have been released for public review and comment for two weeks until Thursday 31 October.

While Port Kembla Copper (PKC) received planning approval for the demolition in 2010, these final plans must be signed off by relevant government agencies before the stack demolition can actually take place and public comments will also be carefully considered.

The plans are available at http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au [search for Port Kembla Copper].

A final date for demolition will then be determined and announced once the exhibited plans are given final government sign-off.

And to complement the exhibition, an information ‘shop front’ has also been established on the PKC site, giving members of the public the opportunity to discuss the plans with PKC staff and government representatives and ask questions face to face.

Further information, including opening times and attendance by government agencies, is available on PKC’s dedicated website about the demolition www.stackinfo.com.au

The shop front will remain open right through until the day of demolition.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is heading a government Working Group - including the Environment Protection Authority, NSW Police, WorkCover NSW and Wollongong City Council – that is reviewing the demolition plans.

The department’s Executive Director of development assessments Chris Wilson said the Government had heeded the community’s calls to be kept in the loop.

“With an event of this scale and complexity, it’s essential that members of the public are not only given all the necessary information, but have the chance to provide input and ask questions along the way,” Mr Wilson said.

“And that’s what the department is ensuring, in close collaboration with PKC and other agencies.

“By the time the demolition actually takes place, I expect that the information shop front will have been open for well over a month, so interested members of the community will have plenty of chance to chat to government or PKC staff one on one.
“All public submissions on the management plans will also be carefully considered, and once a final demolition date is determined, the community will be given ample advance notice to ensure all necessary arrangements can be put in place.”

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