

Transport for NSW

Tarago Rail Corridor Remediation Project

Community Information
Session

7 December 2022

transport.nsw.gov.au



OFFICIAL

Introductions

Vicki Oszko, Director, Regional Property & Asset Renewal

Mel Stewart, Director, Strategic & Statewide Engagement

Jo McLoughlin, Project Manager, Land Management

Lisa Cahill, Community Engagement Manager

Apologies, NSW Health, EPA and Martin Cocca, Senior Manager Community & Place
Partner



Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we meet, especially Elders, past and present and acknowledge other Aboriginal people here and their respective cultures and nations.

Agenda

- 1** Acknowledgement of Country
- 2** Transport for NSW update
- 3** NSW Health
- 4** EPA
- 5** Questions & Answers
- 6** Keeping you informed

***Please note the recording of this session is not permitted.



Background

- The lead is related to a mining load-out facility that was used to load and unload lead ore concentrate from the Woodlawn Mine.
- The load-out facility operated from the mid-1980s before being demolished between 1997 and 2005.
- Transport notified the NSW EPA of the elevated lead levels at Tarago in November 2019.
- We developed and have been implementing a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP).

Transport Update - EPA Inspection

In September 2022, an inspection was carried out by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), with representatives of Transport for NSW (Transport) and United Group Limited Regional Linx.

The EPA issued a Prevention Notice on 8 September directing Transport to:

- Undertake a detailed review of the Lead Management Plan
- Complete an inspection of the site to identify any deficiencies in the implemented control measures
- Carry out actions to address any identified issues
- Provide a report to the NSW EPA on the findings and actions taken.

Transport Update - Response to the Prevention Notice

Transport has completed all the directions from the EPA

Transport engaged an Environmental Consultant to undertake a review of the implementation of the Lead Management Plan and to provide an action plan for the work required to address any recommended improvements.

Transport also engaged the Consultant to oversee the works completed on site in late September 2022.

Transport has provided a report to NSW EPA on the actions taken to address all directions in the Prevention Notice.

Transport Update - Summary of Actions

Recommendation	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage / degradation of the stockpile cap should be repaired through application of additional stabilised sand to ensure the geofabric and any visible excavation spoil is completely covered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work started on 27 September and was completed on 29 September 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of surface water sampling should be reviewed to assess the adequacy of existing erosion and sediment controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls have been implemented to prevent future vehicle access over contaminated soils. Fencing and signage have been installed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of air monitoring should be reviewed to assess the adequacy of dust mitigation measures. If elevated dust levels are observed, reapplication of polymer sealant may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Ramboll recommended the polymer sealant is only reinstated if dust levels are observed, TfNSW has decided to reapply and maintain the polymer sealant to ensure all possible measures are implemented to control dust. The polymer sealant will be reinstated in early 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing routine inspections should be completed as prescribed under the Tarago Lead Management Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport confirm inspections are being completed Transport is implementing an assurance program to ensure inspections are completed as required and any actions identified are completed

Where to access our information

Transport shares all reports when available

All reports, including the reports submitted to the NSW EPA, are in the Reports section of our website

transport.nsw.gov.au/tarago.

The reports include:

- A detailed report addressing the requirements of the Prevention Notice
- A Surface Water Monitoring Report
- The updated Lead Management Action Plan.

Surface water monitoring

Transport reinstated quarterly surface water monitoring in September 2022.

The initial results indicate there is no evidence of offsite migration of contaminants in surface water that present an unacceptable risk to human health or ecology.

The next monitoring event will occur in December. Monitoring occurs on a quarterly basis.

Transport will share the results on our website in early 2023.

Air monitoring

- Four air monitoring units were installed in October and November 2022
- Results of air monitoring will be available in the first quarter of 2023.
- Results will be shared on our website.

Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP)

What is a VMP?

A VMP is a plan on how contamination will be managed. It includes activities and due dates to complete the work. The VMP is approved by the NSW EPA. Failure to satisfactorily complete any component by the due date may result in action by the NSW EPA.

