

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Dredging of materials from Manly Lagoon and storage of dredged materials at Reub Hudson Oval, North Curl Curl.

Question From: Mr Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 24th August 2004

Question:

I note the written advice from Council on 19 July 2004 “The Statement of Environmental Effects (Section 2.6.2) states the “sediment quality data for Site 3 indicates the surface muddy sand layer contains elevated levels of contaminants. In particular, zinc and lead levels in the muddy sand layer exceed ISQG-High levels”. To ascertain whether contaminants are distributed uniformly throughout the surface layer would require extensive additional testing. This exercise could only be undertaken at considerable cost to Councils and was not considered necessary as the results gained gave an adequate indication of contamination. Discussions are being held with the consultants to determine whether it is prudent and feasible to separate the top layer of sediment from lower layers”. Could Council please advise of the outcome of these discussions?

Response:

The Manager Environmental Management Services advised the meeting that research has established that it would be virtually impossible to separate the top and lower layers of sediment. Dredging work will be undertaken by a barge mounted excavator and, because visibility in the lagoon is very poor especially when sediment has been disturbed, echo sounding technology will be used to determine dredging depths. The Manager noted that, while the sediment is unhealthy for the fauna of the lagoon, the harmful contaminants contained within the upper layer of sediment were classified as inert, or very stable, when tested to see if they would break away from the sediment.

Question: What approximate time period are the materials proposed to be stored at North Curl Curl and for how long?

Response:

The Manager Environmental Management Services advised that the development approval for the site will be conditioned so that the stockpile must be removed and the area remediated within six months of arrival of the sediment at the site. The Manager informed the meeting that he would take the additional and final part of Mr De Luca’s question, will the contaminants cease to be inert when introduced to contact with fresh air or water, on advisement pending expert consultation.