

# **Update on Regulation of Orica Groundwater Contamination**

**Groundwater Community Liaison Committee  
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**Contaminated Sites**

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**Sydney Industry**



# Overview of Presentation

- **Contaminated Sites**
  - **DNAPL remediation strategy**
  - **Former Chlor Alkali Plant**
  - **Notice of Clean up Action**
- **Sydney Industry**
  - **Groundwater Treatment Plant - DEAC**
  - **Environment Protection Licence**
  - **Annual Return**



# DNAPL remediation strategy

- **DECC has reviewed the documentation provided by Orica relating to DNAPL remediation and acknowledges the complexity of remediating DNAPL contamination at the Botany site**
- **DECC expects Orica to continue to review DNAPL remediation technologies and seek expert advice, with the ultimate goal of implementing field trials of an appropriate remedial technology, or combination**
- **DECC's position will be reflected in the revised regulatory instrument**

# Former Chlor Alkali Plant - HHERA

- **DECC has reviewed the Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HHERA) of mercury contamination associated with the former CAP**
- **The HHERA indicates that risks to residents associated with mercury vapours migrating from groundwater are acceptable**
- **DECC has requested Orica to conduct air monitoring to assess whether mercury in soil is impacting air quality**

# Former Chlor Alkali Plant

- **Monitoring indicates that mercury contamination in groundwater has not migrated to Penrhyn Estuary or Springvale Drain. DECC will request Orica to conduct further monitoring for mercury to confirm the extent of mercury contamination**
- **DECC is finalising our assessment of the mercury contamination, and intends to regulate the clean up and management of mercury contamination**
- **DECC will encourage and assist Orica in implementing appropriate remediation activities**



# Notice of Clean up Action

- **DECC is finalising the review of the notice of clean up action to incorporate recent developments in the clean up project, including the DNAPL remediation strategy review and the results of the recent mercury investigations**
- **Hydraulic containment of the contaminant plumes will remain a key aspect of the revised notice**
- **DECC would like to seek the community's opinion on the future regulation of the project**



# DEAC Waste Treatment

- **Orica advice to DECC of intention to treat waste**
- **DECC seeks additional information - Exchange of letters and emails**
- **DECC agrees to treatment under certain conditions including compliance with all licence conditions**

# DEAC waste treatment continued....

- **Orica advise DECC of results of stack monitoring**
- **Exceedance of TSP limit**
- **Orica supply DECC with mass balance of Aluminium**
- **DECC considering information and appropriate response**

# Environment Protection Licence 2148

- **Application to vary licence conditions**
- **Independent Validation Audit and Environmental Review – Licence Condition E5 – “substantial compliance”**
- **Submission of Ammonia Concentration Reduction Progress Report (PRP U2.30) – showing good progress**
- **TASR proposal – GTP Determining Authorities**



# 2007-2008 Annual Return

- **DECC reviewed Annual Return**
- **21 non-compliances – mostly of minor nature – no significant environmental impact**
- **DECC response**