To amend a VMP an application is made to the NSW EPA (section 44).

What is a Section 44 application under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997?

A section 44 application is an application to NSW EPA by Transport to amend the approved VMP.

We have made an application to amend the current VMP to reflect changes to original timelines for the completion of remediation works, details follow on the next slide.

The NSW EPA will consult with the community on the updated VMP.

The community can comment on the VMP by sending an email to info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Delays in the Proposal

In August 2022 we advised the community of the Voluntary Management Proposal

We are experiencing some delays in completing Task 4 of the VMP The cause of delays in reaching this milestone are:

- procurement of a contractor to complete the required activities in Task 4
- the appointed contractor procuring technical specialists to assist with the completion of the activities in Task 4

Due to the delays, Transport has submitted a **S44** application to the NSW EPA to amend the Voluntary Management Proposal

- The current VMP has the project being completed on 31 October 2024
- The proposed completion date is now 30 June 2025
- The NSW EPA will consult with the community on the updated VMP
- We submitted an updated VMP to the EPA in December 2022

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL UNDER THE CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT ACT 1997

Part 1

Preliminary Details

1. Proponent's Details

(a) Name and contact details

Trading as:
ABN:

Contact Name:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:
Postal address:
Postcode:
EPA licence number (if applicable):

Transport for NSW
18 804 239 602
[Redacted]
Level 3, 237 Wharf Rd, Newcastle NSW
2300

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General

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4. All the a legisla: i) / (v ii) / a ((5. All the a the emis 6. Waste o with the (See 30)

7. All was on-line tracking system or an alternative tracking system approved in writing by the EPA.

Proponent: Transport for NSW
Site: Lot 22 DP 1202608
Proposal Date: 25 May 2020

Page 1 of 8

(See www.epa.nsw.gov.au/inf/aboutus/)

8. The proponent will make this voluntary management proposal available to the public under this voluntary management proposal available to the public free of charge.

9. The proponent will make all documents referred to in, and required to be prepared under, this voluntary management proposal available to the public free of charge.

Proponent: Transport for NSW
Site: Lot 22 DP 1202608
Proposal Date: 25 May 2020

Land Management Act

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d at the former Ore

Stage 2 - Remediation Action Plan

P4. Install groundwater monitoring wells to assess impacts to groundwater from the Contaminant originating from the Site.

P5. Assess the potential migration from the Site of the Contaminant in surface waters and sediments.

P6. Prepare a Detailed Site Investigation report.

P7. Develop an Action Plan to define responses to mitigate risks from the Contaminant originating from the Site to catchment receptors.

P8. Assess remedial options to address risks from the Contaminant on, or originating from, the Site.

P9. Select a preferred remedial option integrating consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

P10. Prepare a RAMP(s) to define how the selected remedial option will be implemented and validated.

Proponent: Transport for NSW
Site: Lot 22 DP 1202608
Proposal Date: 25 May 2020

Page 5 of 8

Next Steps

First Quarter 2023

- Recommendation on preferred location to dispose of waste material
- Prepare Detailed Design and Delivery Methodology
- Prepare Statement of Environmental Effects
- Prepare Statement of Heritage Impact

Second Quarter 2023

- Prepare Development Application (Crown Development Application)



