

12 March 2011

Councillor Ms Marcelle Hoff
Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney and spokesperson for AfSD
C/- City of Sydney
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hoff

RE: SAFE AND BEST PRACTICE REMEDIATION AT BARANGAROO

As you would expect, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority is extremely concerned to ensure the community has comprehensive factual and accurate information about all matters and particularly contamination and remediation, in the light of the Land and Environment Court decision this week.

While we understand your entirely legitimate interest in Barangaroo, we strongly believe a number of your comments at a press conference on Thursday were inappropriate and may result in the creation of totally unwarranted but considerable fear in the community. In particular, we take objection to your suggestion that contamination at Barangaroo could be compared to "overseas cases" where birth defects have occurred. Such a suggestion is absolutely baseless, not factual and the community can only wonder at the motive.

The contamination at issue is limited to the area of the former gasworks, some 2 hectares of a 22 hectare site. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) has reviewed extensive investigation reports relating to the site and was satisfied that the contamination on the remaining 20 hectares was not so significant as to warrant regulation.

Further, the contamination at the former gasworks has existed since at least 1916 when the gasworks closed. Consequently, any risk arises from the continuing presence of the contamination, not its remediation.

It is in the interests of the community and the environment that the site be remediated to the best possible standard. This will be done by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority in accordance with the statutory planning process and the requirements of DECCW.

The safety of the community is paramount and all remediation of contaminated materials at Barangaroo will be required to comply with rigorous standards as outlined below.

These include the preparation, approval and implementation of a remediation action plan (RAP) and a human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) for each area of the work.

An independent site auditor, accredited by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), will review the aspects of the relevant remediation works, providing further checks and balances.

The Site Auditor will issue Site Audit Statements certifying the suitability of the remediated land only when satisfied that the remediation works have been completed in accordance with the strict legislation and DECCW's requirements.

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority will continue to ensure the correct information about remediation is provided to the local and broad community.

If you would like more information on the facts about Barangaroo and its vital importance for the future of Sydney, we will be pleased to provide you with an expert briefing and also please refer to our website www.barangaroo.com where the remediation is referenced in some detail.

Yours sincerely

John Tabart
Chief Executive