

Former Wollongong Gasworks Remediation Project

Project Fact Sheet – November 2020



Background

The former Wollongong Gasworks was operated by the Wollongong Gas Light Company as a coal gasification plant (gasworks) between 1883 and 1977.

Jemena Gas Networks (NSW) Ltd (Jemena), a subsidiary of Jemena Limited, acquired the site following the transaction of assets from the Australian Gas Light Company (AGL) in 2007. Following the acquisition, Jemena became responsible for the site and legacy gasworks contamination.

There have been a number of investigations undertaken at the site between 1997 and 2019. The historical gasworks related operations and waste disposal activities have contributed to soil and groundwater contamination.

The gas manufacturing infrastructure formerly located on the site included a retort house, boiler, exhaust house, washers

and purifiers, coal storage areas, tar wells, gas holders and a drum filling area. The aboveground site infrastructure was demolished in the 1980s and a large section of the site (Lot 2412) was remediated by excavation of infrastructure and hydrocarbon impacted soil in 2005.

To ensure the remediation works are completed in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements Jemena has engaged a Site Auditor accredited by the NSW EPA under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997.

Since the completion of the 2005 remediation works, additional works comprising the removal of stockpiles was completed in December 2018 and demolition of existing buildings in December 2019 have been completed. Jemena's environmental consultants have prepared a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) which provides direction on the remediation works.



Aerial photograph of the former Wollongong Gasworks site (September 2020). Courtesy of Nearmap.

Remediation contractor appointed

In February, Jemena appointed Ventia Utility Services (Ventia) as the principal contractor to complete the remediation works. Ventia are a leading environmental remediation business with this project being their 20th large-scale gasworks remediation project.

Jemena has notified Wollongong City Council of the forthcoming remediation works in accordance with the *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land (SEPP55)*. Jemena are committed to ensuring the successful remediation of the site, and to limiting the impacts to surrounding businesses and residents.

Remediation of the Site

An overview of the remediation project is detailed below (with works completed shown as ✓):

- Site establishment and mobilisation ✓
- Excavation shoring (sheet piling) and Asset protection ✓
- Construction of Emissions Control System (ECS) ✓
- Construction of Water Treatment Plant (WTP) ✓
- Assembly of Stage 1 Environmental Control Enclosure (ECE) tent running parallel to Smith Street ✓
- Commence remediation of Stage 1 area within the ECE;
- Relocation of ECE tent to Stage 2 parallel to the rail line;
- Commence remediation of Stage 2 area within the ECE;
- Site restoration, levelling and grading; and
- Site demobilisation.

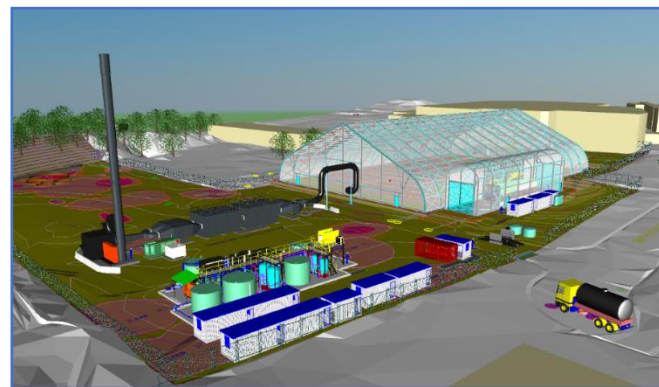
Environmental Controls

Environmental controls are measures that are put in place to mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding environment and community whilst undertaking the remediation works.

The primary environmental controls for the gasworks remediation project include an Environmental Control Enclosure (ECE) which encompasses the section of the site being remediated, an Emission Control System (ECS) which filters air extracted from the Enclosure and a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to remove contaminants from water collected onsite.

The Environmental Control Enclosure is designed to:

- provide a temporary structure whilst remediation is underway;
- accommodate excavators and other items of equipment of various sizes working within;
- contain emissions of dust, odour and any contaminants generated by the excavations;
- prevent storm water from entering the excavation area; and
- limit the visual and noise impacts of the remediation activities.



3D Model of the ECE with ECS & WTP in foreground.

The ECE is constructed of steel trusses covered in a durable, weather-proof fabric. Loading locks adjoin the ECE to provide access for vehicle loading. The doors are automatic and include air curtains to minimize dust, odour and emissions escaping from the structure.

An emission control system filters the air that will be extracted from the ECE. The air passes through a series of particulate and granular-activated carbon filters which removes contaminants from the air. To maintain sufficient air circulation within the ECE, air extracted from inside the enclosure will be replaced with ventilated fresh air

Environmental Monitoring is conducted during remediation works to confirm the effectiveness of the environmental controls. Air quality, noise and vibration monitoring is undertaken regularly, at points around the boundary of the site, and closest to neighbouring properties.

Project Timeline

Year	Details
1977	Wollongong gasworks ceased operation
1997	Site investigation for restoration of a section of the gasworks site
2005	Portion of the site remediated
2016-2019	Site Investigations undertaken
2018	Removal of stockpiles from 122 Smith Street site
2019	Demolish buildings and warehouse at the 120 Smith Street site
2019	Additional investigation works on 120 Smith Street
Q2 2020	Commence Site Establishment for Remediation
Q2 2021	Complete Site Works
Q4 2021	Remediation Complete

Stay up to date with the Wollongong Remediation Project:

- Register on our Project portal - <https://haveyoursay.jemena.com.au>
- Visit the project website - www.jemena.com.au/wollongong
- Call us on 1800 571 972
- Email us at wollongong@jemena.com.au