

TWT's HUNTERS HILL BAN

The Weekly Times March 21, 2018



"If The Weekly Times can't come in, we'll go outside!" - Hunters Hill residents outside Fairland Hall on Wednesday night. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

Community outrage as TWT is banned from information session by State Government bureaucrats!

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

The Weekly Times was banned from attending a Property NSW information night in Hunters Hill last Wednesday to learn more about the Nelson Parade contaminated waste issue.

The event was held at the Fairland Hall Community Centre and our reporter was banned from entering the hall by Property NSW Corporate Affairs Director James Abbott.

Property NSW is a government department that falls under the ministerial responsibilities of Ryde MP and NSW Minister for Finance, Services and Property, Victor Dominello.

"Waste of money and resources"

The Nelson Parade Action Group was at the meeting and said it was shocked the local community newspaper was not allowed to attend a meeting at a community hall that impacts on the community.

“It was the height of arrogance to exclude The Weekly Times, absolutely unacceptable,” the Chair of the Hunters Hill Environment Action Group John Atkin said.

“They even tried to stop us taking photographs or using sound equipment and we spent two hours, with no chairs to sit on at a meeting that told us nothing.”

Action group spokesperson Philippa Clark agreed.

“This was absolutely outrageous, typical of the secrecy,” she said.

“What are they trying to hide?”

The answer to her question is nothing. Residents who attended the meeting said it did not tell them anything they didn’t already know **from reports in The Weekly Times**.



Project Facts

The NSW Government owns the land at 7-11 Nelson Parade in Hunters Hill. As a result of previous private industrial activity on the land, soils along the foreshore area contain contaminated material.

Location
7-11 Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill.

Local Government Area
Hunters Hill Council.

Project Objective

The NSW Government is committed to land remediation on the site. The remediation work will include the excavation and removal of 5,000 tonnes of soil down to bedrock.

This contaminated material will be transported to a safe disposal location. This location is still being finalised.

Timing

Once the necessary approvals have been received the work will commence within 90 days and is expected to take 12 months to complete.

Contact
1800 743 436
community_property@property.nsw.gov.au



Site's Industrial Legacy

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, a carbolic acid plant operated on land at Nelson Parade in Hunters Hill. As a result of this previous use, the soil along the foreshore of the site has elevated concentrations of coal tar waste material and heavy metals, such as arsenic and lead. The soil containing these contaminants requires removal. The site is also contaminated by low-level Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) contained within the processed ore by-product of a uranium refinery that operated on site from 1971. Independent experts do not consider the NORM to pose a risk to human health.

What is Proposed?

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) has issued a Management Order for the remediation of soil in the foreshore area which contains the coal tar waste.

The EPA order does not extend to the remediation of soil impacted by the NORM.

However, the NSW Government is committed to remediating the entire site by removing the contaminated soil down to bedrock.

Location

Contaminated material is located primarily on government owned properties at numbers 7, 9 and 11 and the adjacent foreshore land.

The Remediation Process

In anticipation of the remediation works, the NSW Government has appointed a highly-experienced remediation contractor to manage the remediation process once it begins. A remediation process that is safe and meets all relevant regulations has been agreed.

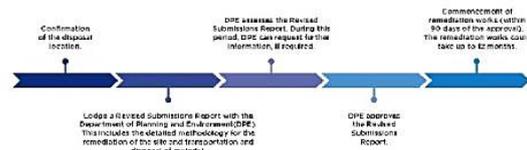
Once the disposal location has been confirmed and the necessary planning approvals have been received, work will commence within 90 days and is expected to take 12 months to complete.

Remediation works will include:

- Step 1** Site preparation works.
- Step 2** Excavation and removal of soil down to bedrock.
- Step 3** Contaminated soil will be placed into bags and will be sealed and placed into steel shipping containers on site.
- Step 4** Steel shipping containers will be sealed and transported by licensed trucks to the disposal location.

Timeline

The following is a summary of the construction process:



THE SITE

Consultation

We would like to hear your views on the proposed remediation works. To discuss the details of the proposal, please contact us on 1800 743 436.

- Location: Parliament House, 111 Crowdfunder Lane, Sydney
- Date: 4 May 2018
- Time: 9am - 5:30pm

Safety and wellbeing are a top priority for the local community and stakeholders throughout the remediation process. Property NSW will continue to consult with the local community and stakeholders throughout the remediation process.

