

BRIEFING DETAILS

BRIEFING DATE / TIME	Tuesday, 25 July 2023, 11 – 2.30pm Site inspection undertaken after briefing
LOCATION	Briefing: Wollongong City Council Site Visit: on-site at Springhill Road, Port Kembla

BRIEFING MATTER(S)

PPSSTH-251 – Wollongong - DA-2023/228 – Springhill Road, Port Kembla – Integrated-Remediation works

PANEL MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE	Briefing: Chris Wilson, Doug Lord, Angus Gordon, David Brown Site Visit: Chris Wilson, Doug Lord, Angus Gordon, David Brown
APOLOGIES	Tania Brown (declined invite)
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None

OTHER ATTENDEES

COUNCIL ASSESSMENT STAFF	Briefing: Theresa Whittaker, Anne Starr, Mark Adamson, Jenna Andrews Site Visit: Theresa Whittaker, Anne Starr, Mark Adamson
APPLICANT REPRESENTATIVES	Briefing and Site Visit: BlueScope Steel Ltd - Anita Rojas, Mark Dobbins
OTHER	Briefing and Site Visit: Amanda Moylan (DPE), Tim Mahoney (DPE)

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Council Briefing

The council's assessment staff provided background to the DA and outlined the purpose of the protection works specifically the remediation and stabilisation of the affected bank. The following matters were also discussed:

- Ongoing floods have damaged the southern bank of Allans Creek for several hundred metres immediately prior to the creek entering Tom Thumb Lagoon.
- There are areas of the road running along the foreshore that are potentially unstable as a result of the erosion of the adjacent creek bank.
- The protection works will help stabilise the bank and protect the existing infrastructure adjoining the bank.
- Vegetation along the embankment is not of high value and has been affected by dust and chemicals from BlueScope and by weather events.
- Thresholds for referral to the Panel (coastal protection works under Planning Systems SEPP 2021) have been triggered.

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- Permissibility of works through Resilience and Hazards SEPP 2021.
- Integrated approval required under the Water Management Act. DPE Water referral outlined additional information is required including a landscape plan and compensatory planting.
- Noted the applicant is proposing to do compensatory planting elsewhere on the site.
- The leaking of existing chemicals from the soils during works into the waterway will need to be addressed.
- No details provided on the construction material and where it is coming from.
- The design includes some purposed but minimal movement of revetment rock during flood events.

Applicant Briefing

The Applicant addressed the Panel and outlined the erosion that has occurred over the last few years and the impacts of recent floods. The following matters were also discussed.

- Bank collapse and the impact on adjacent roadway.
- Restoration of the creek bank back to previous state.
- No operational benefit from proposed works apart from infrastructure protection.
- The pH of the creek is between 6-8 depending on the level of rain. Discharges are generally around a pH of 8.
- Construction methods and how the grout matting would be put together.
- Specifications of the grout matting would need to be provided.
- Maintenance requirements throughout the life of the works.
- Content of soil across the site (typically slag iron from the blast furnaces).

Next Steps

- The Panel noted the location is a creek but in the form of a drain within the Blue Scope steel works site and there is no public access into and around the site. The landscaping/coastal value of the drain is minimal due to the site already being highly disturbed.
- The Panel requested the following information be provided:
 - Confirmation of the pH of the creek and certainty that the pH will not impact on the waterways and proposed works.
 - Contents of the material being excavated and released into the water and measures to mitigate.
 - Final design details including details of maximum slope.
 - Monitoring program and end of life audit to ensure works remain fit for purpose.
 - Details of discharge pipes and existing stormwater infrastructure along the embankment.
 - Measures to deal with soils disturbed during construction.
- The Panel indicated Council may wish to consider a draft condition be imposed to inspect the integrity of the structure on a 5-year basis, or where there has been an extreme storm event.
- The Panel noted that Council will be able to finalise its assessment report once the GTA's are received (Water NSW) and the above information is provided by the applicant.

TENTATIVE DETERMINATION DATE SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2023

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