



PD25/346

Ms Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to review the transcript and provide corrections and clarifications following the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Heritage portfolio budget estimates hearing on 3 March 2025.

I would like to please put forward the enclosed clarifications for the committee's consideration.

Yours sincerely

STEVE BEAMAN PSM
Executive Director Regulatory Practice & Services
Environment Protection Authority

Encl: Clarifications

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Clarifications:

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STEPHEN BEAMAN: I can do the Hornsby shire one. The team have given advice back to the North Sydney Local Planning Panel only last week. We were concerned the site wasn't going to be capped. It is going to be capped. It's also going to require licensing from us and oversight of our contaminated site order. There will be a long-term groundwater management monitoring plan for the site—if it's the site we're both talking about.

Clarification

STEPHEN BEAMAN: I can do the Hornsby shire one. The team have given advice back to the [community member North Sydney Local Planning Panel](#) only last week [who was concerned that-](#) We were concerned the site wasn't going to be capped. It is going to be capped. It's also going to require licensing from us and oversight of our contaminated site order. There will be a long-term groundwater management monitoring plan for the site—if it's the site we're both talking about

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STEPHEN BEAMAN: You are correct. There was an amendment done to the clean air regulations, I think, in 2022. We removed the grandfathering provisions that had been in that legislation for a long, long time. I think it is that everyone has got to meet group five by 2027 and then meet group six by 2030. If the plant's proposed shutdown date is 2029, then they won't need to move to group six because they won't be operating.

Clarification

STEPHEN BEAMAN: You are correct. There was an amendment done to the clean air regulations, I think, in 2022. We removed the grandfathering provisions that had been in that legislation for a long, long time. ~~I think it is that~~ [Not](#) everyone has got to meet group five by [1 November](#) 2027 and then meet group six by [1 November](#) 2030. If the plant's proposed shutdown date is 2029, then they won't need to move to group six because they won't be operating. [Vales Point power station will not transition to Group 6 at any time under the current regulations.](#)

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The CHAIR: In terms of that public reporting and transparency, the EPA maintains a public register of the pesticide licences and enforcement actions. Are all of the violations and penalties publicly accessible on those registers?

STEPHEN BEAMAN: They should be, yes.

Clarification:

STEPHEN BEAMAN: ~~They should be, yes.~~ [These particular details aren't available on the EPA's public registers. Only penalties and other types of regulatory actions under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, and the *Plastic Reduction and the Circular Economy Act 2021* are. The *Pesticides Act 1999* doesn't include a requirement to publish penalty notices on the public register.](#)