Friday, 7 February 2014

**Port Kembla Stack claims unfounded**

Claims the Port Kembla Stack demolition will place the public at risk are unfounded.

In assessing the demolition plans, public safety has been the Department of Planning and Infrastructure’s paramount consideration.

A Working Group comprising experts from the department, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), WorkCover NSW, NSW Police and Wollongong City Council carefully considered the demolition plans and found them to be comprehensive and appropriate.

Testing carried out by Workcover NSW and the EPA found **there is no asbestos present** in the stack.

These results confirmed testing carried out by Port Kembla Copper and its consultants, which also found no asbestos was present in the stack.

Earlier testing by Port Kembla Copper had identified asbestos in sealing materials within the stack, but those materials have now been removed.

Mullite, a substance commonly used in making fireproof bricks, was identified in samples tested by the EPA.

The department is confident the mullite does not pose an unacceptable risk to the public – particularly due to the best practice techniques being used to manage dust emissions from the demolition site.

A comprehensive noise, vibration and dust monitoring network is being established around the site and will appropriately measure and verify any impacts.

The demolition of the Port Kembla Stack is scheduled to go ahead on February 20.

**Media contact:** Mark Worley (02) 9228 6174