Waste Options - Options

Option	Comments
Return material to the “Mine”	The current mine is not the same site as where the material originated from. The material was originally from the Veolia Woodlawn site. Develop Global Ltd. has advised they are not able to accept the waste material at this stage.
Dispose of the material to Veolia Woodlawn	Veolia Woodlawn is the site the material originated from. Veolia Woodlawn is an operational bioreactor and is at full capacity processing waste from Sydney. Veolia Woodlawn has confirmed they are unable to process or accept the material.
Alternate local site to process and accept the material	This requires further investigation. Initial indications are this will require the identification of a suitable site, development application and environmental protection licence. This could take up to 12 months. This option has been allowed for in the application to amend the VMP.
Relocation of material to Victoria	This will include the excavation, onsite stockpiling and loading of contaminated material for transportation to Victoria. The material will be screened onsite to remove the ballast material greater than 20mm, which will be stored on site for reuse. Further investigations are required to understand the process and potential community risks.
Relocation of all material to Queensland	This will include the excavation, onsite stockpiling and loading of contaminated material for transportation to Queensland. Further investigations are required to understand the process and potential community risks.
Relocation of all material to NSW	This will include the excavation, onsite stockpiling and loading of contaminated material for transportation to a suitable site in NSW. Further investigations are required to understand the process and potential community risks. Approvals will be required for the identified Facility- estimated July 2023.

Looking Forward

The proposed VMP is based on the waste material being disposed of in NSW.

However, we have an opportunity to reduce the program if the material is relocated to Victoria or Queensland.

The below provides the project schedule for both options:

Works Schedule	Proposed VMP Date	Option of waste to VIC or QLD
T4. Preliminaries required to implement remediation including planning permits and approvals and procurement	22 February 2024	20 February 2023
T5. Implement Remediation	31 December 2024	19 January 2024
T6. Complete validation reporting and Auditor review of remediation	30 June 2025	12 July 2024

NSW Health update

- Our role is to assist in the identification, prevention and minimisation of public health risks within the community
- NSW Health provides advice on potential public health risks in response to the presence of lead in the environment, particularly in children
- Blood lead levels exceeding 5 micrograms per decilitre are notified to NSW Health. Investigation can take place to identify the source of the lead, any broader risks that exist to the community, and to assist GPs in medical management of cases where required
- NSW Health provides guidance on the provisions of public and private drinking water supplies to ensure they comply with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, and that risks to the public are managed where there is a non-compliance

Work to date:

- Working with the community who have concerns about the potential to have elevated lead levels in their blood
- Working with Stakeholders and the community to understand the source of lead and provide the community information to live safely with lead in the environment, and reduce any potential public health risks
- Ongoing liaison with the Department of Education on the management of the drinking water supply at Tongo Public School



EPA's Role with Contaminated Land



- The EPA regulates contaminated land under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.
 - The EPA is responsible for regulating land that has been assessed as contaminated significantly enough to require regulation.
 - This regulation includes the assessment, remediation and management of significantly contaminated land across NSW,
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Independent Site Auditor



Independent Site Auditor assumes responsibility for:

- The independent review of investigation, remediation and validation work done by consultants
- Determining compliance with a Voluntary Management Proposal

The EPA's NSW Site Auditor Scheme provides a pool of accredited auditors

EPA Guidelines outline auditor roles and responsibilities

More information? www.epa.nsw.gov.au or 131 555

Keeping the community safe and informed



Our primary focus is to ensure the safety of the community.



The reports submitted to the NSW EPA are in the Reports section of our website transport.nsw.gov.au/tarago.



We will continue to keep the community informed using a range of tools including our website, emails, community information sessions.



We can be contacted via email landassessment@transport.nsw.gov.au or 1800 491 566

Information about lead

- For more information about lead exposure, please see the [NSW Health website](#).
- For more information about managing lead in the environment see the [EPA website](#).
- Information is also available on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website](#).

Questions?



Mental health support, services and programs

If you or someone you know needs immediate help, contact:

Lifeline Australia

[13 11 14](tel:131114) 

Mensline Australia

[1300 78 99 78](tel:1300789978) 

Beyond Blue

[1300 22 46 36](tel:1300224636) 

Kids Help Line

[1800 55 18 00](tel:1800551800) 

If you are in an emergency, or at immediate risk of harm to yourself or others, please contact emergency services on 000.

Immediate and ongoing support is available to everyone in NSW to help them through difficult times.

For information about counselling and mental health support programs visit [NSW Health Website](#)