



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 16 November 2017

CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT BOOST

The NSW Government will dedicate an extra \$23.5 million to the NSW EPA to better deal with contaminated land, NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton announced today.

The Government will implement 75 recommendations from three external reviews, including Professor Mark Taylor's Contaminated Sites Review Final Report, the Lead Expert Working Group Report into the management of legacy lead contamination from former smelting activities in North Lake Macquarie, and the Fell and Leeder Report on the Contaminated Land Procedural Guide for EPA Officers.

"The NSW Government's priority is for the health and wellbeing of our communities. Our response will lead to improved management of contamination," Ms Upton said.

"These three independent reviews assessed how the EPA manages contaminated land and made a range of recommendations to improve the EPA's operations through changes in regulatory powers and responsibilities, business practices and resourcing."

The 75 recommendations will be adopted into eight priority areas to improve the EPA's operations:

- Clear the backlog of contaminated sites
- Target illegal waste disposal with tougher regulations
- Improve the capacity of planning authorities in contaminated land management
- Improve public access to information
- Review the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 to strengthen it
- Investigate options to improve the waste and environment levy's operation
- Establish a new independent expert technical and scientific panel and an environmental sampling capability for emerging contaminants within the EPA
- Improve management of large scale emergency clean-up and orphaned, abandoned or high-risk sites.

"Managing contaminated land issues is complex. The Government's response will help address specific issues, such as the impacts of asbestos on our communities," Ms Upton said.

MEDIA: Michael Cox 0429 465 227