
From: Jim Salmon-JHG
Sent: Friday, 17 May 2024 4:55 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 6
Cc: Lachlan McKenzie-JHG
Subject: Clarification email

To the Committee Secretariat Portfolio Committee No 6 Transport and the Arts

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Inquiry.

After reviewing the transcript of the hearing available on the Inquiry's website I wish to clarify my evidence on four (4) discreet matters regarding the mulch at Rozelle Parklands.

The first relates to the use of recycled mulch on John Holland projects. In clarification, John Holland used virgin, not recycled mulch in the remediation of the Rozelle Parklands subject to the clean-up notice. While John Holland has not ceased the use of recycled mulch on its projects more broadly, any recycled mulch used is only sourced from licensed EPA providers and is subject to further risk management processes above legal requirements for its safe use by relevant projects.

The second matter relates to issues with mulch quality. There were two instances prior to the discovery of asbestos at Rozelle Parklands where concerns were raised regarding the content of the mulch provided to the project. These were outlined by Graeme Silvester at Page 27 Paragraph 18 of the transcript. However, it is important to note that neither of these instances involved the presence of asbestos.

The third matter relates to testing and surveillance of mulch. I want to make sure my testimony accurately reflects our procedures and did not want to leave the impression that the Joint Venture conducted onsite testing. The Joint Venture undertook a quality assurance process with our supplier, including testing the mulch at the source. In addition, the Joint Venture conducted a surveillance regime to monitor the quality and safety of the mulch once it was on site, including surveillance by members of the Joint Venture, contractors and by the site environmental auditor as described to the Committee by Graeme Silvester at Page 29 Paragraphs 1 – 5 of the transcript.

The last matter relates to the remediation of asbestos at the Rozelle Parklands. All of the mulch required to be removed under the clean-up notice issued to Transport for NSW has been removed in compliance with the EPA. There is a small remaining area, being the embankments of the Southern Drainage Channel, which is not publicly accessible, where mulch management continues. This is being undertaken under the supervision of the EPA through compliance with Clean Up Notice 3508634 issued to Transport for NSW, dated 27 March 2024 and the NSW Government's Contaminated Mulch Management Plan 2024.

I trust these clarifications will assist in accurately reflecting the testimony provided.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Regards

Jim Salmon
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