Port Kembla stack demolition plans given the final OK – date to be set

The NSW Government has given final sign off to Port Kembla Copper’s plans to demolish its 198-metre chimney stack, meaning the company can now set a demolition date.

Following a recent period of public exhibition, a Working Group of government agencies – including the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure; the Environment Protection Authority (EPA); WorkCover NSW; NSW Police; and Wollongong City Council – has been thoroughly reviewing the company’s demolition and evacuation plans, including verification by independent industry experts.

Public submissions received during the exhibition were also carefully considered by the department and the Working Group and the plans were found to be comprehensive and appropriate – with public safety the paramount consideration.

Key findings from the review of the plans include:

- The stack is structurally sound and will remain so until the date of demolition.
- There is no asbestos present in the stack.
- The demolition technique is appropriate to the circumstances on the site and can be safely undertaken.
- The techniques proposed to manage dust emissions from the demolition site are best practice and should appropriately minimise air quality impacts on surrounding properties.
- The proposed evacuation of surrounding properties is extensive and will adequately manage risks while minimising disruption to the community.
- The proposed noise, vibration and dust monitoring network to be established around the site is very comprehensive and will appropriately measure and verify impacts.
- Structural impacts on properties in the vicinity of the demolition site are unlikely.

Port Kembla Copper (PKC) can now finalise arrangements for the actual day of demolition, which will include evacuation of surrounding properties in the exclusion zone, road closures and other important safety measures.

Importantly, the local community will be given a minimum of two months notice prior to demolition and will be thoroughly briefed by PKC well in advance of the demolition date on procedures and arrangements for the demolition day itself.

Full details, including the latest up to date information, will be available on PKC’s dedicated website www.stackinfo.com

All the relevant project documents and approvals, as well as a simple fact sheet on the process to date, are available via www.planning.nsw.gov.au/portkemblastack

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