

PORT KEMBLA COPPER INVESTIGATION UPDATE AND SAMPLING REQUEST

JULY 2024

When Port Kembla Copper (PKC) closed the smelter on Military Road in 2003, it ended nearly 100 years of copper smelting at the Port Kembla site. Since then, PKC has spent more than 20 years and thousands of expert hours cleaning up the site, working with the authorities to make it suitable for future use.

In 2020, PKC also started to look at whether historical smelter-related operations could have contaminated surrounding areas of Port Kembla. A specialist environmental company called Senversa began investigations in partnership with PKC. A few years ago, local residents were provided with a letter describing the extent of previously completed investigation work, which can be found here: www.militaryroadsitefuture.com. You can also request a hard copy of the letter by emailing info@militaryroadsitefuture.com or calling 1800 297 051.

What's happened since we were last in touch?

PKC and Senversa have investigated a broad area surrounding the former copper smelter, collecting and analysing more than 1,100 soil and dust samples from public open space areas and private properties. The approximate area investigated is shown on the following map.



During this time, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) also undertook its own assessment, with PKC and Senversa taking NSW EPA's results into account for its own investigations.

The Senversa investigation was reviewed and approved by an independent expert EPA-accredited Site Auditor and also provided to NSW EPA, NSW Health and Wollongong City Council (WCC) for review and comment.

What did the investigation find?

The investigation found that public open space areas such as public parks, playgrounds and footpaths do not require remediation.

However, the investigation did find that residential properties in some areas of Port Kembla may have soil and indoor dust contamination from the smelter-related operations which occurred prior to ownership and operation by PKC. The main chemical contaminant is lead and the potentially affected residential properties are located to the south and west of the former smelter site.

The investigations determined that smelter-related indoor dust contamination may exist at your property.

Seeking your permission for testing

PKC seeks permission to test indoor dust at your property.

Details on the testing program are attached to this letter, including how to arrange a time for the investigation and testing work.

The testing will be completed in accordance with a plan which has been reviewed and approved by the independent expert EPA-accredited Site Auditor and also provided to NSW EPA, NSW Health and WCC for review and comment.

The investigation and testing are offered by PKC free of charge.

How long will the investigation and remediation take?

This next part of the investigation program will take approximately one year to complete across the potentially affected area. This will be followed by remediation of properties found to have been contaminated by historical smelter-related operations.

Remediation will be conducted by PKC and Senversa and approved and reviewed by the independent expert EPA-accredited Site Auditor. If required, PKC will also offer to complete remediation free of charge.

PKC will continue to keep NSW EPA, NSW Health and Wollongong City Council updated during the upcoming investigation and remediation program. A further update will also be provided to you following completion of the upcoming investigations. You can expect this near the end of 2025.

The smelter will be put up for sale to assist in funding this important investigation and remediation work.

Information on lead contamination and risks

Information prepared by NSW EPA on lead contamination, the risks it can pose, and how it can be managed are included on the NSW EPA website (search Lead Safety on www.epa.nsw.gov.au). We recommend that you follow this guidance until the outcomes of the investigations at your property are known.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you'd like more information, you can get in touch via the following:

Phone: 1800 297 051

Email: info@militaryroadsitefuture.com

Please also get in touch should you require a translator, which PKC is making available to any residents that may require assistance.

Овој информативен лист исто така може да се побара на македонски преку info@militaryroadsitefuture.com

Questo foglio informativo può essere richiesto anche in italiano via info@militaryroadsitefuture.com

Esta folha de informações também pode ser solicitada em português via info@militaryroadsitefuture.com

Tę kartę informacyjną można również zamówić w języku polskim przez info@militaryroadsitefuture.com

Αυτό το ενημερωτικό δελτίο μπορεί επίσης να ζητηθεί στα ελληνικά μέσω info@militaryroadsitefuture.com