For further details about this project, please visit www.property.nsw.gov.au or call us on 1800 743 436

Property NSW’s brochure, distributed in February, announcing the March 14 community consultation at Hunters Hill

Mr Atkin questioned why it took more than a dozen bureaucrats to host the meeting and said the money would have been better spent hiring a dozen workers to clean up the waste and place it in protective containers. “I asked why not put the waste in

containers for temporary storage and they couldn't even answer this simple question," he said.

Mr Abbott defended his actions and stressed that the media was able to put questions to him in an email. "As mentioned on the night, Property NSW was happy to facilitate questions from the media," he said.

He said the focus of the Property NSW consultation was for residents "within a 500m radius of Nelson Parade" and other "invited stakeholders", including the Nelson Parade Action Group and Hunters Hill Council.

"The consultation was intended to provide the community with information about the status of the remediation process and give the community a chance to raise concerns or ask questions," Mr Abbott said.

"We undertook genuine consultation with the community for the purpose of providing an update on the remediation process, and so the community could raise concerns or ask questions." Mr Atkin doesn't agree.

"I record formally my strongest possible protest," he said.

"An information drop-in session when people may come and go at different times and at which there are potentially multiple conversations happening at the same time is not a meeting."

Philippa Clark held a follow-up meeting with Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts on Thursday and while she thanked Mr Roberts for listening to her views, she was sceptical about the commitment of Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton and Ryde MP Victor Dominello, whose ministerial portfolio includes Property NSW.

"Thanks to The Weekly Times we have Mr Roberts' attention and where we are fortunate is that our Mayor, Mark Bennett, is particularly supportive," she said.

Mr Dominello recently announced a multi-million dollar reserve fund had been made available for a clean up.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/twt-banned-in-hunters-hill/>

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Vol. 51 No. 11 Published 17 Years

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West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair This Saturday

All roads lead to West Ryde this Saturday for the 25th annual West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair in the streets of West Ryde and in West Ryde Plaza.

Fair opens at 9am with a record number of about 200 stalls, craft, food, raffles, rides and children's entertainments including a petting zoo and raffles display. Grand Easter Parade kicks off from Miriam Park at 9.15am led by dancers and musicians of West Ryde's Church of the Good Shepherd and local churches followed by school groups, sporting and social clubs to the official opening stage on West Ryde Plaza.

\$5,500 in Prizes to Win!

Over \$5,000 in prizes can be won for Best Easter Bonnets in the Grand Parade, Best Decorated Wheelie and \$2,000 cash to go for profits in the TWT Easter Bonnet Raffle. Gold Cup Singing Star Contest conducted by Rosanna Ouko GMM.

Over \$2,000 prizes will be won in the 25th West Ryde Easter Bonnets in the Grand Parade, Best Decorated Wheelie and \$2,000 cash to go for profits in the TWT Easter Bonnet Raffle. Gold Cup Singing Star Contest conducted by Rosanna Ouko GMM.

FULL DETAILS SEE PAGES 8 & 9



PICTURED ABOVE: Participants in the Best Decorated Easter Bonnets competition of last year's West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair. TWT on the right PHOTO

WIN! with TWT!

Hunters Hill Theatre Play
RHHS Orchestra Concert
The West Ryde Fair has exciting prizes to win. Register for the Easter Bonnet Raffle on page 8.

PUBLIC OUTRAGE

TWT Banned by Dominello Dept

Members of the community have expressed their outrage at the ban on the newspaper from the meeting.



JB's World

WEST RYDE will see the 25th annual West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair on Saturday. The event will be held in the streets of West Ryde and in West Ryde Plaza. The parade will start at 9.15am and will feature a variety of floats, bands and community groups. The fair will run from 9am to 4pm and will feature a variety of stalls, food, raffles and children's entertainments.

COMMUNITY OUTRAGE AS...

TWT BANNED IN HUNTERS HILL by State Government Bureaucrats!

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDERMAN

The Weekly Times was banned from attending a Property NSW information night in Hunters Hill last November. We have learned more about the Nelson Parade community group and its members were banned from attending the night by Property NSW Corporate Affairs Director James Adams.



Hunters Hill residents outside Parliament Mall on Wednesday night. TWT on the right PHOTO

'If The Weekly Times can't come in, we'll go outside!'

The ban on the newspaper from the meeting was a clear attempt to silence the community. The ban was lifted after a public meeting in Hunters Hill.

'Waste of money and resources'

Mr Adams questioned why he took more than a dozen hours to visit the meeting and said he did not want to be seen as a waste of money and resources. He said the meeting was a waste of money and resources.

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The Honourable Anthony Roberts

The Honourable Anthony Roberts is a Member for Lane Cove. He has been a member of the NSW Parliament since 2007. He is a member of the NSW Liberal Party and has served in various ministerial positions.

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