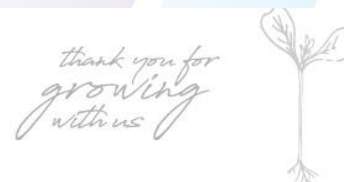




ILPPWA 2018 ALGA event – the first ILPPWA event by an Australia professional association



Contaminated Land Remediation in the Pasminco Lead Containment Survey Grid, Lake Macquarie NSW

The City of Lake Macquarie is within the Lower Hunter Valley, approximately 150 km north of Sydney, and adjacent to the City of Newcastle. This City was home to a lead smelter in the suburb of Boolaroo, owned by Pasminco Limited from the 1960s, which was a significant producer of zinc, lead bullion, copper sulphate, cadmium, sulphuric acid, and selenium. The smelter operated for approximately 100 years before being decommissioned in 2003, and caused significant contamination of the site proper, and contamination issues for approximately 2000 residential properties in the surrounding area.

Upon decommission, a Lead Abatement Strategy (LAS) was developed for land impacted by the smelter, and subsequently approved by the Minister for Planning in 2007. The LAS was designed to 'achieve a reduction in human exposure to lead dust contamination in surface soils', and largely consisted of a voluntary lead-in-soil assessment for residential properties within a lead contamination zone (the Lead Containment Survey Grid), and exposure abatement works (as needed) where elevated levels of contamination were observed. Except in extreme circumstances, contamination was to be managed on-site by covering with soil, mulch, or other material.

When

Monday,
October 22,
2018
5:30 PM - 8:30
PM

Where

Club Macquarie
Function &
Accommodation
Centre
458 Lake Road,
Argenton, New
South Wales
2284, Australia

Event

Registration Fees

(exc.GST)

ALGA Member
- \$25.00
ALGA Student
Member -
\$10.00
Non-member -
\$75.00



The LAS soil assessment and abatement program was completed in 2013. Of the 1969 eligible properties, 1226 sites opted into the program and received a lead-in-soil assessment, whereby: 446 were below the Health Investigation Level A (HIL A, low density residential land); and 778 were above the HIL A and received health risk abatement works as considered necessary. Sites that were not assessed as part of the LAS (743) are considered potentially contaminated until analytical results prove otherwise. It is noteworthy that 2 sites were unaccounted for in data from the Deed Administrator.

In December 2014, the NSW Environment Protection Authority established the Lead Expert Working Group (LEWG) to evaluate the success of the LAS and other remediation activities relating to the smelter. The group was chaired by EPA's Regional Director North Adam Gilligan, and included delegates from Lake Macquarie City Council, Hunter New England Health, a Contaminated Site Auditor, and academics in related contamination fields. The final report of the LEWG was published in December 2016, which included 22 recommendations, and the report is publicly available on the NSW Environment Protection Authority's website.

This "International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action" (22-28 October 2018), ALGA will host three experts on the Pasminco Lead Contamination issue.

The session will be chaired by **Greg Piper MP** (Member for Lake Macquarie), and include presentations by:

- **Fiona Robinson** (Managing Principal and Contaminated Site Auditor - Ramboll Environment & Health Australia and New Zealand), presenting on the history of contamination at the smelter site, and the remediation



process;

- **Adam Gilligan** (Chair of the Lead Expert Working Group, and Regional Director North - NSW Environment Protection Authority), presenting on contamination impacts in the Lead Containment Survey Grid, and progress on recommendations from the LEWG; and

- **Dr Alice Howe** (Sustainability Manager - Lake Macquarie City Council) presenting on Council's development planning requirements for abatement and remediation works in the Lead Containment Survey Grid.

Newcastle Branch Administrator

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