



Fact Sheet – Health and Safety

The remediation of material underneath Hickson Road and Barangaroo has been underway for more than 12 months. This fact sheet provides information about how we are protecting the health and safety of staff and the community.

The Millers Point Gasworks operated from the 1840s to 1918 and provided Sydney with the first gas street lighting network outside of Europe. The gasworks was decommissioned in 1921, and by 1925 the above-ground structures were removed.

Underground materials were left behind, including tanks and structures containing coal tar and contaminated fill material. In 2009, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) declared the site required remediation.



Image: Australian Gas Light Company, Millers Point, 1870
– From the collections of the State Library of NSW

Regulation and oversight

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority is ensuring the community, site workforce and the environment are protected during the construction and operation of Barangaroo.

The process to remediate contaminated land is highly regulated and imposes controls regarding health, safety and the environment. Lendlease, on behalf of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, prepared a remediation action plan that was approved by an independent site auditor who is accredited by the EPA. The Site Auditor reviews, approves and oversees all relevant aspects of the remediation work.

The remediation work is being performed in accordance with management plans that have been reviewed by NSW Health, SafeWork NSW, and the EPA. These plans outline protection measures that ensure the health and protection of residents of adjoining properties, the general public, our workers, contractors, and the environment.

Monitoring and reporting

Remediation works are strictly monitored in real time through a combination of air and water quality sampling and noise monitoring. This includes measurements of dust, odour, water, air and noise levels. Data is reported to the EPA and published online at www.barangaroo.com

Protecting health and safety

Extensive monitoring ensures limits set by the EPA are met and that there are no risks to people or the environment.

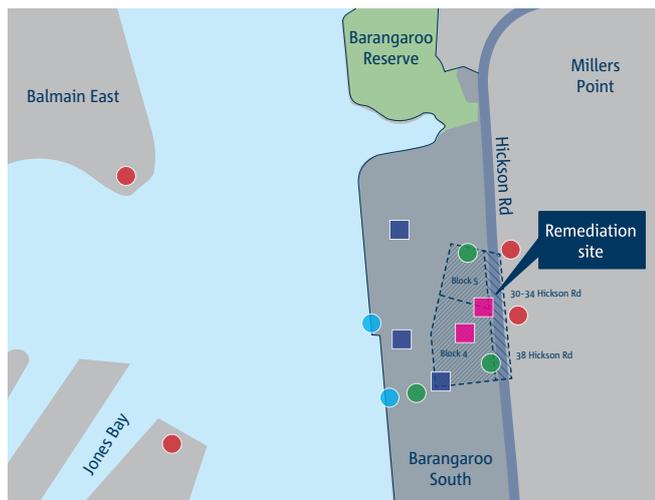
Dust suppression units and monitors are in place to minimise dust. Protective clothing is not needed outside of the work areas as contaminants are wholly contained and managed within the boundary fence line.

With the multiple projects in progress across Barangaroo, there are different levels of protective clothing and equipment required for staff. When working in the white tents (which are odour control enclosures), workers must wear coveralls and a full-face respirator.

Those workers are required to enter a decontamination unit (outside the tent) to put on their protective clothing and equipment. When they exit the unit and proceed to different work areas they often walk through areas that do not require the same protection requirements.

The process of putting on and taking off the protective clothing and equipment can take up to an hour and so some workers choose to wear their protective equipment throughout the day.

Monitoring Points



Asbestos management

Asbestos was a commonly used building material in Sydney and Australia in the period between the 1950s and 1980s. Australia had the highest per capita use of asbestos in the world. Use of all forms of asbestos has been banned nationally since 31 December 2003.

There are two main types of asbestos – bonded and unbonded. The bonded form is what has been found at Barangaroo. Bonded asbestos is any material that contains asbestos in a bonded matrix. Bonded materials containing asbestos are solid, quite rigid and the asbestos fibres are tightly bound in the material.

These materials are unlikely to release measurable levels of asbestos fibres into the airborne environment if they are carefully managed. Given the prevalence of asbestos in all old buildings and industrial sites, comprehensive management strategies have been developed by state and federal governments to protect the health of workers and the general public.

Throughout the construction phase at Barangaroo, bonded asbestos has been safely removed and areas appropriately remediated to protect both the community and those on site, and this will continue to take place as asbestos is found and removed during the remediation works.

Source: Safework NSW. For further information on asbestos, please visit www.safework.nsw.gov.au

Feedback and more information

Construction and remediation works at Barangaroo are structured to minimise impacts on local residents and businesses, as well as road users and visitors. Construction hours are generally 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday, and 7am – 5pm on Saturday. (Note: the EPL has just been varied to allow for some “out of hours” works.)

For enquiries or to lodge a complaint:

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